

Professional Development Annual Committee Report

Date: 2023 June 7
To: Council of School Representatives
From: Sophie Chen, PD Committee Chair



It is with a sense of accomplishment as I reflected on the work the PD Committee has done in this post-pandemic transitional year. The PD Committee took the members' feedback and wish list to heart and conducted an array of professional learning events to respond to our members' PD needs. I appreciate our members' dedication to lifelong learning as they advance their profession and further their practice in the classroom.

I wish to thank the members of the committee for their commitment to making sure that the quality of the sessions we offered remained high, all while moving forward in staying up to date with current professional learning needs of teachers. This year we still stumbled with some members coming and going. With ongoing mentoring and coaching for the newer members, in conjunction of the newly appointed role of PD Coordinator in the office, the Committee has come to the final stage of shaping up a solid working force.

As the Chair of the PD Committee, there were additional work aside from the PD events for teachers. The other duties include:

- Serve on the Staff Development Fund Advisory Committee to provide direction
- Serve on the Executive Committee as a voting member
- Serve on the Strategic Planning and Research Committee (SPARC) as a voting member
- Attend and report at monthly CSR meetings
- Attend the semi-annual ATA Professional Development Area Conference
- Attend the ATA Summer Conference
- Liaison with the Local 55 ATA Professional Development Committee
- Liaison with the CCTCA

The planning and organization of PD events can only be made to realization with the Committee's hard work and many behind-the-scene operations. A special shout out to Tarra Munro, the newly appointed PD Coordinator in the Local office, who handled all the administrative and logistic aspects of the PD events. Dan Nelles, the Staff Officer, who advised and guided the reform of the Committee. Stephani Clement, the Local President, who noticed the unsustainable workload of the PD Committee Chair and directed a close examination. Stephani also attended the Committee's regular meetings and provided her insight and leadership. Danny Maas, our assigned provincial ATA PD Staff Officer, who brought resources and guidance to help facilitate mentorship program. Darren Moroz, our District Representative, continued to be an invaluable advisor to the Committee.

The PD Committee offered a total of 25 sessions in the program areas identified in the member survey conducted in April 2022. We experimented with a deposit policy through

Eventbrite registration system and the attendance has improved remarkably. The participants got their deposit refunded when their attendance was verified. We were able to minimize the waste of food and monetary resources due to no shows.

We also sponsored the teachers to take on a full-day learning of Hackergal that provides learning resources and a coding platform that supports upper elementary and middle/junior high coding clubs for girls. In collaboration with Women in Leadership Committee, we initiated a networking event particularly for the aspiring female leaders in the profession. The table here summarized the sessions with description.

Program Areas	Summary
Mentorship Program	<p>The Mentorship Program supports new teachers with planning, assessment, sharing of resources, and many other areas that arise during a new teacher’s journey. Mentors and Protégés signed up for this program together and had access to 3 Substitute Teacher days for each pair. This time was dedicated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with planning units of study, discussion on assessment tools • Building IPP’s • Visiting / observing other classrooms in teachers’ schools • Examining philosophies of teaching and learning • Accessing and developing resources • Visiting professional libraries, etc. <p>Throughout the year there were three after school sessions that brought these pairs together with the others to collaborate and share their insights.</p>
Indigenous Ways / Land-based Learning	<p>The Committee offered a mixture of virtual and in-person learning sessions including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A day trip to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park • An overnight PD in the Tipi Village right on the spot where Treaty 7 was signed • A full-day guided walk programs around Fort Calgary to learn more about the city we reside in • Metis memories of residential schools • Medicine bag teaching and creating with Chantel Stormsong Shagnon
Teacher Collaboration	<p>The Committee focused on deliberate and meaningful collaboration time for teachers who wish to support each other in the development of resources intended to enhance student learning. Teachers with a minimum of three years of teaching were encouraged to apply for this program and each partner had access to a full day of release time.</p> <p>This program began in the fall with an introduction meeting and wrapped up in May with presentations shared by the participants of what they have achieved through the collaboration.</p>
Move to Learn	<p>The Committee offered a full-day in-person Brain Gym session to support teachers in the areas of improving teachers’ and students’ mental health and well-being. This dynamic workshop presents the 26 Brain Gym® movements in various learning situations, help us to focus, concentrate with ease, organize, and remember. The relationship of these exercises to specific academic skills was explored to facilitate relaxed, easy learning in the classroom.</p>

Mental Health	<p>The Committee delivered three sessions addressing teacher and student mental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma informed practice • Wellness & Mindfulness • Mental Health Strategies for Teachers and Students
Teacher Wellness	<p>Members have spoken and the PD Committee listened! Teacher wellness continued to be the program area with a high demand. This year we attempted to think outside of the traditional ways of delivering PD and the feedback was very positive. We were able to offer session in different venues to further professional conversations and recharge teachers' power bank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You Are the Light! an evening at Zoo Lights • Spark after Dark • Theatre Calgary – Forgiveness • Connecting with Nature at Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area
Diversity and Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion framework with Dr. Shelley Moore • Strategies that work for students with ADHD • Discovering Empathy with Gayathri Shukla • ELL Benchmark 2.0

The PD Committee had a productive planning day on May 1st. We analyzed the member survey data and participants' session feedback then penciled in the learning events for next year. At the time this report is presented to the CSR, we would still have two more land-based learning events to go before wrapping up the year. It is the Committee's hope to finish the year 2022/2023 year with a high note and commence the professional development for teachers in 2023/2024 with a grand program.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Chen, Chair
Professional Development Committee

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