

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 26, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: ATA/EPS Joint Committee on Professional Learning Communities

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Karen Redhead, Corrie Ziegler

INFORMATION

Background

In the spring of 2003-2004 a joint working committee was formed, consisting of representation from Edmonton Public Teachers' Local, Provincial Alberta Teachers' Association and Edmonton Public Schools. The purpose of this working group is:

- to develop a deep understanding of the relationship between Professional Learning Communities and the district's initiative on Supporting Teaching and Learning;
- to look for opportunities to:
 - integrate processes
 - learn from and share with other jurisdictions in Albertain order to support high quality professional practice that enhances student learning.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update of the work completed by this committee thus far, as well as share an outline of future activities.

Members of the Committee

2004-2005 members include:

ATA Representatives:

Karen Redhead, President.
Patrick Johner, Executive Member (Londonderry)
Kevin Schaffler, Chair, Professional Development (Wellington)
Jacquie Skytt, ATA Professional Development Coordinator
Dorothy Stanley, ATA Professional Development Executive Assistant

EPS Representatives:

Donna Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent
Betty Tams, Director Consulting Services
Ken Tranter, Principal, Student Achievement Services (September to December)
Corrie Ziegler, Director, Student Achievement Services (January to June)

Progress to Date

The committee has met four times since the spring of 2004. This committee has agreed upon the attributes of a Professional Learning Community and matched indicators from the district's Supporting Teaching and Learning Framework to these attributes. All indicators from the Eight Expectations have been matched to the attributes listed. The result is a working document that demonstrates the connection between Professional Learning Communities and Edmonton Public School's Supporting Teaching and Learning Framework.

Twenty-four educators, representing each of the four divisions, were involved in a full day meeting on April 25. Each division was represented by a principal, an assistant principal, a TAG teacher, an Instructional Leadership Team member, a consultant and an ATA Council of School Representative. Representatives were selected based on their knowledge of Professional Learning Communities, as well as their involvement in the district's Supporting Teaching and Learning Framework.

The purpose of this meeting was:

- to develop a rubric that can be used by schools as a framework for reflection and dialogue about their work related to Professional Learning Communities and the Supporting Teaching and Learning Framework;
- to provide possible recommendations for further action.

The work of this committee has been productive as well as informative. Committee members of the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Edmonton Public Teachers' Local and Edmonton Public Schools have indicated satisfaction in the progress made and look forward to further action to deepen understanding of the connections between the district's work and the Association's work to build Professional Learning Communities that support the achievement of superb results from all students.

CZ:gj