

## **Provincial Advisory Council on Education (PACE)**

**June 14 & 15, 2019**

**Membertou Trade and Convention Centre**

**50 Maillard Street, Membertou, NS, B1S 3W3**

### **DRAFT Minutes (Subject to approval of Council Chair)**

#### **Mi'kmaq Acknowledgement**

The meeting began by acknowledging that it is taking place in M'kma'ki traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

#### **Affirmation**

The acknowledgement was followed by an affirmation.

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Council approved the agenda (see <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/PACE/documents>)

#### **Riverside School – Student Success Planning**

At the invitation of PACE, Principal of Riverside School (P – 8), Suzanne Brown, attended to discuss Student Success Planning at her school (<https://cbvrce.ca/home/?q=content/riverside-school>). Along with Principal Brown, five students ranging from grades Primary to eight were present.

Principal Brown presented a slide show with video to show the qualities of Riverside that create a welcoming environment with high expectations for students and staff, how an environment of teamwork and professional learning is fostered, and how a culture of “we-ness” is supported by home, school and community.

It is evident the staff at Riverside are engaged in creating a school that is focussed on learning and well-being. Several examples of their professional practice were provided, such as small group instruction, students writing everyday, student lead conferences, transition planning, co-teaching and visual supports in every classroom.

Principal Brown's leadership, clear communication, high expectations of staff, air of positivity and raising the importance of student voice and choice, clearly create the conditions for success at Riverside School.

#### **Safe and Inclusive School Policy**

The current Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy has been in place since 2015. This policy was the first provincial Ministerial Policy (<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf>) and was reviewed by PACE to inform the development of a new Safe and Inclusive Schools Policy. The new Safe and Inclusive Schools Policy will replace the current code of conduct and will be developed after the Inclusive Education Policy is complete.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development staff have started consultations in the Regional Centres and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial.

PACE members provided several suggestions for this new policy, including:

- Develop a set of guiding principles and values to inform decision making of staff.
- Provide examples of prosocial, evidence-based programs for use in schools.
- Consider framing the new policy through the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) lens.
- Educational or behavioural supports need to be tailored to the individual student and situation.
- Enhance the use of restorative practice.
- Make incident reporting and tracking as easy as possible.

### **Provincial Attendance Policy**

The provincial Attendance and Engagement Policy was implemented in October 2017. The first-year evaluation was completed in September 2018 and included data analysis, survey of school staff and stakeholder focus groups. PACE received the results of the evaluation with the understanding that this is a snap-shot of the initial year of implementation and definitive conclusions cannot be reached with such a small data set.

Deputy Minister Montreuil explained the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions provided funding to hire Attendance Support Workers for every school region and board. The importance of cross-referencing attendance and engagement evidence with that of the new Student Success Survey was identified.

PACE discussed the idea of attendance and engagement of students intersecting with the social determinants of health. PACE agreed to consider a plan for professional development on the social determinants of health as a framework to look at the work being completed in support of student well-being.

### **Education in Cape Breton**

A presentation was given that highlighted educational programs in Cape Breton that positively impact student well-being, community partnerships, cultural diversity, and inclusion among other items of special interest.

### **School and Regional Improvement Planning**

PACE members received copies of templates and reporting frameworks for Student Success Planning (SSP) and Regional/Board Improvement Planning, including a step-by-step description of the planning process.

Deputy Minister Montreuil described the expectation of school regions / board in data use, including disaggregated data, and that equity must be a consideration in all aspects of the improvement plan. The Regional Education Directors / Superintendent and Deputy Minister work together one day per month on improvement planning.

PACE advised that improvement planning, whether school or region / board, need to take cultural variation into account. For example, consider how student success is defined for Mi'kmaq students versus success from a Eurocentric view.

Deputy Minister Montreuil described the alignment of school and regional improvement planning with the Teaching Standards and the developing professional performance appraisal process.

PACE requested a secondary school presentation of Student Success Planning (SSP) be arranged for next year.

### **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)**

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports provides a structure for effective instruction, assessment, and support for all learners, with a focus on well-being and achievement. MTSS requires the collaboration of learners, teachers, families, and internal and external partners in providing the right programs, settings, supports, and services.

PACE members reviewed a draft information quick guide and provided advice on its contents and design.

The MTSS framework will be released in tandem with the new Inclusion Policy

### **Closing Comments**

In completing this first year of PACE, Deputy Minister Montreuil expressed her and Minister Churchill's gratitude for the work of the group.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled once the new PACE members are determined at the end of September 2019.