

Curriculum Corner



by Sarah Tutty, Curriculum Committee Chair
and Marc Breaugh, Curriculum Committee member

On October 4 the Curriculum Committee's new members, Darlene Bereta, Jason Ralph, Kathy Fougere, and Marc Breaugh, met for the first time with returning members Sophie Pedneault, Steve Trussoni and chair Sarah Tutty. In addition to the committee members, provincial executive liaison, Pat Hillier and NSTU staff liaison, Debbie McIsaac joined us at the table.

The morning started with discussions around relevant topics such as Continuous School Improvement (CSI), consistency across the province when using PowerSchool, and how to better engage our fellow NSTU members.

The afternoon did not disappoint as Ann Blackwood, Executive Director, English Language Services joined committee members to discuss different aspects of our curriculum. As always, Blackwood was very interested in what our thoughts were regarding the changes to the curriculum. She also invited a cadre of informative consultants who shared information and highlighted some valuable resources.

Math consultants Sharon MacReady and Robin Harris presented their continuing efforts to update the Mathematics curriculum. Discussion centered around the changes to Mathematics 10, as it was expanded from 110 to 220 hours for this school year. Math at Work, which is replacing the Math Foundations course, is the new 110 hour course intended for graduation. The consultants also recognized the need to support students who may be struggling with math in the early years through a program that could look similar to the Leveled Literacy Intervention program offered for English Language Arts.

Technology Education Consultant Kilah Hayden discussed the launches of Technology Education 7 and 8 and the upcoming launch of Technology Education 9. We also had the opportunity to see some of the resources given to technology education teachers.

Active, Healthy Living Consultant Natalie Flinn, highlighted the need for continued emphasis to be placed on educating students in social and emotional learning. It is worth noting that the updated health curriculum is designed to allow students to practice healthy relationships and to show teachers what they know through collaboration and participatory methods. Social emotional learning is effective when integrated throughout the curriculum so students learn these competencies in different contexts.

Finally, Susan MacDonald, new to the role of FSL Consultant formally filled by Gerald Felix, updated us on the direction of the French Department. She noted that second language literacy should not be a duplication of first language learning and work being done on the French Immersion curriculum will reflect this. MacDonald also highlighted research that supports second language learning as having cognitive benefits for all students.

If you have any questions about our meeting, please feel free to contact any members from the curriculum committee.



The NSTU Curriculum Committee held its first meeting of the school year on October 4 at NSTU's Tom Parker Building in Halifax. From left to right seated are: Debbie McIsaac (NSTU staff liaison); Pat Hillier (provincial executive rep); Committee chair Sarah Tutty (Queens) and Steve Trussoni (APSEA). Standing: Marc Breaugh (Lunenburg County); Kathy Fougere (Colchester-East Hants); Darlene Bereta (Northside-Victoria); Sophie Pedneault (CSANE), and Jason Ralph (Dartmouth).

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