

JN BURNETT COLLABORATION PROPOSAL

MARCH 2019

Why:

- Despite our professional understanding that working collaboratively represents best practice in education, teachers continue to work in isolation.
- Teacher dialogue has been proven to be one of the most crucial factors in improving what happens in school
- Although each of these activities is important, none represent the kind of professional dialogue that can transform a school and focus it around the teaching and learning process.
- Building a Collaboration Block into the Burnett timetable (eight times a year) will give educators the much-needed time to connect with peers to build sustainable projects that will improve student engagement and achievement.

Goal: To bring professional, collaborative dialogue into Burnett's timetable so that staff has embedded and sustained opportunities to work together to improve student achievement and student engagement.

What: The definition of Collaboration Time is the coming together of two or more staff members (Teachers, EAs, Administrators) working together for a designated amount of time to discuss ways to enhance student learning. Examples may include:

- Participation in the Collaboration Block is mandatory. All educators are required to be involved in a collaborative activity during the designated collaborative sessions.
- Educators will establish and/or join Collaboration Groups. An online database will be used to set up group membership, outline objectives and record minutes.
- Educators will have the freedom to choose a Collaboration Group that best suits their interests and needs.

What might be discussed

- BC's Redesigned Curriculum – Provide opportunities to improve and engage students in literacy and numeracy foundations, essential learning, and Core Competencies.
- Personalized Learning – Address the diverse needs and interests of Burnett students.
- Aboriginal Perspectives and Knowledge – Continue to integrate aboriginal culture and perspectives, place-based learning and an emphasis on indigenous ways of knowing.
- Flexible Innovative Learning Environments – Create learning environments that are relevant, engaging and novel.

When: The proposed implementation of Collaboration Time – September 2019.

Proposed Collaboration Dates for 2019 – 2020

8 DAYS (75 minute blocks)

September (none)	February 12 th
October 9 th	March 4 th
November 13 th	April 8 th
December 11 th	May 13 th
January 15 th	June (none)

Timetable

Structure of Collaboration Block Sessions	
Collaboration Block Timetable	The following bell schedule will be followed on a Collaboration Day: 8:25 – 9:40 Collaboration Block Warning Bell: 9:45am 9:50 – 10:50 Period 1 10:55 – 11:55 Period 2 11:55 – 12:10 Break 12:15 – 1:15 Period 3 1:15 – 1:45 Lunch 1:50 – 2:50 Period 4

Impact on Students

Access	Students will be given access to the school during Collaboration time. Administrators will rotate attendance in meetings in order to monitor hallways, designated tutorial classrooms, and the Multipurpose Room. If available, TTOCs not participating in Collab Time will be assigned to monitor or assist students.
Study/Tutorials	Designated spaces (Multipurpose Room, library, and designated classrooms) will be made available for student study and tutorials. Tutorial/study time will be self-directed and voluntary for student
Transportation	Transportation for our Special Needs students will be adjusted on Collaboration Days.

How will we assess efficacy? Burnett’s Collaboration Block will be assessed and monitored by collecting data from stakeholder groups:

- Student Feedback – Assess engagement at the anecdotal level through student surveys.
- Academic Achievement – Performance Based Assessments, Graduation Numeracy and Literacy Assessments, Student Learning Surveys, and Student Focus Groups.
- Staff Feedback (RTA, CUPE, RASA) – Report Collaborative group minutes and anecdotal feedback.
- Parent Feedback – Parent Information nights, PAC reports, and parent surveys

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Collaboration Time?

Collaboration Time is the coming together of two or more educators to discuss, plan, and implement ways to enhance student learning.

Why is Collaboration Time important?

- What and how we teach our students has been redesigned to provide greater flexibility for teachers, while allowing space and time for students to develop their skills and explore their passions and interests. Collaboration Time will provide educators the opportunity for co-planning, mentorship, and focusing on higher level learning.
- Currently, 9 out of 10 secondary schools in Richmond have Collaboration Time as part of their timetable. If approved, Burnett will be joining the secondary schools who have this time. Educators from across the district have seen the value in this time and have consistently provided feedback on the benefits of this time on student learning.

Who will this involve?

Collaboration Time will involve the teaching staff, educational assistants, and administration at Burnett.

How will this affect my child?

The prime focus of Collaboration Time is to affect the learning experience for students in a positive way. It is our hope that all students will benefit from the projects developed during this time.

What are students doing during this time?

Attendance will not be taken during Collaboration Time. Students are encouraged to arrive at Burnett at 9:45am on Collaboration Time days. Students who do come to school during Collaboration Time will be encouraged to work in the Student Study Center under the general supervision of administration.

When will Collaboration Time happen?

Collaboration Time is proposed to begin in the 2019 - 2020 school year. If approved, Collaboration Time will occur 8 times over the school year (4 in semester one and four semester two). The sessions will last from 8:25 - 9:45am.

Why doesn't Collaboration Time happen during Professional Development days?

There are important differences between professional development and collaboration. Whereas professional development can happen in isolation, collaboration must happen in groups. Professional development is theory based, collaboration is putting that theory into practice to enhance student learning. Professional development can happen outside of the school, collaboration must take place between Burnett staff within the physical building.