

Report: Education Plan Public Meeting



UNB

January 25, 2016

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1. Summary

A group of students and professors from both STU and UNB gathered to give feedback and share their thoughts on education. The meeting started with a dot survey of three questions and answers from the government survey. Participants were invited to add to the list of answers. The results are in section 3 of this report. David then took the group through the results of the dot survey, sometimes prompting the group with questions to clarify their answers. He then led a discussion on each of the six themes. The top ideas recorded from the meeting are laid out below in section 2.

Some highlights from the discussion include the need to better prepare high school students for university, specifically through such programs as Advanced Placement (AP); the need for more supports for inclusion, better training for dealing with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and acknowledgement that sometimes inclusion does not work for some students with special needs; the need to allow students to be held back until they properly learn the material before advancing, and that this also teaches resilience; the need for a truly bilingual education, not a dual education; and the need for history and curriculum on First Nations.

2. Top Ideas by Theme

Teachers

1. Some subjects (e.g., Math) should be taught by people who love the subject, which probably means that they should get a degree in that subject & education
2. Something for teachers and their ability to teach technology to students
3. Promote and support teachers' mental health

Autism Spectrum Disorder

1. Proper training to support students w/ASD
2. Acknowledge when inclusion is not helpful too

Leadership

1. Collaboration
2. Experiential learning
3. Co-op opportunities

Inclusion

1. IEP's (Individualized Education Programs) to address each student/child's specifically assessed needs
2. Student Educational Needs addressed by whole multidisciplinary team including parents, teachers, and paraprofessionals
3. Educational Assistants are paramount and should not be cut

French

1. If bilingualism is a workplace requirement in NB, then K-12 immersion needs to be mandatory. The current system creates a sense of favoritism and negativity towards the French. It also puts the English/British at a disadvantage.

Mental Health

1. Emphasis on mental health of vulnerable populations such as First Nations and LGBT
2. Provide services/support to individuals w/ASD who are also dealing with mental issues
3. Do not cut EA's (Educational Assistants) who support children's mental health
4. Integrate discussions into teachings within a classroom setting
5. Resilience (e.g. asking for help)

3. Dot Survey Results

Most Important Skills to Succeed in Life

	Gov. Survey Results: %	Public Meeting Dot Survey Results: numbers
Communication skills	85%	10
Critical Thinking	61%	7
Active citizenship	29%	7
Resilience	not in original survey	7
Adaptability to change	75%	3
Self-confidence	64%	2
Ability to work in & on teams/ global team	43%	2
Ability to change	not in original survey	1
Manage personal finances	43%	1

Improvements Needed

	Gov. Survey Results: %	Public Meeting Dot Survey Results: numbers
Advanced Placement classes and preparation for university	not in original survey	8
Support for mental health	53%	5
Sense of belonging	55%	5
Better access to extracurricular activity	50%	4
More discussion/collaboration	not in original survey	3
Alternative models for education (particularly secondary school)	not in original survey	2
Relevant “tech” skills	not in original survey	1
Smaller classes	65%	0

More Attention Needed for:

	Gov. Survey Results: %	Public Meeting Dot Survey Results: numbers
Literacy	66%	8
Mental health	32%	7
Sex education	not in original survey	6
First nations history/background	not in original survey	6
Math	45%	5
Place-based/experiential learning	not in original survey	2
Support all learners	38%	1
Support newcomers	not in original survey	1
Technology	not in original survey	1
Entrepreneurship	not in original survey	1
Finances	not in original survey	1
Physical fitness & more play/ learning without screens	not in original survey	1

4. Additional Notes

1. Teachers spend too much personal money on school supplies. Not enough supplies are available for use in classrooms. Reimbursable amount is too small
2. Inclusion doesn't benefit the students it's supposed to benefit. The ones who do benefit are the "regular" kids, who learn how to deal with special needs kids.