

EBP PHASE 2 SUMMARY REPORT

2015-2016

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

**Note to reader: Modified version of report submitted by board. Financial information has been removed for sharing purposes.*

Project 1 ETSB's PLC JOURNEY

Goals and Activities

This year, the following activities were completed:

- Members of the Pedagogical Services team visited schools implementing PLCs in the Halifax Regional School Board on October 26, 27, 2015.
- Principals attended monthly meetings to discuss PLCs and deepen their learning (sessions were led through the Solution-Tree PLC videos, such as Building Collaborative Teams and Tiers Without Tears, and a one-day session on May 25, 2016 with François Massé from Solution Tree)
- Due to the Labor Relations this fall, we did not hold the PLC Support Days (we lost some momentum this year because of this reality, including some of our PLC focused PDIGs being redirected to the fall of 2016). However, five school teams attended a one-day session with François Massé on May 24, 2016.
- Began designing a Three-Board High School Principal Network (ETSB, NFSB, RSB) for 2016-2017 implementation – intent: to allow our high school principals to gain a deep understanding of the PLC theory, become equipped to implement effective PLCs to drive student success & MESAs, while learning from one another

Outcomes

Activities that occurred:

- Six members of the pedagogical team visited two HRSB schools (October 26-27, 2015).
- Number of PLC meetings varied from school-to-school, as this is locally decided. Some varied from weekly meetings during 7-week pathways and others were every second week. We had two schools who maintained their PLC focused PDIGs and the other school teams opted not to in solidarity with the Labor Relations.
- Six PD sessions for principals (Five sessions during Principals' meetings with Solution-Tree material support and one session with a Solution-Tree facilitator); all principals and centre directors attended the last three sessions
- Modifications: Refrained from offering PLC Support Days and instead offered release time for school teams to reflect, discuss, and determine their next PLC steps (with the Labor Relations, very few opted for this offer), but we held a one-day session with Solution-Tree Facilitator for five school teams.
- Held three design meeting days from April to June for the 2016-2017 Three-Board High School Principal Network

Suggested Next Steps (2016-2017):

- Implement Three-Board High School Principal Network
- Attend the May 2017 Response to Intervention Conference in Quebec City (most of the 2016-2017 funding will be directed in this area, as well as the unspent amounts from this year, so we might not be able to hold PLC Support Days - TBD)
- Continue PLC sessions with principals
- Prepare a PLC toolkit for pedagogical services team to better support schools

Overall reflection/observation

At this time, every principal, centre director, consultant, and commissioner has received “Starting a Movement: Building Culture From the Inside Out in Professional Learning Communities” by Kenneth C. Williams and Tom Hierck for their summer or early fall professional read, with the intent of solidifying the foundation of our “ETSB PLC Journey”. This past year, it has been observed that the “ETSB PLC Journey” momentum has wavered in some of our schools and centres, most likely due to the political instability and labour relations experiences and, as a result, there is a need to return to the “why”. We need to ensure we continue cultivating an environment where PLCs blossom.

The 2015-2016 school year focus was mainly on:

- the growth of principals in their understanding of PLCs
- the Pedagogical Services Team visit to the Halifax Regional School Board.

As a result, the expenses were minimal (HRSB visit only) as there were no costs for the other activities (the exceptional funding support from the DG Surplus Monies covered the François Massé session attended by the five school teams). If the 2015-2016 Evidence-Based Project Phase 2 funding is redirected to the 2016-2017 school year, we would like to hold central PLC Support Days for our teams next year as well as financially support a huge ETSB delegation to the Response to Intervention Solution-Tree Conference in May.

A special thank you to Geneviève Légaré and her team for the continued support, as well as a thank you for the EBP financial support that allows the ETSB to grow as a learning organization to better respond to students’ needs.

2015-2016 Funding:

Halifax Regional School Board Visit: (travel expenses – flight, car rental, hotel, meals) Requesting

2015-2016 balance be redirected to the 2016-2017 school year due to the exceptionalities of this past school year

Submitted by Kandy Mackey, Director, Pedagogical Services

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NOTE: this report template is based on Riverside School board 2013-2014 report)