

York Catholic District School Board
MINUTES
STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE
Monday, May 15, 2023

Attending:

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

Other Trustees: E. Crowe, J. DiMeo

Absent with Notice: M. Iafrate

Administration: A. Arcadi, 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:** M.Iafrate - Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

THAT the Student Success & Pathways Committee Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION: Alexander/ Barbieri

CARRIED

4. **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: Barbieri/ Wigston

CARRIED

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM the MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

6. **PRESENTATION(S):**

Curriculum Updates Presentations

a. **STREAM Centres of Excellence Data Results - presented by Marisa Benakis, STREAM Consultant**

- The presentation aimed to summarize data results for the STREAM Centers of Excellence, as per Chair Alexander's request during the March 2023 board meeting. By June 2023, it's expected that the Centers will have conducted 654 workshops, collaborated with over 654 educators, reached around 16,253 students, and impacted 52% of elementary schools. Our current staffing model projects service to approximately 70% of elementary students in the 2023-2024 school year.
- The study on STREAM centres explored their impact, with primary research questions focused on educator understanding, student engagement, and the wider influence of STREAM experiences. Data was collected through teacher surveys, student drawings, and open-ended questions. Additionally,

teacher focus group interviews were conducted at each STREAM location.

- The purpose of these surveys was twofold: to ensure the successful implementation of the STREAM Centers' goals and to gather insights for more effective and focused planning of STREAM Center learning experiences.
- During data analysis, recurring themes that were consistent among participants and various data sources were identified. The findings were organized in the following manner: Educator Experience, Learner Experience, Activation of STREAM and Implications for Practice.
- The first finding highlighted that educator involvement in STREAM Centers positively impacted education, leading to a deep understanding of STREAM beyond traditional disciplines. Common themes included STREAM comprehension, problem-solving, collaboration, empathy, hands-on learning, creative thinking, and integration into the curriculum. This authentic educator understanding is essential for genuine STREAM implementation in their teaching.
- Educators experienced a significant 70% boost in confidence when integrating religion into STREAM, with increased comfort in student-led problem-solving and collaboration. Some educators, constituting the remaining 30%, had differing experiences. Consultant Benakis presented findings and showcased examples from each panel, while a short video clip of students at STREAM centres was shown.

Trustee Alexander expressed gratitude to Consultant Benakis for the presentation and asked about the student drawings, the provided instructions, and the purpose behind having students create these drawings. Consultant Benakis clarified that students used the Nearpod app to draw on iPads with minimal guidance, depicting a picture of their day. Trustee Alexander then inquired about how this methodology is integrated into everyday learning at school and incorporated in each subject to which consultant Benakis responded that through STREAM centres students are learning to work together to solve world issues with a lens on social justice in whatever subject they are learning about. There's a common misconception that STREAM centres focus solely on technology, but educators visiting these centres are realizing that there's much more to it than just technology.

Trustee Barbieri and Trustee Wigston also expressed their satisfaction with the presentation. Trustee Wigston followed up by asking how we can begin to change the perception of educators who believe they can't replicate the learning from STREAM centres due to a lack of learning resources. Consultant Benakis replied, explaining that this is precisely why STREAM leads engaged in a design workshop aimed at dispelling misconceptions about STREAM and educating others about its capabilities. The workshop highlighted that sophisticated technology is not crucial and provided alternative tools for facilitating learning experiences. Furthermore, the workshop was expanded to include all elementary librarians.

Trustee Saggese concluded by sharing her experience of visiting a STREAM centre and being impressed by the high level of engagement among both students and teachers. She also affirmed her agreement regarding the existing misconceptions about STREAM and expressed her satisfaction with the efforts to address them. She emphasized the significance of this work in enhancing student engagement with the social justice aspect of education.

b. EQAO Supports (Elementary Panel) - presented by Marlene Perry, Literacy Consultant and Robert Bal, Elementary Math Consultant

- In summary, YCDSB has seen success in reading and writing. To continue this progress and support the system, an EQAO literacy prep pack has been introduced. This resource, containing key assessments and professional examination tools, was shared with teachers and principals through system memos and virtual meetings, with positive feedback received.
- In the Math area, at each elementary school, there's a designated math lead per division who took part in a two-part workshop earlier this spring. These workshops centred on EQAO, specifically emphasizing problem-solving and introducing Knowledgehook, a licensed platform for students to practice EQAO questions digitally. PD release time was offered to support school leads and enable them to attend central in-services.

Trustee Wigston asked about the extent to which EQAO literacy information can be shared with parents if they

have kids with anxiety who want to practice at home. Consultant Perry advised that the EQAO website itself has student practice assessments. As for Math, the Knowledgehook platform also has practice assessments for students. This information has also been communicated to the teachers to encourage students to go home and practice online.

c. Religious Education, Family Life, Adult Faith, & Equity Updates - presented by David Pimentel, Principal of Religious Education

- Last year, we revitalized in-person gatherings for staff and students, enabling participation in liturgical celebrations, collaboration, and fellowship. The Faith Ambassadors program successfully hosted multiple events crucial for adult Faith development. We provided in-person in-services for new teachers, focusing on the Fully Alive and Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ program, along with foundational resource training. Additionally, we resumed active participation in secondary-level subject council meetings and reinstated in-person Friday prayers.
- Catholic Education Week 2024 theme to be announced in late May 2023.
- Youth Ordinandi is an event that unites secondary students considering vocations in ministry or clergy. YCDSB had the largest delegation
- The Board's Mass for Reconciliation and Healing, led by Bishop Boissonneau, saw some improvements in addressing technical issues encountered last year. Offering the Eucharist remains a challenge in this format. To compensate, a prayer was offered for the virtual audience, providing an opportunity for reflection and connecting students and staff across the board.
- The upcoming 12th biennial Luke 4:18 Social Justice Symposium, titled "We Are Many, We Are One," is scheduled for May 26th. Over 200 elementary students and 30 high school students will participate in this event. The symposium aims to highlight the celebration of diversity, the promotion of unity, and the exploration of practical ways to actualize Jesus' mission.
- ICE's annual Catholic Education gathering, held last week, offered Catholic education stakeholders a valuable chance to unite and celebrate Catholic education, fostering fellowship, sharing resources, and enhancing adult faith development.

Trustee Sagesse expressed appreciation for the Religion Department's work in coordinating various in-person events and gatherings throughout the year. Additionally, gratitude was extended for the resources offered to educators, parents, and students during Catholic Education Week.

d. Pathways Updates: Dual credits - *Introduced by, Principal of Student Success and Pathways and presented by Siobhan Bondy, Consultant of Dual Credits Program*

- Consultant Bondy introduced the Dual Credit Program (DCP), which is overseen by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and receives funding from various Ministries, including MLITSD, Colleges and Universities, and Education.
- The School College Working Initiative manages the reporting, approval, and monitoring process with the primary goals of enhancing OSSD completion and facilitating a smooth transition to post-secondary education.
- A student-produced video explained the DCP from a student's perspective.
- YCDSB has partnered with four colleges, Centennial, Seneca King, Georgian, and Humber Colleges, to deliver the program.
- The presentation emphasized the program's advantages, highlighting its seamless integration of college courses for high school students and providing sample course offerings.
- The dual credits program has been advocated through the SHSM Liaisons, Grade 10 Career Classes, professional development for New Guidance staff, and Guidance Subject Council meetings. Our website features newly available opportunities for Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.
- Some dual credits include college-related field trips, and SWCI provides college-funded projects or

trips. In May, Seneca and Centennial will offer college exploration trips for YCDSB secondary students.

- In November 2022, the Ministry announced plans to increase enrollment in various educational programs, including 400 students in apprenticeship in-class training, 400 students in technological education college courses, and 180 students in Early Childhood Education college courses. Furthermore, in March 2023, an additional 3.3 million in funding was allocated over the next years to expand access to dual credit programs in healthcare-related courses, benefiting an extra 1400 students.
- The Canadian Tooling and Machining Association, in collaboration with the Ontario Labour & Skills Development and the Ontario Council for Technology Education, is currently running the "Career Ready" program and is in its third phase. This initiative aims to advance manufacturing technology equipment and tooling in select Ontario schools. York Catholic DSB is in the process of partnering with CTMA, and there will be exciting news about this collaboration coming in the fall of 2023. Stay tuned for updates.
- The Skills Ontario Competition took place from May 1-3, 2023, at the Toronto Progress Center. YCDSB students participated and won 5 gold medals, 2 silver, and 3 bronze. Three students will now compete at the national level in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- The Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE) has selected YCDSB for a partnership with the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN). In Fall 2023, students from grades 5 to 12 will receive project-based activities, engage in experiential learning, and obtain certifications in the Automotive and Mobility Sector

Trustee Crowe asked about the scheduling of the Dual Credits program, and Consultant Bondy confirmed that the program aligns with the schedules provided by colleges. Additionally, Trustee Crowe inquired about the costs covered for the 3 gold winners attending the nationals in Winnipeg, which Consultant Bondy clarified were covered by school and central funds.

Trustee Wigston sought clarification on why only 3 out of 5 gold medal winners went to the Winnipeg finals. Consultant Bondy explained that only specific competitions have national-level events.

e. Continuing Education Programs Updates - presented by Christine Dehaas, Principal Of Elementary Continuing Education Programs & Anthony Pasquini, Principal Of Secondary Continuing Education Programs.

- During the meeting, the presentation began with a short video introducing the members of the Continuing Education team.
- A significant focus this year has been on branding, advertising, and marketing the Continuing Education programs. The team has successfully established media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, with Instagram proving to be the most frequently visited for obtaining information. An analysis of follower demographics in terms of gender and location was conducted. Notably, Continuing Education works in conjunction with the International Languages department to attract a small percentage of followers from outside the region. The use of social media platforms serves to showcase the programs and attract individuals to the website for registration.
- The Tutoring Support Program was presented, encompassing two phases. Phase 1 involved 12,735 YCDSB students from March to August 2022, allocating \$131,000 to community partners. Phase 2 engaged 9,902 YCDSB students from September 2022 to March 2023, allocating \$294,000 to community partners. The program's outcomes will be submitted in a final report to the ministry as it concludes.
- A list of international language programs and their enrollment breakdown by language was provided. In total, these programs accommodate 3,547 students
- This year, the general interests program was introduced at OLQW, enrolling 159 students across six fee-paying programs. In response to parental requests for expanded offerings, there are plans

to extend these programs to additional secondary schools. Relocating these programs to secondary schools is considered more cost-effective due to reduced expenses related to permits, custodians, lead instructors, and other associated costs at these sites.

- Following the conclusion of the tutoring grant, we received significant feedback from parents expressing a strong desire to continue providing academic support for their children. In response, we initiated a remedial elementary literacy and numeracy support program for grades 7 and 8, commencing on May 1st. This program attracted interest from 35 teachers and is funded through the Learning Opportunities grant. Our objective is to implement this program in the Fall of 2023 across all elementary and secondary schools.
- Currently, over 1700 students are registered in the semester two credit night school, and 467 students are enrolled in the Saturday international languages program. Additionally, the adult continuing education program for adult conversation saw high attendance with 91 adult students participating in courses such as Italian, French, Spanish, Hungarian, and Cantonese. Despite challenges with setting up emails for adult K-12 learners and navigating the online platform, we intend to continue offering adult language general interests in the fall of 2023. Feedback from participants indicated a desire to expand course levels, including beginner, intermediate, and advanced language courses.
- A summary of the Summer 2023 Elementary programs was presented. Anticipating a surpass of last year's registration of 10,000 students, a wide range of general interest programs is offered for all ages in the elementary panel. Registration is temporarily paused as we assess staffing needs to facilitate these programs. Late registrations will reopen shortly. Additionally, the secondary panel plans to conduct its travel for credit program this year with 40 students. Secondary programs are offered in virtual, asynchronous and in-person learning.
- For the upcoming fall of 2023, our goal is to maintain the provision of high-quality general interest, credit, non-credit, and remedial programs for both elementary and secondary students.

Trustee Crowe remarked on the enthusiasm for delivering these programs and emphasized the importance of thinking creatively and expanding our program offerings beyond the usual scope.

Trustee Wigston inquired about the remedial grant and the number of students enrolled in the program. Principal DeHaas emphasized that to maximize the benefits of the grant, it's important to have a group of 12 students assigned to each teacher.

Trustee Sagesse inquired about the availability of language programs at various proficiency levels. Principal DeHaas mentioned that there is a modern language lead overseeing the new program, highlighting efforts to accommodate the students' requests and preferences.

9. ACTION ITEMS: Nil

10. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS: NIL

11. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): NIL

13. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, October 23, 2023

**14. ADJOURNMENT 8:08 pm
ON MOTION: CARRIED**