



MEMORANDUM

January 10, 2023
Regular Board Meeting

TO	Board of Trustees
FROM	Shauna Boyce, Superintendent
ORIGINATOR	Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent
RESOURCE	Sheryl Bridgeman, Division Principal, Literacy and Lifelong Learning Shaye Patras, Division Principal, Curriculum and Achievement
GOVERNANCE POLICY	Board Policy 1: Division Foundational Statements Board Policy 2: Role of the Board Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE	BP 1: Vision, Foundational Statements BP 2: Education Planning and Programming <i>Education Act: 19-23, 33, 196-197</i>
SUBJECT	CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

BACKGROUND

The Board is charged with the responsibility of providing, for its students and their parents, an education system organized and operated in the students' best interests. It exercises this responsibility through setting of local educational policy and the wise use of resources. Alberta Education provides updates to jurisdictions as the provincial curricula are amended, from time to time. Instructional Services works to ensure a state-of-readiness exists for all teachers affected by curriculum updates.

REPORT SUMMARY

This Curriculum Implementation Report provides an up-to-date overview of the professional development and response to new curriculum for the Division.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

SJ:kz



Instructional Services: Curriculum Implementation Report

January, 2023

Presented to the Board of Trustees, January 10, 2023

Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent, Education and System Services
Resources: Sheryl Bridgeman, Division Principal, Literacy and Lifelong Learning
Shaye Patras, Division Principal, Numeracy and Achievement

Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

BACKGROUND

Within the provincial *Teaching and Leading* Domain, Parkland School Division attends to Programming and Pedagogy as a key priority. The Division offers a diverse array of programming for students to ensure that learning is relevant and engaging for all students. Our programs showcase the breadth of the work. The depth of our work is recognized through our attention to pedagogy.”

Programming and pedagogy, as a priority, aligns with the Ministerial Order #028/2020 on Student Learning. The Order states that “Literacy and numeracy are the foundational building blocks of learning...These foundations establish core knowledge, shared civic and cultural literacy, and skills that enable students to solve problems, think critically as they become active and informed citizens leading healthy lives of meaning.”

In April, 2022, Alberta Education released final drafts of the K-6 English Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics and Physical Education and Wellness curricula.

Instructional Services planned for divisional curriculum implementation support for the 2022-2023 school year, with professional development starting in May, 2022. Staff received in-person and virtual professional development, provided through a pedagogical, researched based best practice lens. Sessions were rich with specific resources on those topics deemed essential to support teachers with Alberta Education's Expectations of a fall implementation:

- Organization of the new curriculum guide;
- Comparison of the previous curriculum to new curriculum requirements;
- Recommendations for grade book/report card alignment with new curriculum;
- Examples of long range, weekly and daily plans aligned with the new curriculum; and
- Recommended resources for implementation of the new curriculum

CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBJECTS

English Language Arts and Literature (ELAL) Kindergarten - Grade 3

Alberta Education Notes: “English language arts and literature is essential to foundational literacy and communication skills. It prepares students for ongoing learning as they build successful and fulfilling lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities and the world. Students will learn about historical aspects and contemporary applications of the English language through reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing in order to communicate effectively in a variety of situations. By exploring a wide variety of texts from both local and global communities, students build empathy, broaden perspectives, and expand worldviews. Students think critically about ideas and information and explore creative expression individually and with others” (Government of Alberta, English Language Arts Subject Overview, April 2022).

Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literature (ELAL) - Kindergarten - Grade 3

Alberta Education Notes: “Mathematics is a powerful tool used every day to solve real-life problems. A focus on numeracy skills provides students with a solid foundation of mathematical knowledge. Numeracy skills support real-life pursuits, including telling time, using and managing money, following instructions, finding an address, and reading a schedule. Through mathematics, students develop logical thinking skills that support effective decision making in a variety of situations. Experiences with mathematics help students develop appreciation for the patterns and relationships that describe multiple aspects of the world and its future possibilities.” (Government of Alberta, Mathematics Subject Overview, April 2022)

Physical Education and Wellness (PEW) - Kindergarten - Grade 6

Alberta Education Notes: “Physical education and wellness curriculum utilizes a comprehensive, strengths-based focus that promotes the development of the whole individual and nurtures students in pursuing a healthy and active life...Wellness education promotes the health of individuals and communities and provides students with opportunities to learn about various aspects of well-being. This enables students to make informed decisions that support personal and community well-being. As students mature, they acquire, understand, and apply health and wellness information that supports well-being in a variety of contexts.” (Government of Alberta, Physical Education and Wellness Subject Overview, April 2022)

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT FOR CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Physical Education and Wellness (PEW) Curriculum Implementation K-6:

Parkland School Division developed a Physical Education and Wellness working committee for the 2022-2023 school year. A designated staff member exists for each school on the working committee that is responsible for sharing resources, and for disseminating information regarding PEW curriculum implementation with their staff. The committee examined the following resources, readily available on the Parkland School Division Compass:

- The Program’s Year at a Glance,
- A Grade level Gap analysis,
- A Grade level at a Glance, and
- Financial Literacy Resources.

The committee created lesson plans to support K-6 teachers on the areas of the PEW curriculum that are new. These lessons are housed on the Parkland School Division Compass.

Mathematics and English Language Arts & Literature: Curriculum Implementation K-3:

To effectively support new curriculum implementation for each Kindergarten-Grade 3 teacher, Parkland School Division’s instructional Services facilitated six, full-day, professional development sessions (3 numeracy sessions and 3 literacy sessions). To facilitate rich dialogue in a smaller group setting, schools were organized into 2 cohorts for the professional development; this additionally benefitted the system by reducing the requirement for substitute teachers.

The screenshot shows the 'The PSD Compass' website. The main heading is 'Physical Education & Wellness (K-6) Curriculum'. Below the heading, there is a message: 'This page will house documents, resources and supports for the implementation of the new K-6 Physical Education & Wellness curriculum.' There are two main content areas: 'Bridging Student Learning to New Curriculum Subject: Physical Education and Wellness Grade 1' and 'Grade Level Highlight Sheets'. The 'Grade Level Highlight Sheets' section includes links for Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, and Grade 6.

For each professional learning day, Instructional Services structured each of the sessions to enable facilitated professional Learning in the morning and collaborative work sessions in the afternoon.

Our team of facilitators attended and contributed to the in-person PD sessions, and then modeled the learning, by grade level, within classrooms.

ELAL Professional Development Session		
Session/Date Offered	Curricular Areas Covered and Resources Utilized	
Session 1: May/June, 2022	Organizing Ideas: Phonological Awareness	Focus: Ministerial Order on Student Learning Architecture & Structure of New Curriculum Instructions, demonstrations on how to administer Alberta Education Screens Research Based Best Practice Programming and resources focused on organizing idea.
Session 2: October, 2022	Organizing Ideas: Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension, Oral Language	Focus: Using Alberta Education Screens to inform programming Recommended Scope and Sequences Research Based Best Practice Programming and resources focused on organizing ideas
Session 3: November, 2022	Organizing Ideas: Text Forms and Structures, Writing: Ideas and Information, Conventions	Focus: Components in a strong writing program Rubrics Inter rater reliability Writing Mini Lessons- year plan



Numeracy Professional Development Session		
Session/Date Offered	Curricular Areas Covered and Resources Utilized	
Session 1: June, 2022	Organizing Ideas: Overview of the new Numeracy Program of Studies	Focus: Identification of the newly identified skill requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fractions, Number Sense, Operations, Financial Literacy Structure of the new curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing Idea, Guiding Question, Learning Outcome, Knowledge, Understanding, Skills & Procedures (KUSPS) Introduction to Number Suggested Year Plan and General Evaluation Structure
Session 2: October, 2022	Organizing Ideas: Fractions, Patterns, and Time	Focus: Comparison of New and Previous Curriculum (review) Impactful Number Sense Routines Learning Progressions Patterns and Relations
Session 3: November/December, 2022	Organizing Ideas: Geometry, Measurement and Statistics	Focus: Spatial Sense Learning Progressions Comparison, Standard and Non-standard units of Measurement

INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

Parkland School Division’s Indigenous Education Facilitator, supported learning in each session by addressing Literacy and Numeracy Outcomes that focused on Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

Our facilitator’s resource development further supported the work of PSD teachers.

An example is included:



SURVEY RESULTS FOR CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Satisfaction after-event-surveys ensured that our facilitated, professional learning opportunities, appropriately met the needs of our teachers. Staff rated the sessions as “Excellent, Competent, Satisfactory or Insufficient.” Results of these sessions continue to indicate an extremely high level of satisfaction:

- Literacy and Numeracy learning opportunities demonstrate 84% of respondents (224/267) rated the sessions as “Excellent” and 0% of respondents rating the sessions as “Insufficient”.

Teachers provided feedback on several other topics including:

- Requests for future learning opportunities, and

- Preferred format (in-person vs. online) for future sessions.

Data gathered from these surveys served to inform future work for facilitators, to support the professional growth of our Facilitators and to determine future allocation of resources to best meet the needs of the teachers within Parkland School Division.

Anecdotal feedback from participants clearly indicated strong support for the efforts of the Literacy, Numeracy and Indigenous Education facilitators, as is evidenced by the following comments:

- *“Thank you so much! These sessions have been so valuable.”*
- *“Thank you for your efforts. It's great to have PD where teacher feedback is addressed so well.”*
- *“These days are invaluable. If we could have them more regularly moving forward it would be greatly appreciated.”*
- *“Our time was so productive and we learned so much, and really value the off-site collaboration time.”*
- *“More days like today! They are incredibly productive and such an important time for our grade team to work together!”*

NEW CURRICULUM FUNDING

Alberta Education provided Parkland School Division with \$288,405 to fund learning and teacher resources to support the acquisition of new materials, print or digital aligned to the new K to 6 programs of study.

Facilitators worked with school-based literacy and numeracy leads and administration to complete a site inventory of resources. Instructional Services collaborates with school administration to ensure each site has the resources necessary to support their students in delivering the new curriculum.

Alberta Education additionally provided \$242,400 to the Division to fund professional learning opportunities. The targeted funds provided release time for teachers to attend professional development delivered by grade levels.

LOOKING FORWARD

Instructional Services continues to focus on new curriculum implementation. With respect to teacher survey results, Parkland School Division continues to gather teachers in grade level teams for in person, professional development, and to support teachers with curriculum implementation for the 2023-2024 school year.

