

DPAC Committee Report

<p>Committee: Student Achievement Advisory Committee Meeting</p> <p>Prepared by (Name): Rosanna von Sacken</p>	<p>Date: Oct. 15, 2007</p> <p>Meeting attended by DPAC reps: Rosanna von Sacken Nina Hansen</p>
<p>Current Priorities requiring DPAC Action, include deadlines and monetary consideration:</p> <p>None at this time</p>	

Key points to report:

- The meeting on Oct. 15 was facilitated by Sharon Jeroski.
- Meeting purpose was to address the new timelines set by the Min. of Education, where School Districts have to submit District Growth Plan by July 15 instead of Oct. 31, which also impacts the School Improvement Planning process.
- Maureen Dockendorf suggested that the “School Improvement Plans” be renamed as “**School Growth Plans**”.
- Because this is our first and transition year with the new deadline, schools have been advised not to spend too much time on SIPs as changes are anticipated.
- Sharon J. recommended that the District separates the Plan from the District and the Plans from the schools. What is more important is the School Growth Plans where actions will be taken at the school and classroom levels, and the focus is on the kids.
- What is not desirable is making this a pressure and a labour intensive event for schools, which in many cases, it already is.
- Sharon facilitated a round table sharing by participants on what they think the SPC / SIP process is and should be, and what some challenges are.
 - Data collection & analysis at elementary, middle and high schools are different and inconsistent.
 - Lack of inclusion of District Assessment (data collected by District not used as frequently by schools as anticipated).
 - Lack of inclusion of parent / student survey results.
 - Lack of teachers’ perspectives.
 - Lack of buy in because there is no personal connections.
 - The passion to embrace changes is gone.
 - ESL / FN student data not always clear.
- Sharon noted common threads from the round table sharing:
 - Need to simplify the SIP documentation process – it’s become burdensome for schools, particularly for those with limited technological know-how to incorporate new data and they ended up spending too much time doing the paper exercise.

- Have an internal and an external planning process from the school perspective. The external planning process is the preparation and submission of the annual School Growth Plan to the District, which should contain a school's broad and long term goals. The internal planning process is a living document / file where everyone continues to plan on what to do to support, change and/or improve student achievement. The internal planning process will include annual objectives that fit under the broad goals using current information / data available. No formal plan is required. This process presumably will include the continuation of participation and involvement from teachers, parents, administrators and at high school level, students as appropriate.
 - The above must work with the schools' timelines, rather than the Ministry's time lines.
- Discussion turned to what time line would work. The following is a suggested time frame which needs to be presented to the Superintendent and Administrators on Oct. 25.
 - Reflection time typically occurs around end of May. June is too busy for many schools.
 - By early Oct., staff would have had a month to get to know their students and look at the most current student population, staffing, numbers and data gathered in Sept. This would be after the Sept. rush and Bill 33 requirements. Internal planning would be ideal in early Oct.
 - For high schools where 2nd semesters apply, February is another time for review and reflection.
 - Spring – look at trends and prepare annual School Growth Plan for next year.
 - Change the School Planning Day (a Pro-D day usually in May or June) to the Tues. after the Thanksgiving long weekend. This would mean 2 Pro-D days in Oct. (should explain to parents why to reduce potential complaints).

Oct. Thanksgiving long weekend	(Tues. after Thanksgiving) School Planning Day to plan for current year's school objectives, based on last year's data, the District Assessment (received in Sept.), current student population info., etc.
Feb. / Spring	High schools into 2 nd semester, review School Growth Plan to ensure objectives still apply in 2 nd semester. Review trends and begin consideration and preparation of next year's School Growth Plan.
By May 15	Submit School Growth Plan to District by May 15. SD43 has to submit the District Plan to Ministry by July 31.