

York Catholic District School Board
MINUTES
STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE
Monday Feb 6, 2023

Attending:

Trustee Committee Members: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, M. Iafrate, A. Saggese, J. Wigston

Other Trustees: N/A

Absent with Notice: N/A

Administration: A. Arcadi, L. Paonessa, J. Sarna, D. Scuglia

Recording: L. Coquim

Presiding: A. Saggese, Committee Chair

1. **OPENING PRAYER:** (The Land Acknowledgement was recited after the Prayer)
2. **ROLL CALL:** All Present
3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023:**
Chair: A. Saggese
Vice Chair: M. Barbieri

PRESIDING: Angela Saggese, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

4. **REVIEW OF THE 2023 TERMS OF REFERENCE:**
THAT the 2023 Terms of Reference for the Student Success & Pathways Committee be approved
MOTION: Barbieri/ Iafrate
CARRIED
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
THAT the Student Success & Pathways Committee Agenda be approved as presented.
MOTION: Wigston/ Barbieri
CARRIED
6. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**
THAT the Minutes of the Student Success & Pathways Committee Minutes held on November 7, 2022 be approved as presented.
MOTION: Wigston/ Alexander
CARRIED
7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM the MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

8. PRESENTATION(S):

Curriculum Updates Presentations

Presented by Anthony Arcadi, Superintendent of Education: Curriculum and Assessment

A. In servicing Update

**Presented by: D. La Gamba - Coordinator of Elementary Programs &
C. Mazzeo - Coordinator of Secondary Programs**

The presentation focused on key areas of inservice delivery to teachers.

- a. The curriculum department is leveraging different modules to support professional learning on a continuum.
 - i. Ministry priorities are presented through PA Day inservices, central sessions/ pilots are where board initiatives are realized.
 - ii. Through SILCSAW the curriculum department supports schools through smart goals and board pillar goals.
 - iii. Small group PD is provided to support the request of teachers to address a variety of instructional assessment needs
 - iv. Job imbedded PD is a type of professional development that is tied to a teachers day to day needs and responsibilities.
- b. A curriculum listing of portfolios was presented with a focus on our pillar goals in numeracy and literacy.
- c. Inservicing with an emphasis on literacy included: Spark Reading K-5, Lexia Core5 (1) & PowerUp (9), Sankofa (7&8) with Science & Math connections and Concept Mapping (4-12). In a similar way emphasis on numeracy include: Math Leads K-12, STREAM Leads K-8 and EQAO Math Leads (9).
- d. YTD curriculum has offered 112 central in-services that incorporated 1833 participants. Of these 75% were in-person sessions and 25% were virtual.

B. Digital Math Tools (Diagnostic Tool)

**Presented by: R. Ball - Elementary Math Consultant
M. Schniering - Secondary Math Consultant**

The presentation focused on the new Math tool procured through ministry funding for digital math tools.

- a. The MOE provided a list of vendors/products and criteria for selection.
- b. YCDSB will be providing all K-8 teachers and 9-10 math teachers with Knowledgehook (a digital, formative assessment tool). Knowledgehook is aligned with the Ontario mathematics curriculums and will allow teachers to assign questions (based on specific curriculum expectations) for students to complete.
- c. The program will then determine if there are any gaps in student understanding and provide the teacher with suggested next steps (overview of the concept, common misconceptions, and remediation questions).
- d. As teachers assign questions to students on various concepts and skills, additional questions will unlock automatically for those who want to do extra practice on their own.
- e. Knowledgehook is expanding its platform and there are a few areas that are still in development (and can't be accessed at the time of writing).

Trustees of the board requested for further clarification in areas of the program modality, teacher intervention and an auditory possibility.

Trustee Wigston also requested data to support how many teachers are using the resource at a future Student Success and Pathways meeting. The trustees were satisfied with Consultant Ball's responses to all of their inquiries.

C. Religious Education:

Presented by: David Pimentel - Principal of Religious Education

The presentation on religious education emphasized upcoming activities and programs offered by the Catholic Education Center.

a. Catholic Education Week (May 1st-5th)

The Catholic Education Week Resource Package will be available to OCSTA Catholic Education website and shared throughout the System. The package includes elementary and secondary resources. For elementary, there is a Catholic education Week book list with titles and lesson plans for each sub theme of Cath Ed Week for each division, along with prayer services and guides for school wide experiences such as a Faith Play Day and a Living rosary. For the secondary panel, there are daily prayers, reflections, and suggested activities for each of the Catholic Education week subthemes and an outline for a one day school retreat.

b. Faith Ambassador Program

The Faith Ambassador program serves two main purposes, the first as the liaison at all of the respective schools for all faith-related matters and the second as our adult faith development facilitators and leaders. The Faith Ambassador chairs organized a board wide Advent retreat in December, and will be hosting two more Lenten retreats where mass will be celebrated followed by fellowship and a light dinner.

c. Religious Education Advisory Committee

REAC is an advisory committee with a broad range of representation of roles from YCDSB, including Bishop Boissonneau at the helm and parish, parent, and trustee representation, in addition to elementary and secondary administrators and teachers. At the beginning of each two-year cycle, there is a continuation of tasks within subcommittees or there is a brainstorming session to identify the concrete, real needs with consideration to YCDSB priorities and programming. Subcommittees are then formed to carry out the planning and development of a clear direction/action.

d. Luke 4:18 Symposium

The Luke 4:18 Symposium is taking place on Friday, **May 26, 2023 at the CEC from 8:30-4:30** It is a fun and exciting day of team building, fellowship and reflection on social justice issues. Students from Grades 6 to 8 are eligible to participate, and are accompanied by teachers for the day. A morning and afternoon snack as well as lunch will be provided for each participant. Each school will have the opportunity to assist with a Symposium planning task. Vendors are also invited to the event, including our Catholic charitable agencies such as ShareLife. Thanks to the generosity of the Board of Trustees, there is **no fee** for participating in this year's Symposium.

e. Fully Alive Update

Pearson is ending its support for *Fully Alive*. In December 2022, they retired the remaining *Fully Alive* print materials, and the entire series is now out of print. Pearson will stop supporting the digital version of *Fully Alive* by **March 24, 2023**.

Though Pearson will be stepping away from supporting this series, all YCDSB will continue to have access to downloadable PDFs of *Fully Alive* student and teacher resources until March 24, 2023. The link to access the downloadable PDF's has been

shared with the system in system memo 21: Ref # **C:282**

The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) will continue to house all the *Fully Alive* student and teacher PDFs, beyond the March 24th date. The Religious Education program, *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*, now has resources from Gr. 1-8, with the FDK version to be released in the fall of 2023, and the grade 9 program currently in consultation.

The trustees' generous sponsorship of the Luke 4:18 symposium, which will enable more kids to participate, was recognized and thanked by Superintendent Arcadi.

D. Pathways Updates

Presented by: M. Calabrese - SHSM Consultant

D. Di Meo - SHSM Consultant

Consultant Di Meo and Calabrese presented on the SHSM programs. The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a unique curriculum that enables students to earn credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma while simultaneously concentrating their learning on a particular economic area. The SHSM is a Ministry approved program. The program is offered to grade 11 & 12 students. Students receive a red seal on their diploma once they graduate. YCDSB offers 36 SHSM programs across 15 secondary schools, two of which are centralized programs. YCDSB is the only board to offer centralized programs.

The SHSM expansion was also made available by the ministry in an effort to boost opportunities in the skilled trades sector. St. Augustine, St. Theresa Lisieux, St. Max Kolbe and St. Robert were the successful applicants. These schools received extra funding from the ministry of education.

The Trustees Board members were impressed with the presentation's information and thanked the consultants for their diligent effort.

E. Con-Ed Department Programs

Presented by: C. De Haas - Principal, Elementary Programs, Continuing Education

A. Pasquini - Principal, Secondary Programs, Continuing Education

The presentation highlighted the following areas:

- a. Marketing The After School, Evening, Weekend and Summer Programs through social media pages on Twitter and Instagram. Currently these social media apps have 700 followers.
- b. Remote offerings enable market of programs beyond the YCDSB community. YCDSB is a leader in offering remote options for both elementary and secondary students and has also recently launched a Adult General Interest Conversation Program.
- c. The International Languages Program (ILP) offers 18 different languages. Different languages are introduced by language and location requests based on student interest and enrolment.
- d. Currently, there are over 3500 students involved in evening and Saturday Elementary International Languages.
- e. Several community partnerships have been established including the Portuguese Consulate, Markham Tamil Community Group, Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Community and Italian Contemporary Film Festival.

- f. The General Interest programming includes programming with a fee for service. The offerings have expanded to include Cooking and Crafts, Woodworking, Badminton, Art and French programming.
- g. In the secondary panel, almost 500 students are working towards earning an International Language credit. After school non-credit and credit remedial programs in math and literacy, including Homework Helper are offered at our secondary schools. Credit courses are offered in night and summer school and are very popular with both our students and students outside the YCDSB.
- h. Some of the after school secondary programs that are being offered are: Yearbook, Drumline and the High-Performance Athlete credit.
- i. Adult General Interest - On January 30th YCDSB launched Conversational International Language in French and Italian.

Trustees of the board had an opportunity to seek clarification on the partnerships that Con-Ed has established. The presentation was well received by the trustees.

9. ACTION ITEMS: Nil

10. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:

Roots of Empathy

An international, evidence-based classroom programme called Roots of Empathy has proven a significant impact in lowering the aggression levels of pupils by boosting their social/emotional skills and promoting empathy. Children aged 5 to 13 are intended for the programme.

Superintendent Arcadi informed the board of trustees that the curriculum department is currently Working in partnership with the student services department in executing a pilot programme with Roots of Empathy and expressed that a more fulsome report around this pilot will be forthcoming.

Music/ Arts Report

The board of trustees requested a data analysis of the music programme offered at Father Michael McGivney. Trustee Alexandre suggested that further analysis would help to determine if the schools with low music/ arts enrollment could be combined to offer different instrument choices. Trustee Wigston also requested the numbers of sections for digital art and dance programmes. Superintendent Arcadi clarified that the numbers combined both digital and traditional programmes. Director Scuglia also commented that the programmes run dependent on the student enrollment.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): NIL

13. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 15, 2023

**14. ADJOURNMENT 8:08pm
ON MOTION: lafrate/ Barbieri
CARRIED**