

Provincial Advisory Council on Education (PACE)
December 1 & 2, 2019
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
Claymore Inn and Suites & St Francis Xavier University
DRAFT Minutes (Subject to approval of Council Chair)

Mi'kmaq Acknowledgement

The meeting began by acknowledging that it is taking place in Mi'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>)

Network Schools Update

Nova Scotia Education Common Services Bureau Executive Director Milner provided an update on the Network Schools Invitation and the establishment of collaborative inquiry teams.

Through the Network School Invitation, funding is available to support school teams in their professional learning, focused on strengthening universal practices at Tier 1, within an Inclusive Education framework. A Network of Schools will be established to lead the way in working together to create an inclusive education for all students.

More than 115 project proposals were received from the Regional Centres of Education and School Board. In these proposals, schools identified a theory of action and corresponding professional learning goals that align with the Student Success Plan and Region / Board improvement plan. Networked schools with similar inquiries will be identified and connected and facilitated networking opportunities among schools across the province will be available.

Meeting Dates

PACE meeting dates were set for the remaining 2020 school year:

Sunday January 19 & Monday January 20

Friday February 21 & Saturday February 22

Sunday April 19 & Monday April 20

Thursday May 28 & Friday May 29

PACE Member Sharing

A variety of topics were discussed:

- Inquiry of the status of the recommendation of PACE as recorded in the minutes of May 2019; In consultation with CME and CACE, explore the efficacy of the role of elders and knowledge keepers to assist with the spiritual well-being of Mi'kmaq and African Canadian learners.
- Request that PACE receive a presentation on the results of the Student Success Survey.
- Status of the Safe and Inclusive Schools policy.
- Share emerging exemplars from the soft-launch of the Inclusive Education Policy and Multi-Tiered System of Supports implementation.

Professional Development: The Social Determinants of Health

The December meeting of PACE was dedicated to professional development on the social determinants of health.

Dr. Orr, Dean of Education, St. Francis Xavier University, welcomed PACE to campus to participate in professional learning on the social determinants of health and described how this foundational knowledge can be used to enrich decisions related to the mandate of PACE. Dr. Orr also described the work of the Faculty of Education and how the content of the B. Ed. and M. Ed. programs work to address the achievement gap, student well-being, anti-racism and reconciliation efforts in the public-school program in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Tompkins, Faculty of Education, made the presentation, *Promising Practices for Supporting "Achievement Gap" Students*. The purpose of her research was to identify and document those practices and policies which reduce academic and social inequities for students in rural settings. In particular, Dr. Tompkins described the extent of child poverty in Nova Scotia and the manner in which rurality compounds the effects of poverty on child well-being and achievement. Dr. Tompkins described the positive impact of educators' attitudes, beliefs and expectations, curriculum leadership, small group instruction, and an explicit and collaborative focus on learning

Dr. Borden described her experience teaching in a Mi'kmaq community and culturally relevant pedagogy. She described her work on holistic mathematics assessments and provided examples of teaching resources that are specifically designed through an Indigenous world lens. Dr. Borden spoke to her work with the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute, "Making Community Voices Count", which profiles historical education policies and practices for African Nova Scotians.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19 & 20 at the office of the Nova Scotia Education Common Services Bureau.