Connecting GTA Teachers

Regional Planning Team Meeting

Monday, December 15, 2008
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Humber ITAL, Governors' Board Room B101

MEETING NOTES

Participants:

Paul Bertrand, EDU	Christine Blake-Durie, Seneca
Vince Burzotta, Toronto CDSB	Mary Camuti, Toronto DSB
Shirley Chan, Toronto DSB	Chris Coleman, Coordinator
Tina Cotrupi, Toronto CDSB	Ron Dorcas, York CDSB
Rosa Duran, George Brown	Christine German, Halton DSB
Ken Harrison, Humber (Chair)	Greg Hurst, Upper Grand DSB
Jane Jenner, Sheridan (Teleconference Call)	Dave Lewis, Halton DSB
Elizabeth MacGregor, Peel DSB	Susan McPhedran, Upper Grand DSB
Catherine Moynihan, Toronto CDSB	Greg Murray, Halton IEC
Michelle Rao, Georgian	Carol Ray, Humber
Laura Rogers, Toronto DSB	Kim Taylor-Reed, York Region DSB
Pat Tait, Humber	Dale Thorington, Centennial
Mary Vesia, Humber	Victoria Warbuck, Seneca

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ken Harrison welcomed participants and a round of introductions was made.
A draft of the notes is posted at http://cgtat.org

2. Agenda Check

A check of the Agenda was made.

3. Review of Previous Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes for Monday, November 24, 2008 were accepted.
A document is being compiled outlining the main issues concerning Dual Credit Programs. When it's more or less complete, it will be distributed to CGTAT Reps.

4. Provincial Partnerships Conference Update

- The next meeting of the Conference Planning Team will be December 16.
- Dr. Bill Dagget has agreed to be the keynote speaker on the Monday evening and to conduct a workshop on Tuesday morning.
- Barry O'Connor (Chair of the Learning-to-18 Working Table, "godfather" of Student Success) has agreed to be the keynote speaker on Sunday evening.
- Wish to increase the number of participants, from 100 to 150, double occupancy and not funding supply teacher costs (about $250) would help. The budget would cover transportation (bus), accommodation, food, and conference. The only thing a School Board would have to pay is for supply coverage, if needed. Boards might want to send a guidance person, cooperative education rep, a principal, or someone from the board office.
- If you want to drive yourself, mileage will not be paid.

- If anyone is interested in presenting at the conference or running a workshop, please contact Christine German at germanc@hdsb.ca
- Plan to have a least one person attend from each Regional Planning Team in the province; also a few people from the ministry.
- A report on the proceedings will be distributed after the conference.

5. Policy and Operational Issues

- SCWI is planning a teleconference of all RPT Chairs on Friday, December 19, to discuss current issues. The most important issues from our point of view are (a) the release of the next phase RFP and (b) the requirements for filing mid-year reports.
- The ministry announced that the RFP will not be released in December; they're still hoping for January. They hope to include funding parameters (benchmarks), which would be helpful to us. There will be a one month turn around time.
- The number of dual credit students next year will increase "dramatically". Rumors are from 4,500 this year to 7,000 next. We need to think about additional sections of the successful dual credits that we've been running.
- The ministry expressed interest in the following and suggested we add them to our DCP repertoire:
  - College oversight of Level One Apprenticeship delivered at a high school by a Secondary School Teacher who is a licensed trade person. The college is the Training Delivery Agent and as such is the only one allowed to grant the Level One.
  - First dual credit that a student would take would be a college orientation course. In their second dual credit, they would enter a "top up" model course, i.e. one where there would be space for them.

Discussion ensued; little enthusiasm was shown for either option. Problems with Ontario's Apprenticeship system were discussed. For example, the Level One exemption exam is too difficult; even trades people are unable to pass it.

- The templates for the mid-year reports will be similar to last year, except for a few things removed. Last year's templates are available at http://cgtat.org in the Reports to SCWI section.

- Difficulties in funding for the Dedicated Teacher role are still at issue.

- Generic description of a DCP from ministry is still not available.

- Ministry assures us that projects than were successful this year will be going ahead next year. Definition of "successful" is a greater than 60% completion rate. Need to flag projects that would be in jeopardy unless the funding is increased. If the ministry does establish benchmarks, it would help determine whether or not a project goes forward.

- A student who is 18 is an adult and would have to provide permission for parents or anyone else to access his or her grades. There is some reference to this on the Form for Student Perspective which will be revisited. TDSB will not go ahead with students 21+ in DCPs until it receives a written directive on the issue.

- A DRAFT of Roles and Responsibilities of Project Leads and Partners was circulated. Feedback was invited. The document is intended to clarify and facilitate the process of submitting proposals and reports to CGTAT, as well as the operation of the projects themselves. It is essential that Project Leads be in communication with their Project Partners.

- Please try to obtain information about "first generation" students taking DCPs. Might be asked for in the Mid-Year Report.

- CGTAT will close off the Phase 10 budget. Outstanding accounts will be rolled into the Regional Planning Team.

6. Other Business

- The Learning Partnerships's new initiative is to track "at risk" students. TDSB has been asked to report on 20 Grade 11's at risk in each of its schools, 3-4 times per year. Tracking to see how these students are being managed and what strategies have been put in place. Started tracking these students in grade 9. These are the students who will make up the 85% graduation rate when they graduate. All schools have their own definition of "at risk"; part of any definition includes "potential to succeed." Anyone interested in this initiative should contact Shirley Chan.
- A review of the College Math Project was given. There is interest in a similar project related to English/Literacy. CGTAT may want to be involved as one of its Activities. At this point Joe Aversa at Humber is the Lead.
- Will continue investigating Dual Credit best models and practices.

7. Next Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2008
Humber ITAL, North Campus (maps and floor plans)
Residence Conference Room
12:00 – 2:00 Main Meeting
2:00 – 4:00 Room available for pre-arranged board/college partnership meetings

For parking, go to Main Parking Information Kiosk (Lot 10) and say you are attending the CGTAT meeting. They will give you a parking pass and further instructions. Parking is free.