

Elementary Math
Focus Project Report

November 2021

Under the auspices of the LCEEQ Professional Development Subcommittee (PDSC), in collaboration with the Mathematics, Science and Technology Committee (MaST), made up of the Math and Sciences Subject Consultants, the **Elementary Math Focus Project** (EMF) was initiated as a pilot project in August 2015. More than one hundred teachers and Mathematics Consultants from across the province were invited to participate in an intensive four-day residential professional development session held at Manoir St. Sauveur. The pilot originated from a proposal to offer a three-summer training to Elementary Math teachers. The pilot was conducted to ascertain whether the proposed animation team would be well-suited to meet the goals of the project.

Dr. Juli Dixon, University of Central Florida, one of the founders of DNA Mathematics (<http://www.dnamath.com>) and three of her colleagues were engaged to animate the workshops. The experience proved to be very successful. As a result, the three-year training model originally conceived was therefore fully endorsed by the community and LCEEQ. Participants in the pilot were invited to make a commitment for the subsequent two summers. Seventy percent agreed and have affectionately been known as “Cohort One” ever since.

School Boards/Associations were invited to commit to a long-term training model that would see participants attend sessions over three summers. In addition, participants would be provided with a minimum of two professional days of training by the local Consultant(s) during the regular school year following each of the summer sessions.

The original model designed to include three Cohorts of teachers would have seen the project continue through 2020. An agreement was reached with DNA Math, to deliver:

Summer 2015	Cohort One	Pilot	
Summer 2016	Cohort One	- Year Two	Introduce Cohort Two
Summer 2017	Cohort One	- Year Three	Cohort Two – Year Two
Summer 2018	Cohort Two	- Year Three	Introduce Cohort Three
Summer 2019	Cohort Three	- Year Two	
Summer 2020	Cohort Three	- Year Three	

Following the Summer 2016 workshops, the original plan was altered to introduce Cohort Three a year earlier to take advantage of the enthusiasm within the community. It must be noted that school teams were encouraged, thus opening the possibility of administrators joining the training process. The amended schedule became:

Summer 2017	Cohort One - Year Three	Cohort Two – Year Two	Introduce Cohort Three
Summer 2018	Cohort Two - Year Three	Cohort Three – Year Two	Introduce Cohort Four (including a Grade 8-9 strand)
Summer 2019	Cohort Three - Year Three	Cohort Four – Year Two	Introduce Cohort Five
Summer 2020	Cohort Four – Year Three	Cohort Five – Year Two	Introduce Cohort Six

Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, the plan was to simply transfer the Summer Institute to Summer 2021. Regrettably, the restrictions continued making it necessary to delay the process an additional year. The current plan is that the Summer Institute process will resume in August 2022.

The planning and organization of the EMF Project is the responsibility of the LCEEQ Professional Development Committee. Members of the **EMF Organizing Subcommittee:**

- Daphne Amster, Teacher, and Graduate of the EMF Project.
- Cheryl Cantin, Ministry of Education, DSREA.
- Jeff Harvey, Math Consultant – Western Quebec School Board
- Erica Lamothe, Teacher, and Graduate of the EMF Project. (Term ended June 2021)
- Lisa Lorenzetti, Cycle 3 Elementary Math Teacher at The Study School representing QAIS/AJDS and facilitating the training for these Associations (Term ended June 2021)
- Vanessa Rayner, Math Consultant – Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board
- John Ryan, LCEEQ Coordinator

During the 2020-2021 academic year the Steering Committee convened ten meetings via ZOOM.

Three new members have joined the Committee:

- Carole Banford, Teacher, Riverside School Board
- Danielle Chaput, Math Consultant - Central Quebec School Board
- Nathalie Roy, Teacher, St George’s School of Montreal representing QAIS/AJDS

In order to maintain the momentum, LCEEQ offered a series of webinars during the 2020-2021 school year, as well as, webinars in August of 2021. Sessions were designed for teachers who had previously participated in a Summer Institute. In addition, webinars were offered to teachers interested to know more about the process and to further their own professional development but who had not previously had the opportunity to be part of a Summer Institute Cohort. All of these webinars were animated by members of the DNA Team.

LCEEQ also offered two sets of webinars led by our own local experts. **Vanessa Rayner**, Math Consultant for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, and **Jeff Harvey**, Math Consultant fore the Western Quebec School Board, offered webinars in April and August.

Included here is a list of all the sessions offered along with a link for each to the summary of the evaluative feedback provided by the participants which serves as a report of the individual sessions:

Returning Participants - Winter/Spring

Grades K-3	January 18, 2021 and April 12, 2021	Thomasenia Adams
Grades 4-6	January 19, 2021 and April 16, 2021	Ed Nolan
Resource Teachers	January 22, 2021 and April 8, 2021	Juli Dixon

Evaluation reports: [Returning participants PDF](#) – January 2021
[Returning participants PDF](#) - April 2021

Administrators January 18, 2021 and April 13, 2021 Juli Dixon

Evaluation report: [Administrators PDF](#) – January 2021
[Administrators PDF](#) – April 2021

New Participants – Winter/Spring

Grades K-2	January 20, 2021 and April 14, 2021	Thomasenia Adams
Grades 4-6	January 21, 2021 and April 15, 2021	Juli Dixon

Evaluation reports: [New Delegates PDF](#) – January 2021
[New Delegates PDF](#) - April 2021

Locally Animated sessions – Spring

THE MISSING LINK: How rich Math tasks, assessment & the Quebec Mathematics Competencies all fit together

Grades 1-3	April 7, 2021	Vanessa Rayner and Jeff Harvey
Grades 4-6	April 9, 2021	Vanessa Rayner and Jeff Harvey

Evaluation report: [Local Consultants PDF](#) – April 2021

Returning Participants - August

Grades K-2	August 3, 2021	Thomasenia Adams
Grades 3-4	August 3, 2021	Juli Dixon
Grades 5-7	August 2, 2021	Ed Nolan
Secondary	August 5, 2021	George Roy
Resource Teachers	August 5, 2021	Juli Dixon

Evaluation reports: [Returning Participants PDF](#) – August 2021

New Participants – August

Grades K-2	August 4, 2021	Thomasenia Adams
Grades 3-4	August 4, 2021	Juli Dixon
Grades 5-7	August 6, 2021	Ed Nolan
Secondary	August 6, 2021	George Roy

Evaluation reports: [Non Summer Institute PDF](#) –August 2021

Locally Animated sessions – August

THE MISSING LINK (cont'd) : How rich Math tasks, assessment & the Quebec Mathematics Competencies all fit together

Grades 1-3	August 9, 2021 (A.M.)	Vanessa Rayner and Jeff Harvey
Grades 4-6	August 9, 2021 (P.M.)	Vanessa Rayner and Jeff Harvey

Evaluation report: [Local Consultants PDF](#) – August

The Math Focus Project continues to be well received by teachers and the School Boards/Associations. The Organizing Committee is presently planning for a return to the Summer Institutes at Manoir St Sauveur the first week of August 2022. There will also be webinars delivered during the Spring of the 2022 school year. Information on these sessions will be released early in the new calendar year.