

Council to Improve Classroom Conditions

Meeting Discussion Summary January 28 - 29, 2020

Roundtable Discussion:

- Discussion was held on Assessment policy, online reporting, PLCs and paperwork, violence against teachers, preparation time and MTSS, complexity of combined classes, book bureau, Attendance Support Workers, professional development on new policies, teacher mental wellness, supports for inclusive education, and part time administrator positions.

Council Business:

Priorities – evaluation and discussion:

- Council is reviewing the legislated priorities by considering Council's accomplishments to date and analyzing what may need to be addressed within each of the ten priorities
- Council also kept in mind their mandate: the purpose and mandate of the Council is to identify the concerns of teachers and to study and make recommendations to the department and/or centres for education for implementation on the systemic demands on teachers' time that may limit teachers' ability to facilitate student learning and success
- This review will continue at the February meeting

Complex Classrooms: MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Support)

Planning for inclusive education through MTSS:

- Equity and Inclusive Education: through a MTSS framework presentation
- Council recognizes that most teachers have already incorporated many of the principles of inclusive education and high leverage tier 1 teaching practices; what is new is how all of these principles and practices need to align to support all students
- Council provided feedback on tier 1 supports and a curriculum planning model for equity and inclusive education through MTSS for teachers
- Council underlined the importance of professional autonomy within the model and suggested that complex assignment realities will continue to have an impact on classroom realities
- Council reviewed and provided feedback on the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) lens highlighted in MTSS: Environment: relationships, culture and climate; planning for instruction, assessment and well-being; and teaching and learning in action

Planning for Student Success

Update on the Program Planning Process:

- Council received an update on the Program Planning Process that is now embedded in the current Special Education Policy
- Draft document will be prepared for consultation (including Council)

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- Draft will include a method for schools for the development and application of student planning teams and program planning process components, as well as the alignment with teaching support teams, and an equity lens

Planning for Student Success

Physically Active Framework Consultation:

- Overall goal: increase opportunities for all students to be physically active and be less sedentary that together contribute to student success and long-term health and well-being
- This will provide a framework for all partners including municipalities, families and health to realize their collective responsibility
- Areas of focus: student inclusion, policy, social & physical environments, collective capacity and infrastructure, partnerships, programs & services, teaching and learning, research, monitoring & evaluation
- Holding engagement sessions across the province
- Council suggested that a tool kit be prepared for schools of available supports, apps, etc., as well as success stories that teachers would want to hear

Sub-committee reports

Inspiring Relationships grant:

- Council has received a high rate of response and will need to review the amounts requested
- Every grant application was accepted, and amounts adjusted to accommodate every request
- Regions will be responsible for distributing the funds once received

Data Sub-Committee:

- Will provide update at next meeting

Next Meeting: February 25th and 26th