

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – December 11, 2019

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, December 11, 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, Bernie Regenbogen, Wayne Spires, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Richard Malone, Heather Gillis, Justin Tinker

Regrets: Larry Boudreau, Lory-Ann MacAskill

ASD-S Staff:

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

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 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. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Murphy moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. O'Connor attended the PRUDE Saint John Diversity Champions Awards. He offered congratulations to the Hampton Middle School WE Group and teacher, Dan Foote, on being the recipient of a Diversity Champion Award in the youth category from PRUDE (Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education) and to ASD-S for being nominated as well. He commented that the "It Takes a Village" group is meeting next month to see if there is interest in having another community presentation. The Loch Lomond PSSC were celebrating the success of their Halloween Literacy Night which was well attended with over 300 participants. Mr. O'Connor also attended the NB Student Leadership event in Fredericton and picked up the following themes: International Students lots of focus but still more can be done, Environmental Action, Vaping and Technology – WIFI. Mr. O'Connor also wanted to thank Mrs. Watson and Peter Smith for the professional learning taking place in nine sites across ASD-S for our 800 EAs, Student Attendants, and 36 School Intervention workers.

Mr. O'Connor moved that a motion be put forward to have five questions investigated before Council makes a final decision on possible closure of Morna Heights School. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

- Could we get a new air quality report completed?
- Could we get an estimate of a water treatment system that would provide potable water for the school?
- Could we get 5 year student population predictions for the 8 schools impacted by this 409, assuming the current configuration and the propose configuration. Those schools being Westfield, Grand Bay, Inglewood, Morna, St. Rose, Island View, River Valley Middle School and Barnhill.
- If all current FI students from the Morna catchment were at an FI program at Morna, what would its population be?
- What the actual projected cost savings is to the District and the Department if Morna is closed in this process. Will closing this school have any impact on global funding received from the Department (i.e. will there be less FTE and/or EAs funded by the Department)?

Mr. Fowler suggested that with this information not being available until January, Council could consider moving the final vote until the February 12th meeting. All were in agreement. Comment was made about setting a precedent for future 409s with the request for projections.

Mr. Spires wanted to congratulate St. Stephen High School on their production of "Elf – the Musical". He felt it was an outstanding performance by 78 students and it was sold out for all four performances.

Ms. Gillis attended the Wizard of Oz at St. Malachy's and said the performance was "exceptional". She also attended the City and District Badminton finals.

4. Presentations

4.1 Minister's Excellence in Education Award Winners/Videos

Mrs. Watson introduced our winners who were in attendance: Paul Kelly (teacher at Hazen White-St. Francis School); and Susan Boyle (teacher at Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow). Shane Kelbaugh (teacher at Rothesay High School) was unable to attend.

Mr. Fowler noted that our recipients were honoured at a ceremony in Fredericton in November and their videos were presented at that time. He offered congratulations to all on behalf of the DEC.

The videos for each recipient were played for Council.

Comment was made that choosing the winners for this award is a difficult task – all are very deserving. Suggestion was made that the DEC consider some way to acknowledge all those who were nominated.

4.2 K-2 Project with Living SJ/BCAPI Update

Mrs. Watson updated Council on the \$4.5 million project which is funded by Living Saint John (1/3); Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI – 1/3), the Department of Education and Early Childhood and ASD-S (1/3). The project is in year two of three, and it supports 21 additional teachers at 7 inner city schools with high rates of poverty. The additional teachers are being used in grades K-2 to reduce class size, conduct interventions with students, and/or increase parent engagement. The specific goals and results were reviewed. The Project Update brochure was produced by BAPI and was posted on the ASD-S website with Council's meeting materials.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Council Staff Relationships #1, 2 & 3

Mr. Fowler reviewed the three policies and asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the policies be accepted as presented. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor.

Comment was made that CSR #1 and #3 may not be in complete alignment with the Education Act and it was suggested that these policies should be reviewed more closely in the future.

Following discussion, the motion was carried. Ms. Sherbo voted against the motion.

5.2 PSSC Orientation Subcommittee Update

Ms. Sherbo advised that Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications, will produce a video to be used at the first PSSC meeting of the school year (or at their discretion). More information will follow as materials are developed.

6. New Business

6.1 Expenditure Plan 2019-2020 Update

Mr. MacDonald provided the expenditure plan update and advised Council that we are on track to a break-even budget.

Question was asked about 2 line items and the difference between numbers from this month to last. Mr. MacDonald will look into this provide feedback.

Mr. O'Connor then moved that the expenditure plan update be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

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

Mrs. Watson advised that we have lost three ASD-S employees and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Sheldon Cleghorn, bus driver in the St. Stephen Education Centre; Stephen Ritchie, custodian in the Hampton Education Centre, and John Jacquard, an employee of the Facilities Department at District Office.

Mrs. Watson offered her thanks to all staff who reach out during these times of need including the Directors, Child & Youth Team and NBTA Counsellor Ronna Gauthier.

Mrs. Watson advised that the annual holiday card winner this year was middle school student Kaylyn Allison from Harry Miller Middle School. She was presented with a framed copy of her card as well as a number of cards for her personal use. The card was chosen from about a dozen selected and it was a very hard decision. The Child & Youth Advocate Office also chose a card and, as it turns out, it was the runner up to our winner. The information for both winners will be posted on the ASD-S website.

Mrs. Watson advised that she had recently sent an email clarifying the process for drivers to follow when vehicles pass their bus when their lights are flashing. This information was requested by Mr. Boudreau at the previous meeting.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler had nothing new to report at this time.

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, January 8, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary