
EBP PHASE 2 SUMMARY REPORT

2016-2017

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:

- Every principal, centre director, consultant, and commissioner read “Starting a Movement: Building Culture From the Inside Out in Professional Learning Communities” by Kenneth C. Williams and Tom Hierck as their summer or early fall professional read, and debriefing sessions were held for all to continue solidifying the foundation of our “ETSB PLC Journey”.
- As a follow up to members of the Pedagogical Services team visiting schools implementing PLCs in the Halifax Regional School Board on October 26, 27, 2015, a school team visited this year. Following this visit, the Facilitator of School Improvement provided ETSB Administrators, consultants, and school teams a session on the HRSB PLC Journey.
- Year 1 of the Three-Board Principal Network was held, where high school principals from ETSB, NFSB, RSB met five times to learn and professionally grow together (3 sessions focused on data literacy, 1 on PLC self-assessment, and 1 on crucial conversations and looking at PLC theory). Year 2 will deepen the PLC theory for participants and John Killingbeck funding will help support this network to visit a highly functioning PLC high school.
- The EBP funding this year was designated towards the Response to Intervention Conference in May 2017. In total, 112 ETSB educators attended and feedback was extremely positive as it was excellent timing for attendees to hear the Solution Tree message. Our challenge is to ensure our staff understands how all the pieces fit together, including how RTI fits into the PLC structure (Questions 3 & 4 of the PLC Four Guiding Questions). A PLC Roadmap was designed to help all understand these pieces.
- Because the financial investment this year was on supporting attendance at the RTI Conference, we did not hold Central PLC Support Days. However, some school teams were accompanied by pedagogical consultants, with support from PDIG and Chantier 7 Funding.
- Three schools have begun exploring UDL (Universal Design for Learning) and after the Director of Pedagogical Services visited Forest Hill Elementary and shared content with the Principals, it was decided that a visit for ETSB administrators will be planned for the fall. Once again, it will be important to show how UDL fits into the PLC structure; a perfect mesh into Tier 1 of the RTI.

Outcomes

Activities that occurred:

- School team visits HRSB on October 20-22, 2016 and on January 30, 2017, a session is held for 6 schools followed by a second day with all ETSB administrators and consultants.
- Between September 2016 and June 2017, five meetings were held for the Three-Board Principal Network, where nine high schools are involved.
- 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.
- The RTI Conference yielded a participation of 112 ETSB delegates.
- In the past three years, we are observing a positive trend in our end-of-cycle assessment data, a decrease in our dropout rate and a tiny increase in our graduation/qualification rate, which is encouraging as we continue to focus on our ETSB Strategic Plan and its pillars (developmental approach, PLCs, intellectual engagement, and pedagogical leadership).

Suggested Next Steps (2017-2018):

- Continue with Year 2 of the Three-Board High School Principal Network
- Continue PLC sessions with principals
- Further explore RTI and UDL

Additional Comments:

Our commitment that all our schools and centres have highly functional PLC teams at work is unwavering and we need to continue cultivating an environment where PLCs blossom. We are observing academic gains and the momentum at ETSB is growing, hence the need to remain focused.

As always, 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.

2016-2017 Funding:

RTI Conference:(registration and travel expenses) + 2015-2016 balance

Submitted by Kandy Mackey, Director, Pedagogical Services

July 10, 2017