

York Catholic District School Board
MINUTES
STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE
Monday, February 5, 2024

Attending:

Trustee Committee Members: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, J. DiMeo, A. Grella, A. Saggese

Other Trustees: E. Crowe, M. Iafrate, J. Wigston

Absent with Notice: J.DiMeo, A.Grella

Administration: A. Arcadi, J. Sarna, D. Scuglia, A. Battwick

Recording: L. Coquim

Presiding: A.Saggese, Committee Chair

1. **OPENING PRAYER:** (The Land Acknowledgement was recited after the Prayer)
2. **ROLL CALL:** J. DiMeo. A.Grella
3. **APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL: NIL**
4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
THAT the Student Success & Pathways Committee Agenda be approved as presented.
MOTION: Iafrate/ Wigston
CARRIED
5. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**
THAT the Minutes of the Student Success & Pathways Committee Minutes held on December 4, 2023
MOTION: Iafrate/ Wigston
CARRIED
6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**
7. **OUTSIDE PRESENTATION(S): NIL**
8. **PRESENTATION(S):**
Curriculum Updates Presentations
Presented by Anthony Arcadi, Superintendent of Education: Curriculum and Assessment
 - a. **PD on the Fly- presented by Daniel La Gamba, Elementary Program Coordinator & Cristina Mazzeo**
Secondary Program Coordinator
In November 2023, the Curriculum Department introduced a new way of providing professional development called "PD on the Fly". Teachers can now access brief videos at their convenience. This flexibility allows them to incorporate new ideas into their teaching easily and to tailor content for their

classrooms.

These PD on the Fly videos have a clear learning goal, align with Board and Ministry guidelines and are research-informed. There are over 30 videos available on the Curriculum website, and a user-friendly search feature makes it easy to find specific information.

Trustee Alexander inquired about the availability of data indicating the usage metrics of these videos among teachers. Coordinator La Gamba confirmed that view counts can be tracked on our YouTube channel. Additionally, on the last PA Day, it was shared that 86% of teachers expressed a preference for this video format for professional development. Superintendent Arcadi concluded by stating that teachers are encouraged to visit the Curriculum website regularly and refer to it when questions on specific topics arise.

b. Literacy Updates (Junior/Intermediate) - presented by Marlene Perry, Literacy Consultants & Robert Cannone, K-8 Consultant

The presentation began with a brief look at St. Katherine Drexel's life, highlighting her dedication to addressing social inequalities and her belief in education as a pathway to opportunity. This smoothly transitioned into discussing the new literacy curriculum. The Ontario Human Rights Commission recommends mandatory, clear, and systematic teaching in essential reading skills like understanding sounds in words (phonemic awareness), recognizing letter sounds (phonics and decoding), and proficient oral reading. This ensures everyone builds a strong foundation in reading.

To maintain alignment with the ministry's messaging, the Curriculum Department created System Memo C:309 for the New Language Curriculum. This memo included live links to ministry documents, PD on the Fly, and resources aimed at facilitating the introduction of changes in the various strands. Notably, the most significant change is observed in Strand B, focusing on the foundations of language. Additionally, the curriculum website now features a continually updated PowerPoint presentation managed by the Curriculum Department. This ensures that the latest messaging is consistently communicated throughout the education system.

The presentation wrapped up by providing details on the overall expectations for reading and writing across primary, junior, and intermediate divisions, along with recommended resources and programs tailored to each specific division. (UFLI-primary, Word Connections-Jr., Advanced Word Study- Inter.)

The board trustees were excited about efforts to help teachers understand the updates in the ministry's literacy curriculum. Trustee Alexander asked about improving students' vocabulary and how parents can help. Consultant Perry noted that teachers are instructed to focus on tier 2 words, sending books home to reinforce these words. PD on the Fly offers videos guiding teachers on tier 2 words, providing extra support for their professional development.

c. ESL Updates - presented by Karen Colaço, ESL Consultant

The presentation began with a clarification of ministry terms: ELLs (English Language Learners) and ESL (English as a Second Language). According to the 2021 York Region Census Report, 68,640 residents, constituting 6% of the population, reported not speaking either English or French. As of now, YCDSB (York Catholic District School Board) operates six ESL (English as a Second Language) centers in secondary schools. In elementary, the board has 34 itinerant ESL teachers to support English Language Learners (ELLs) across 85 schools. Over the past year, there has been a significant influx of new ESL students who enrolled after the first day of school, with 500 in elementary and 120 in secondary schools.

YCDSB has adopted a STEP (Steps to English Proficiency) program. The STEP program leverages students strengths and requires ESL students to learn English concurrently with the Ontario Curriculum, ensuring a comprehensive approach to language acquisition and academic content.

Since September 2023, ESL/ELD teachers have had various opportunities for professional development sessions. The PD session on transitioning from grade 8 to 9 specifically emphasized the collaboration needed among various departments, including Secondary Assessment Teachers, ESL/ELD Itinerant Teachers, and Pathways and Careers Teachers. The goal was to streamline the registration process and to build capacity around the STEP and CRRP support model. The PD session as part of the CODE

project emphasized collaboration between ESL and classroom teachers. STEP and CRRP was introduced.

Chair Crowe has requested information regarding funding for ESL due to an increase in the number of students, noting that the funding has not been reviewed for some time. She is seeking a report for CEO McNeil, and the presentation should be made during either the board meeting or corporate services.

Trustee lafrate inquired about the origin of the most significant growth in ESL students. Consultant Colaco confirmed that the notable increase has primarily been observed among students from Mexico and Ukraine. (The six most requested languages for translation from multilingual services are currently Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Ukrainian, Arabic, and Korean.)

d. HPE Updates - presented by Karen August, Phys Ed Consultant

Consultant August started the presentation with a short prayer that is posted in every gym in the elementary panel. The prayer serves as an inspiration for students to engage with one another in a respectful and compassionate manner, encouraging mutual support and the building of friendships through cheering each other on.

In September 2023, the "Resources for New Health and Physical Education Teachers (Elementary)" were disseminated through a system memo. This memo provided links with essential information, including the Ontario Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum, the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) HPE presentation, sample long-range plans for grades 1-8, access to the OPHEA website, and resources such as the HPE Google site and Hyperdoc.

Additionally, a sample Daily Physical Activity (DPA) plan for February was shared, along with information about two Professional Activity (PA) days focusing on Junior division activities. Notably, these activities encompassed modules for mental well-being for both teachers and students.

e. Family Life Updates - presented by David Pimentel, Principal of Religious Education

At the request of Chair Crowe, this topic was deferred to the next board meeting on March 19, 2024.

9. ACTION ITEMS:

ESL Funding Report - C.McNeil

10. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:

D2L continues to be a crucial resource, and the Curriculum Department has provided recent in-servicing for Intermediate and Secondary teachers. The recorded sessions can be found on our Tech-Enabled Learning website. Also, administrators have committed to an annual meeting in August to discuss and highlight the significance of using the D2L platform.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): NIL

13. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 13, 2024

**14. ADJOURNMENT: 8:41 pm
ON MOTION: lafrate/ Crowe
CARRIED**