

Council to Improve Classroom Conditions

Meeting Discussion Summary November 26 - 27, 2019

Roundtable Discussion:

- Discussion was held on networks of support for Council members, Attendance policy (informing parents), complex classrooms (TA assignment guidelines, MTSS, understanding class composition), on-going support post implementation professional development, challenges with Grade 9 reporting, Gradebook Pro challenges for some teachers, cell phone policy,

Complex Classrooms: Inclusive Education

Treaty Education – Intergenerational Trauma:

- Council participated in a presentation with an Elder.
- Council suggested that this kind of intimate presentation is effective in improving the classroom teacher's understanding of the purposes of treaty education and will increase teacher confidence in delivering the curriculum.
- Every Regional Centre for Education has a Mi'kmaq coordinator who has a relationship with and contact information for Elders in their community that can lead these presentations.
- Council suggested that the Mi'kmaq coordinator reach out to teachers proactively to facilitate this professional development.

Complex Classrooms: Inclusive Education

EAL/FAL Framework – update and consultation:

- Council participated in a consultation of a framework that will provide some supports to the classroom teacher and schools.
- Possible strategies discussed were co-teaching, assistive technology, google translate that could help with language barriers.
- It was noted that all teachers should provide supports for EAL/FAL students.
- The framework will have recommendations for RCE's, community partners and immigration support services as well.
- An EAL moodle website (www.rebrand.ly/ea/) is updated regularly and Council requested some additions including regional EAL consultants contact and community group information added.

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Comprehensive School Counselling - consultation:

- Council participated in a consultation of some key concepts and strategies being considered.
- Discussed the existing ratio 1:500 for a region and the challenges of how this ratio impacts staffing at a school level.
- The intention is to align with new policies and frameworks, be web based and easier to update when necessary.

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- Council suggested including clearer definitions of the roles that support students (ie CYCPs) and to develop a matrix that assists teachers in understanding how these roles support students and teachers.

Scope of Practice for Teachers

Performance Appraisal:

- Consultation of the teacher's performance appraisal tool continued.
- The purpose of the appraisal tool is to support an on-going professional growth dialogue between teachers and with principals, including a self-evaluation component.
- Council is concerned that some of the language used may not be conducive to a positive professional dialogue but is supportive of the pilot beginning in January 2020 (2 schools per region). This will give the committee time to field test the tool and refine it if necessary.
- Goal setting is expected to be aligned with school improvement plans based on student achievement for all students.
- PD will be developed; details are still being determined.
- Council recognizes that the tool being developed provides several opportunities to create professional dialogue but shared a common concern that building a culture of professional dialogue is challenging but necessary. It is important to see supports for Principals as well.

Sub-committee reports

Inspiring Relationships grant:

- Council recognizes the importance of building relationships with students, their families and communities as a central high leverage strategy in the Inclusive Education Policy as well as other new policies and frameworks.
- This grant provides the opportunity for teachers within their school communities, regardless of their level of familiarity of the new policies, to continue their understanding of the importance of continuing to break down barriers using relational approaches.
- Notification to teachers went out in December with a deadline of January 31, 2020 for grants between \$2500 and \$10K (depending on the number of applicants)

Data Sub-Committee:

- Group focusing on what data must be done (mandated) and other data that is helpful but maybe not necessary or not captured by teachers on a regular basis; as well as strategies to present data to teachers already analyzed.

Council Future Priorities Discussion

Council will review specific questions and concerns within the context of the current priorities and if necessary, identify new priorities at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: January 28th and 29th