

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – January 9, 2019

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, January 9, 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; Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Heather Gillis, Justin Tinker, Richard Malone, Lory-Ann MacAskill, Larry Boudreau

Regrets: Wayne Spires, Linda Sherbo

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration; Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and advised that Mr. Spires and Ms. Sherbo had sent their regrets.

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. O'Connor moved to amend the motion to add item 6.2 Amendment to Policy 4.4. Ms. Gillis seconded the amended motion. There being no questions or concerns, the amended agenda was then moved by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Ms. Gills. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the December 12, 2018 meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Boudreau moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the Minutes and Agenda are posted one week in advance, and if there are any issues or clarifications required, to please advise prior to the meeting.

There being no further questions or concerns, motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. O'Connor reported IBEW 502 surprised St. Martins Elementary at Christmas time when they donated a TV for the lobby, a classroom set of tablets and a classroom set of boom wackers. In addition, each student received an art set as a gift.

Also, at Loch Lomond School, Genesys supported a Christmas Breakfast and presented a small gift to each student.

Mr. Tinker advised that there were two openings on the Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee – one for a student representative and one for a parent/guardian representative. He asked Council to pass the information on to anyone who might be interested. He will send a link to the posting to all Council members.

Mr. Tinker also advised that his term on this committee is up in April. He advised that he would be happy to continue in the role, unless another member was interested in replacing him. Council agreed to reappoint Mr. Tinker.

Ms. Gillis advised that she attended a couple of Christmas concerts – a great job by all involved. She noted that she will be at an Island View PSSC meeting tomorrow night representing Mr. Mabey.

Mr. Fowler advised that he showed up for the Morna PSSC meeting on Monday night – however; due to the PL day, there was no meeting! He also attended St. Rose PSSC last night representing Mr. Mabey.

4. Presentations

4.1 District Report Card

Nick Munn, Supervisor of Data and Accountability, was in attendance to present the District Report Card.

Mr. Munn addressed the highlights and focused on the assessment trends as outlined in the report that had been posted for Council's review. This document is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

Following the presentation questions included: whether or not international students wrote ELPA; if re-write results were tracked; how far back we have these types of statistics; whether or not exemptions are counted in the results, and if so, why. Comment was also made that the 3-year trends are tracking upward which is positive. Mr. Hall noted that some results are very low, and we are working hard to move those up.

4.2 Ends # 3 – Engagement of Children & Youth

Mrs. Watson noted that this is the first year for monitoring Council's new Ends policies and advised that she and staff are open to feedback. She noted that a monitoring document had been posted for Council's review which outlined the policy, strategies, what has been achieved, what is in progress,

and overall health (on schedule, behind). This document is attached to and forms part of these Minutes. As well, supporting documents were posted with more detailed information and good examples of things that are happening. This type of monitoring will be in place of powerpoints.

Mark Perry, Subject Coordinator, addressed Council and spoke about UNESCO schools and their initiatives and strategic direction. He also highlighted schools within ASD-S who have this designation and those who have applied to become a UNESCO school.

Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed the monitoring document for Ends #3 which focuses on increasing the engagement of children and youth by embedding competencies such as critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning. Specific details were presented on Makerspaces, the IDEA Centre, workshops on global competencies and the Innovation Grants for teachers.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Hall and Mr. Perry. He commented that it is nice to see staff members show their enthusiasm and passion for what they do when they present to Council. Mr. Fowler thanked them for their informative presentation.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Policy 409 Phase 3 – Saint John Education Centre

Mr. Fowler read in to the record the Summary of Meetings held at M. Gerald Teed with regard to Phase 3 of the Policy 409 Sustainability Review for the Saint John Central Schools. This summary is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

Following this, Mr. Fowler called for a motion. Mr. Regenbogen moved to convert M. Gerald Teed (currently K-2) to a K-5, with either an addition to the school, or the closure of M. Gerald Teed and the construction of a replacement school. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt.

Discussion followed including a concern from Mr. O'Connor that ASD-S already has 4 new schools on the priority list and this could be 10 years out. It was suggested that we leave this for the next DEC.

Mr. Regenbogen shared this concern; however, felt it important to get it on the priority list and give the province something to look at with all our requests on the list.

There being no further comments, motion carried. Mr. O'Connor opposed the motion.

Mr. Fowler then read into the record the Summary of Reconfiguration Meetings held at Princess Elizabeth School, Millidgeville North School and Hazen-White/St. Francis with regard to Phase 3 of the Policy 409 Sustainability Review for the Saint John Central Schools. This summary is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

Mr. Fowler then called for a motion for Millidgeville North School. Mr. Regenbogen moved to reconfigure Millidgeville North School (currently grades 3-8) to a middle school (grades 6-8). Seconded by Mr. Malone. There being no comments or concerns, motion carried.

Mr. Fowler then asked for a motion for Princess Elizabeth. Mr. Regenbogen moved to reconfigure Princess Elizabeth School (currently K-8) to a K-5. The DEC would ask the Department for a full facility analysis of Princess Elizabeth School or a new school, depending on cost. Middle school

students would move to Millidgeville North only when M. Gerald Teed is able to accept the grades 3-5 students from Millidgeville North. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt.

Mr. O'Connor raised a concern that overcrowding at Princess Elizabeth has not been addressed and this is not the right approach to fix it.

There being no further comments, motion carried. Mr. O'Connor opposed the motion.

Mr. Fowler then asked for a motion for Hazen-White/St. Francis. Mr. Nesbitt moved to reconfigure Hazen-White/St. Francis (currently K-8) to a K-5 with grades 6-8 moving to Millidgeville North, effective September 2019. Seconded by Ms. Gillis.

Discussion followed. Mr. Regenbogen commented that he can see both sides and the middle school experience at Millidgeville North School would be a benefit; however, on the flip side these students come from a community school in a priority neighbourhood. The school suffers from very limited parent engagement and he did not feel there had been enough input/involvement from them to make this decision. He suggested that we organize and meet with all parties to ensure better involvement and make the change in September 2020.

Mr. Tinker commented that we could pass the motion tonight to make the change in September 2020, and if more consultations down the road show it is not the best plan, then Council could rescind their motion. Mr. Fowler advised that process wise, it would be preferable to defeat the motion on the floor. He agreed that there is not a great deal of parental engagement; however, community support is good. He stated that increasing parental engagement would be difficult.

Ms. Gillis advised that she had received comment from an educator who pointed out that it was in the best interest of the 55 middle school students to move, especially before they must move to an even larger high school in Saint John.

Mrs. Watson commented that during Phase 2 of the sustainability review, it was suggested that we meet with parents at the Community Centre in an effort to get more involvement. Again, there were more community partners in attendance than parents. Council and staff took counsel from Principal Megan Donovan on the best time and place to meet. She also noted that Council and staff met with the PSSC and that all were not opposed, with some in favour. She noted that during every Policy 409 review, it is reiterated that everyone loves their school and she pointed to the successful move of students from Lorne and Browns Flat as examples.

She reminded Council of the concerns when St. George, Back Bay and Blacks Harbour students were moving grade 6 students to Fundy Middle and High School. There was huge opposition – more time was needed to get things in place – so we listened and worked toward it – and did it. It has now been three years and going well.

Ms. Gillis noted she worried about supports being in place for September 2019 and should we work toward 2020?

Mr. Fowler commented that he attended Hazen-White/St. Francis as a student and is aware of what it is like. He said that he struggles with this decision; however, feels that these students need the middle school advantage.

Mr. Nesbitt commented that Council does not accomplish anything by kicking it down the road. Mr. Fowler suggested Council needs to deal with it and not hand it over to a new DEC.

There being no further comments, motion carried. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Regenbogen opposed the motion.

6. New Business

6.1 DEC Vacancy

Mr. Fowler asked that in light of the passing of Council member Gerry Mabey, a motion be made to declare his seat vacant. Motion was made by Ms. Gillis and seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler noted that a letter will be sent to the Minister declaring the seat vacant and we will begin the process to fill the seat. This will include notice on the ASD-S website, in the Telegraph Journal and to the PSSCs and Principals. The main criteria are that the person must live in the subdistrict and cannot be an employee.

6.2 Amendment to Policy 4.4

Mr. O'Connor noted that in light of the time, this item could be moved to the February agenda. All were in agreement.

Mr. Fowler advised that with regard to the Policy Committee, he would like Council's consent to reset the committee. This is in order to develop proper terms of reference and also options on how the committee will be engaged by Council. Current committee members will remain. All were in agreement.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson noted that her posted report was a little different than previous ones. She felt that it was important for Council to see how much our students and staff do for their communities during the Christmas season. Their generosity, and that of our community partners, is extremely positive and we need to let everyone know about it.

She referred to the Enrolment Chart that was posted with Council's meeting materials and noted that ASD-S has a slight decline this year. The District is now at 22,903 students compared to 23,070 last year. The largest decline was in the Hampton Education Centre (-156 students).

Mrs. Watson wanted to acknowledge the work of Allan Davis and Rosemary Southard who were instrumental in the application process for Hampton High School to become a UNESCO school.

Suggestion was made that the District should forward the positive actions of our schools during the Christmas season to the Minister. Mrs. Watson will work with Director of Communications Jessica Hanlon on the best way to get the good news out.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler advised that Anglophone and Francophone DEC Chairs plan to meet to talk about common approaches moving forward, and then ask for a meeting with the Minister.

Mr. Fowler noted that he is looking for a date/time for Council to meet for a period of 3-4 hours to discuss a number of items moving forward. He will send a Doodle Poll and then confirm the date.

Mr. Fowler advised that the Spring Symposium will be held in the Miramichi on the Mother's Day weekend. It will be Friday-Saturday this time so that all will have time to get home for Mother's Day.

In the past, the Province has paid for the first 6 PSSC attendees, with Council being responsible for all others who attend. Council will need to determine if they want to cap the number of attendees. It was decided to gauge interest and then make a decision.

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, February 13, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary