30 Minute Problem Solving Meeting Reflections:

I was able to attend a 30 minute problem solving meeting for a grade 9 male student at the high school. The referring teacher just started working with Student J this semester. He had behaviour issues last semester but they had gotten worse this semester. The referring teacher described the issues she was having and feels that he is uninterested in the subject and is having difficulty connecting with him.

The meeting was well run considering this was the first time the EST-R had facilitated a problem solving meeting. There were times that some people at the meeting lost focus of the task and it became a bit of a storytelling/sharing session. The facilitator did not redirect the focus but let the discussion continue. This seemed to really bother the EST-G, who has facilitated more problem solving meetings, and she wanted to redirect the focus but left it up to the facilitator.

Student J was currently out on suspension with the possibility of suspension until after the March Break. This situation seemed to make it more difficult to decide on a course of action, knowing he was be out for until then. For this reason, the follow up meeting was set for over a month after the problem solving meeting.

I was to attend a second meeting at this school the next week but the student was suspended and long term plans for her were being made that would bring in outside services and tutoring so the meeting was canceled.

Although 30 Minute Problem Solving Meetings have been around for many years, it is not a practice that I have found used frequently enough at the schools I have been in. After speaking with several teachers in the Fredericton area, I realize that other schools use the 30 Minute Problem Solving format regularly.