

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – June 13, 2018

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Wayne Spires, Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Heather Gillis, Larry Boudreau, Gerry Mabey, Rob Alexander, Justin Tinker, Richard Malone

Regrets:

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration; Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Susan Moffatt, Acting Director of Human Resources, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

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. Mr. Malone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the May 9, 2018 meeting and asked that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Sherbo moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Tinker.

Mr. Boudreau noted that he recalled a motion at the last meeting regarding a change required to the Summer Improvement project list for 2018 which had not been captured in the Minutes. He advised that it was made just as Council had been ready to adjourn. The Recording Secretary will check her notes and amend the Minutes if necessary.

There being no further questions, motion carried.

2.3 Superintendent Evaluation Report

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Superintendent Evaluation Summary Report which clearly outlined the process followed to complete the yearly evaluation of the Superintendent's performance in a number of areas. The review process included the following motions:

Mr. Nesbitt moved that the District Education Council of Anglophone South School District express sincere thanks and appreciation and strongly commend Zoë Watson for her very dedicated work this past year on behalf of all employees, students and parents. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt moved that as a result of her administration of the District this year, Zoë Watson's performance is rated as Exceeds Most Expectations with respect to policy compliance. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt moved that as a result of her successful administration of Anglophone South District this year, Zoë Watson would be eligible for a four step re-earnable increment if salaries were not frozen at present levels. Seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt moved that since Zoë Watson's current contract expires as of June 30, 2018 under our Council-Staff Relationship policy 6, her contract be renewed for 5 years effective as of July 1, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Nesbitt and his committee for their work on the Superintendent's annual review and wanted his vote in favour on each of the four motions recorded.

2.4 Public Comment

Mr. Fowler opened the floor for public comment and asked if anyone wished to address Council. Mr. Robert Touchie introduced himself at which time Mr. Fowler clarified that the DEC could not engage in any discussion with regard to a personnel issue. Mr. Touchie stated that he had been advised by the Ombudsman to bring his concerns before Council. Mr. Fowler reiterated that Council would not discuss personnel issues.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. O'Connor commented on the book - Mon école Loch Lomond – which was written in French and illustrated by Miss Maloney's grade 1 class. It was a very impressive project.

Ms. Sherbo commented that on June 18th the Best Buy Geek Squad would be visiting Kennebecasis Park Elementary School. The camp will give grades 3 – 5 students an opportunity to develop tech skills, build self-confidence, spark creativity, and discover how technology can benefit them in their educational pursuits and in future careers.

Ms. Sherbo also noted that she had attended a recent PSSC/Principal meeting at Fairvale Elementary and there was great conversation with staff about education.

Mr. Boudreau advised that a PSSC member from Fundy Middle and High School is retiring after 15 years of dedicated service to the PSSC and Home and School Association. He asked that Council provide recognition of this service and he will present it to her.

Mr. Alexander advised that he attended the “WE Believe” event at Harbour Station and felt it was a great event for students and the District. He rode the bus with 60 grade 5 students so he could get the whole experience. He complimented the teachers who attended noting that they were very good with our students.

Ms. Gillis noted she and Mr. Regenbogen also attended “WE Believe” and felt it was a great event. Her girls’ volleyball team at Bayside Middle lost in the finals but had a great year. She attended track and field events yesterday.

4. Presentation – Human Resources Report

Mrs. Watson introduced Ms. Susan Moffatt, Acting Director of Human Resources, who stepped into this role when Stewart Stanger accepted a position with ASD-N. Mrs. Watson advised that she has done a great job and that it is a big role to fill.

Susan Moffatt, Acting Director of Human Resources then addressed Council to present the annual review of the Department of Human Resources. Her presentation is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

Following the presentation, questions arose from Council including: do we track supply teachers who turn down opportunities not in their local area; the number of SIWs working within the District; workplace accidents and tracking; the amount of staff movement and need for continual training. Ms. Moffatt addressed questions raised and was to follow up on a request by Mr. Boudreau too see a comparison of work safe accidents by year.

Mr. Fowler thanked Ms. Moffatt for her informative report. Mrs. Watson noted that Stewart Stanger has requested a second year leave and that Ms. Moffatt will remain in the acting role.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Policy Review Committee Status Update

Mr. Nesbitt provided an update on the committee's work to date with regard to their review of Policy 409. He suggested that it is not recommended that ASD-S develop their own Policy 409. The District can adjust their approach based on the needs of each community. ASD-S is not limited to the number of meetings we can have, but it must be a minimum of three. It was suggested that possibly the DEC Chairs could discuss how it works in the other districts.

Suggestion was made that a copy of EECD Policy 409 be added to Council's policy binder for quick reference as required.

Mr. Nesbitt advised that the committee had discussed GP 7 (Pupil Appeals) after it was returned to the subcommittee at the March 21, 2018 meeting. Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, advised that our policy does not align with the Department's and she noted that the other districts do not have a separate policy. Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt that Council rescind GP 7 (Pupil Appeals). Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt advised that their next meeting is scheduled for June 18th.

5.2 Functional Capacity Report

Mrs. Watson noted that this document has been brought forward again this month as some had trouble accessing the file last month. She explained this is a report we do each year for the Department. The September 2017 enrolments have been added and this may/may not have changed the functional capacity percentage. The trigger schools are also identified.

A list of trigger schools was reviewed and following discussion, motions were made with regard to exemption requests as follows:

Motion was made by Mr. Boudreau to ask for a 3 year exemption for Apohaqui Elementary School. Seconded by Mr. Alexander. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Mr. Boudreau to ask for a 3 year exemption for Back Bay Elementary School. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Tinker to ask for a 3 year exemption for Campobello Island Consolidated School. Seconded by Mr. Alexander. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Boudreau to ask for a 3 year exemption for Deer Island School. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Boudreau to ask for a 3 year exemption for Fundy Shores School. Seconded by Mr. Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Spires to ask for a 3 year exemption for Lawrence Station Elementary School. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor to ask for a 3 year exemption for St. Martins School. Seconded by Ms. Sherbo. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Spires to ask for a 3 year exemption for Whitehead Elementary School. Seconded by Mr. Tinker. Motion carried.

It was noted that Inglewood and Morna are on the trigger school list as well but were already part of a 409 process and a replacement school is on our list.

5.3 Surplus Land Request – St. Stephen Education Centre

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the updated information that had been requested by Council at the May meeting. Discussion arose on concerns of a housing development so close to St. Stephen Elementary School but also on the need for good housing in St. Stephen and the attraction for new families. Following the discussion, Mr. Boudreau moved that the land be retained by the District. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried. Mr. Spires and Ms. Gillis opposed the motion.

5.4 Surplus Land Request – Saint John Education Centre

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the updated information that had been requested by Council at the May meeting. Questions arose with regard to permits and the possibility of similar requests from other residents. Following the discussion, Council decided that the land would be retained by the District.

6. New Business

6.1 Final Budget 2017-18

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the final budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, highlighting some of the pressure points including a shortfall in funding for EAs and a deficit in replacement salaries and employee benefits. He noted that the District did end the year with a slight surplus of \$46,726. He advised that we will still experience a shortfall for EAs next fiscal and this is a concern. Questions arose with regard to the need for an EA plan going forward, and Mrs. Watson advised that this is a conversation that happens with the DEC Chairs and the Superintendents with the Department. She noted that this year we did have some additional funding for EAs, but the shortfall will continue to be identified as a pressure point.

Question was raised about the budget dollar amount that is initially approved by Council, only to have this amount change over the course of the fiscal year. Mr. MacDonald explained that at different times during the year, we receive additional funding and it is reflected in the budget updates. This could be for contractual raises for staff or extra

funding for EAs as we have seen in the past. Mr. Fowler commented that what Council approves is actually an expenditure plan as the budget cannot always be controlled. Mrs. Watson suggested that on each quarterly update, we could leave the initial budget dollar amount that was approved and Council could see how the budget has progressed from there.

Motion was made by Mr. Malone to approve the 2017-18 final budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

6.2 PSSC Orientation Committee Update

Ms. Sherbo updated Council on the plans for the fall PSSC Orientation sessions. An outline will follow at the August meeting.

She advised that the plan is to use a conversation and interchange of ideas format. There will also be a trade show component where groups will attend and provide information, and a supper. This format will hopefully draw more volunteers for the PSSC committees.

6.3 Capital Projects & 2019 Summer Improvement Projects

Mr. Regenbogen declared a conflict for this agenda item and did not participate in the conversation or the vote.

Mr. MacDonald explained that a new student starting at Bayview in Sept. 2019 will require the use of a lift in order to be able to access all levels of the school. The school is not currently handicapped accessible from the inside. After examining the DEC approved list for next summer's projects, staff determined the paving project at Kennebecasis Valley High School could be removed from the list and added back for summer 2020. Each project was estimated to cost in the \$250,000 range. Motion was made by Mr. Boudreau to move this project to the top of the list for Summer 2019 Improvement Projects. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler advised that we received word that the sustainability review for Hazen-White/St. Francis and Centennial was done according to Policy 409 and therefore has the Minister's approval. Mr. MacDonald asked Council if they would like to revisit the previously submitted priority list, or wait until fall. Mr. Regenbogen moved that it be added as priority number four. Seconded by Mr. Boudreau. Motion carried.

6.4 Trigger Schools

This agenda item was covered in 5.2 above.

Motion was made by Mr. Spires to look at options for the northern peninsula (M. Gerald Teed, Princess Elizabeth and Millidgeville North) as Phase 3 of our review of the central city schools to determine what it might look like going forward, and to engage Ernst & Young if necessary. Seconded by Mr. Mabey. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson advised that her report had been posted on the website with meeting materials for Council's review.

She commented that year end is always very busy with graduations and the staffing process for teachers, EAs, SIWs and Administrative Assistants.

She attended the BCAPI 20th anniversary lunch at the Delta where the funding for an additional 14 teachers for our priority schools was announced. The sub-committee to work on a model for a new school in the south end was also announced with a budget \$85K.

As well, Glen Falls School will host an announcement tomorrow morning by the Department with regard to a provincial pilot project on extending the K-2 day. St. George Elementary and St. John the Baptist/King Edward will also participate.

The Sistema final concert will be held on Friday, June 15th at 6:30 pm at Saint John High School.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler advised that he will not be attending the Canadian School Boards Association meeting in July, and that Mr. Tinker will attend in his place.

Mr. Fowler advised that from the stakeholder meeting that was held in February with the Premier and other community partners, a task force has been formed with the City, Develop SJ and the District to look at an alternate design for a new school in the south end. The budget will come from the Living SJ Social Innovation Fund, with support from the city as well.

7.3 Correspondence

None; all correspondence was posted on the portal for Council's information.

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, August 22, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary