

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – March 13, 2019

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Kristen Murphy, Lory-Ann MacAskill, Bernie Regenbogen; Wayne Spires, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Richard Malone, Larry Boudreau, Heather Gillis, Justin Tinker

Regrets: None

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Regional Director Early Childhood Services (EECD); and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. He welcomed new member Kristen Murphy, representing Sub-district 4, to the meeting and she was formally sworn-in by a Commissioner of Oaths.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fowler asked if there were no questions or concerns with the Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the agenda be approved. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Ms. Sherbo. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

Amanda Hamm, Home and School member for Grand Bay Primary, addressed Council and provided a copy of the Home and School newsletter. She advised that their focus is on student enrichment and a strong school community. She noted that \$4,000 has been donated to Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood to support a number of school initiatives to drive student enrichment.

3. Member's Notebook

Ms. Gillis advised that she attended the DARE event at Saint John High School and it was very well attended. She also noted that she will once again be coaching girls' volleyball at Bayside and there were 55 girls at a recent tryout.

Ms. Sherbo commented that she was impressed with PSSC and how well the Principals are handling a variety of data including Tell Them From Me (TTFM) and provincial Teachers' Perception Surveys. She noted that data can be misleading but they are being very thorough and making the data work.

Mr. O'Connor reminded Council that Dr. Chorney has been confirmed for April 4, 2019 to speak at Harbour View High School as part of the It Takes A Village series. His topic will be Social Media Meets Mental Health.

4. Presentations

4.1 ENDS #2 – Literacy, Numeracy & Science

Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Regional Director Early Childhood Services were in attendance to present an update on Council's ENDS #2 - to demonstrate continuous improvement toward meeting provincial targets in literacy, numeracy, science (English and French Immersion) and to improve learning in and application of the arts, trades and technology. The monitoring report and supporting documents were posted with Council's meeting materials for their review and are attached to and form part of these minutes.

Mr. Hall reviewed the highlights of the monitoring document for ENDS #2 which focuses on strategies to build capacity within school communities with balanced assessment across all curricula and to have high functioning professional learning communities at the district and in all schools/early learning centres.

Mr. Hall spoke about creating and implementing a process improvement plan to measure and improve the consistency of assessing/reporting practices in ASD-S and creating and implementing a process improvement plan to measure the overall functioning of professional learning communities. Posted supporting documents included Formative Assessment worksheet; Professional Learning Community Self-Assessment Tool and a Professional Learning Community Improvement Plan.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie spoke about the establishment of District Centres of Excellence in Preschool Education for educators in NB.

Mr. Fowler thanked all for their information presentation.

As noted at the February meeting, Mrs. Watson advised she had posted a Monitoring Report for ENDS #2 with Council's meeting materials for their review, along with reports for ENDS #1 & #2 which had been presented in January and February, without a monitoring report summary document and motion. She asked if there were any questions or concerns with any of the documents.

There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Fowler asked for a motion to approve the Monitoring Reports for ENDS #1, #2 and #3. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the three monitoring reports be accepted as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried. Ms. Murphy abstained.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Spring Symposium

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the Spring Symposium is being held in Miramichi on May 10th and 11th at the Rodd Inn. Members who would like to attend should register directly with DEC Manager Stacey Brown. He noted that as it is Mother's Day weekend, the event will run on Friday evening and Saturday. There will be a dinner with the Minister on Saturday evening.

Mr. Fowler noted that Stacey Brown will pay for six PSSC members to attend and Council would financially support any others who wished to attend.

Mrs. Watson suggested Council members should encourage their PSSC members to attend. She will send another communication to all PSSC Chairs regarding the Symposium.

5.2 Sub-district 4 Vacancy Update

Kristen Murphy was appointed by Minister Cardy and sworn in at the beginning of the meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Executive Limitations Policies – Monitoring Reports

Mrs. Watson reviewed for Council her monitoring documents for Executive Limitations policies EL-5 (Staff Evaluation); EL-6 (Budget & Financial Planning) and EL-7 (Financial Administration) which were posted with Council's meeting materials for their review.

Following the presentation, Mr. Fowler asked that if there were no questions or concerns, that a motion be put forward to approve.

Questions included the number of staff not evaluated, how rental fees are handled, and a comment was made with regard to questions on the provincial student perception survey on bullying. There are several questions and concern was raised that the wording may be misleading. Mrs. Watson explained we can give feedback provincially and she will follow up.

There being no further questions, Mr. Spire moved that Council accept the three monitoring reports as presented. Seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. Watson for her reports.

6.2 Expenditure Plan Update

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Expenditure Plan (to March 1, 2019) in which the District is forecasting a breakeven at year end and possibly a small surplus to carry forward. He highlighted pressure points and areas of surplus which will help to balance the overall budget.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that noted at the bottom of the expenditure plan was a breakdown of some of the larger amounts that had been added to the expenditure plan since the initial budget was approved by Council. She noted that this is a time consuming exercise for staff as there are hundreds of line items applied to our district throughout the year for varying reasons. Council felt that staff should note only the larger sums that affect the original budget throughout the year.

It was suggested that PSSCs be reminded to spend their budgets prior to year end.

Mr. Fowler then called for a motion. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Expenditure Plan be accepted as presented. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

6.3 Capital Projects Prioritization

Mr. Fowler advised that the Capital Projects list is on the agenda tonight to remind Council that we must decide the order with which to place each project for the coming year. They are in no particular order on the list for the meeting. Mr. Fowler noted that some Council members have requested a tour of Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood and Morna Heights prior to any vote on prioritizing our projects. Mrs. Watson has agreed to set up a tour of the schools for Wednesday evening, March 20, 2019. Mr. Fowler noted that the tour should not be the only determining factor and that all who were not part of the initial Policy 409 should review the binder of information that was sent to the Minister. This will be on the April agenda.

Ms. Sherbo advised Council that the local White Head Island community is looking to build a new community centre. She suggested we might consider offering space in Whitehead Elementary School. This could help with the cost of running a school with only five students.

6.4 Introduction of Summer Improvement Projects 2020

The Summer Improvement Project list provided with Council's meeting materials for tonight is an initial look at what is being recommended and members will have from now until the April meeting to review it. A vote will be required at the April meeting.

Mrs. Watson advised that the list was posted early this week as the Facilities Manager was out on vacation last week. She noted that upon reviewing the list, there were a couple of amendments that needed to be made and the list would be reposted. These include Bayside at #10, Sussex Regional High School to #11, Loch Lomond School to #12 and Norton Elementary to #13.

6.5 Review of Sub-district Boundaries

Mr. Fowler advised that this review happens every year prior to an election and asked Council if there was any need to change our boundaries.

Ms. Sherbo suggested that Council consider eliminating Sub-district 12 (Campobello Island, Deer Island, Grand Manan and White Head) and have the Council member from Charlotte County look after this area (via technology). She also felt that Sub-districts 8 (Fairvale Elementary, Harry Miller Middle, Kennebecasis Park, Rothesay Elementary, Rothesay High, Rothesay Park); Sub-district 9 (Chris Saunders, Kennebecasis Valley High, Lakefield Elementary, Quispamsis Elementary, Quispamsis Middle) and Sub-district 10 (Belleisle Elementary, Belleisle High, Dr. AT Leatherbarrow, Hammond River Valley, Hampton Elementary, Hampton High, Hampton Middle, MacDonald Consolidated) could be realigned.

Following discussion, Mr. Tinker agreed to speak with the PSSC at the schools in Sub-district 12 and seek their feedback on the possibility of moving DEC representation to Charlotte County. He will report back to Council at the April meeting.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson advised that her report was posted with their meeting materials for Council's review.

Mrs. Watson advised that she and Paul Smith attended the Canada's Outstanding Principals reception in Toronto on February 26th. Colleen Sullivan, Principal of Glen Falls School was the only NB recipient.

Mrs. Watson noted that at a meeting in January with local police representatives from across the District, concern was expressed over drivers passing stopped school buses – even with their red lights flashing. Transportation Manager Jamie Tait had postcards printed (shared with DEC) and the police have agreed to do a campaign to address this concern. They will pass these out to the general public to create awareness. The District will use the postcards in Welcome to Kindergarten kits and at other times during the year.

Suggestion was made that Council members could provide these postcards to the PSSC. John MacDonald will ensure DEC members get a quantity of the postcards to distribute.

Mrs. Watson noted that Southern Exposure has highlighted schools who have received significant money recently for different initiatives – St. John the Baptist/King Edward - \$23,770 for the lunch program; Milltown Elementary - \$6,500; and Westfield School - \$8,000 for musical instruments.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler advised that he, Mr. Nesbitt and Mrs. Watson would be in Fredericton next weekend for the Minister's Forum and it would include a discussion with Tony Weber on the Alignment Project as well as the Auditor General's Report.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council of the DEC retreat on Saturday at the District Office.

7.3 Correspondence

None. All correspondence was posted for Council's review.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary