

April 12, 2013 saw the final gathering of the year for the curriculum committee of 2012-2013. In attendance were Grant Frost (Chair), Sarah Tutty, Joyce Lively, Cathy Doucet, Pat Hillier, Tanya Sampson, Steve Trussoni, and NSTU staff liaison Debbie McIsaac.

The day began with discussion arising from old business on a variety of subjects including the Partner's Working Group update, questions around PD for teachers for the new math curriculum, and, not surprisingly, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). As always, the conversation was lively and engaging.

The group moved into a discussion of resolutions for Annual Council, and it was decided that the committee would speak to defeat one of the resolutions. This was followed by discussion around a response to the Chair of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board's comment about fine arts, and concerns about the outsourcing of the new leadership credit to community groups, and a perceived lack of resources and support for teachers to teach curriculum concerning cyberbullying.

Guests to the meeting from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) included, Shannon Delbridge, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister who joined us to discuss PLCs and Continuous School Improvement, with many concerns being expressed and discussed. Jim Rice, Director, Evaluation Services also joined the group, and gave an update on provincial large-scale assessments. Don Glover, Director, Student Services Division and Tara Moore, Schools Plus Coordinator dropped in to discuss the new Schools Plus Program.

In all, it was a successful day and a successful year, with the committee bringing many concerns forward to representatives from the EECD. The committee continues to foster a good relationship with the Department, and is looking forward to many more conversations and debate next year.

Curriculum Corner



[From The Teacher, June 24, 2013, Volume 51 Number 15, page 7 © NSTU 2013]