



NSTU CURRICULUM COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORT 2024

Committee Mandate:

The mandate of the Curriculum Committee focuses on the study of the Nova Scotia Public School curriculum and any changes proposed to the curriculum, as well as staying informed of trends and developments in curriculum.

Committee Members 2023 - 2024

Darlene Bereta (chair), Jason Petrie, Steve Bradford, Steph Nagy, Michael Carrigan, Georgette Samson (Provincial Executive liaison), Meg Ferguson (NSTU Staff).

Meeting Dates:

The Committee held three (3) meetings: November 6th, 2023, February 16, 2024 and May 17th, 2024.

Summary of Committee Activities

The Committee moved forward in the 2022-2023 academic year focusing on the following business:

- **Academic Research Repository**
has been established and a recruiting campaign poster for interested teachers have been sent to educational worksites and through NSTU social media accounts. The NSTU now has online a Repository of Academic Research in Education, comprising the accomplished thesis work of our members. So far two submissions from our members have been accepted. Certificates of appreciation and an NSTU journal have been sent to the two members.
- **Graduation Requirements / Age Appropriateness of Curriculum Feedback**
The committee reviewed adjustments to graduation prerequisites, suggesting English becoming compulsory in the CSAP, technology classes doubling as a secondary science credit, Co-op being a graduate course and examining alternative math options for diverse learners, all while promoting the concept of two-eyed seeing as a second science.
- **EECD Guests at November Meeting**
Janet Porter, Mi'kmaw Services, EECD – update in “Treaty Education”
Jennifer Burke, Director of Curriculum Development, EECD
Lisa Bunin, FSL Programs, EECD

The EECD provided an overview of the curriculum design process, current courses in pilot, current courses in development, and current resource developments. (Life 11, Indigenous studies, math, African Nova Scotian Education Framework, the Treaty Education Framework, and the Inclusive Education Policy)

- **Review of Resolutions to Annual Council**

The Committee reviewed and made recommendations regarding policy and resolutions related to its mandate for Annual Council 2024. Resolutions the curriculum committee reviewed and suggested amendments: 2024-47, 2024-48, 2024-49, 2024-50, 2024-51, 2024-52, 2024-53, 2024-54, 2024-55, 2024-56, 2024-57, 2024-58, 2024-59, 2024-62 and 2024-64.

- **Cell Phone Initiative**

The committee met with Gary Adams, Executive Lead, Safe & Inclusive Schools, EECD, who has been connecting with NSTU members and other partners around the province to compile issues and success stories regarding cell phones in schools. Committee members shared their perspectives and Gary may return in the fall for more discussion and feedback. Mr. Adams is also reviewing the Code of Conduct policy, and so the committee shared items that had surfaced earlier in the day regarding barriers in documentation of incidents in schools and other concerns.

- **Starter Packs**

Staff Officer Meg Ferguson met with Jennifer Burke at the EECD and had a discussion on Graduation Requirements & Google Form reviewing age appropriateness for curriculum outcomes. Meg shared with the committee the discussion and how the EECD is looking into establishing “starter packages” consisting of lesson plans for teachers teaching certain subjects.

- **P-2 Curriculum Renewal Update**

P-2 Curriculum Renewal will be implemented 2024-2025 and work on grade 3+ to start next year. The EECD brought teachers in from across the province on a Saturday (asked for expressions of interest, paid similarly to summer marking sessions). Several hundred applied, 50 participated.

Proposed meeting dates for 2024-2025

- Fall: Nov 8 (Alternate Nov 15)
- Winter online, joint meeting with la Comité: Friday February 14, 2024
- Spring: May 16 (Alternate Nov 23)

Budget

The budget for meeting expenses of the Curriculum Committee was \$4,400 for the 2023-2024 academic year. The committee spent a total of \$3,075.68.

Goals or Plans for Next Year (2024-2025)

The Curriculum Committee had great success this year. The guests from the EECD were very informative and receptive to any questions and/or feedback. For the incoming committee, it is recommended that they invite the EECD to present an overview of where various curriculum development and initiatives are every fall.

As well as:

- Continuing with the joint meeting with la Comité de programmation acadienne to discuss and review resolutions before the annual council was quite valuable. On a go-forward basis the committee suggest the practice be continued once a year if possible.
- Continue to invite EECD personnel to keep the group informed. Especially overview of pilots, development, and new initiatives.

- Continue to share with EECD, thoughts on topics related to the teaching profession such as Provincial Assessments for foreign students being less relevant to ELA students. Ex. “Discuss your favorite NS season” when not all students have experienced all of the seasons.
- Initiate special project related to matters of current importance in the area of curriculum: perhaps how to support EAL students with interrupted learning, identifying triggering activities (warn new students what a fire drill is), etc
- Request an update from EECD re: two-eyed seeing in curriculum
- High School locally approved courses – how? What is happening around the province now? Perhaps share this information in The Teacher

Selection of Committee Chair 2024 – 2025

The committee nominated **Michael Carrigan** as Curriculum Committee Chair 2024-2025.

As Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their time and valuable contributions. It was my pleasure to sit on the committee and I found the information, discussions, and takeaways very valuable. I encourage more teachers to take up the opportunity to sit on the curriculum committee for it is the best professional development opportunity a teacher can have with the EECD.

Respectfully submitted by Darlene Bereta (chair)