

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – August 21, 2019

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, August 21, 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, Heather Gillis, Justin Tinker

Regrets: Larry Boudreau

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; 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, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fowler moved that the Agenda be amended to move item 6.1 to the September meeting. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the June 12, 2019 meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Gillis asked that the minutes be revised under Member's Notebook to reflect the following sentence change: "...that beginning in September, Bayside Middle School students will not have cell phones in class between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm". Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved as amended. Seconded by Ms. Murphy. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None.

3. Member's Notebook

None.

4. Presentations

Council welcomed Jennifer Kruger, Founder and Executive Director of Estey Art. She provided information on her art initiative including how it began in three schools and how it is now being offered

in 70 schools across NB. The program offers art instruction for 90 minutes, once a week, for ten weeks in local schools for children in grades 3-5. They also work to subsidize those who cannot afford the cost. They are a registered children's charity. ASD-S currently has 14 schools participating.

She spoke about the One 4 One initiative whereby students lend out their artwork to be displayed in the community and the "borrowing fee" covers the full cost of a child attending the non-profit program.

Mr. Fowler thanked Ms. Kruger for her informative presentation.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 September Retreat Update

Mrs. Watson reminded Council that most members favoured September 21st as the date for a retreat; however, it was decided to check again at this meeting to determine if more would be able to attend. Discussion followed. Mr. Fowler suggested that with many meetings already scheduled for early fall, Council might want to table this item. All were in agreement and the item was tabled.

5.2 Minster's Excellence in Education Subcommittee Update

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the committee reviewed the nominations submitted for the award and used a point system to determine the top three candidates. The names have been submitted to the Minister's Office who will advise the winners in the fall. The awards banquet is usually held in November in Fredericton.

6. New Business

6.1 Expenditure Plan Approval 2019-2020

This item was moved to the September meeting.

6.2 PSSC Budgets 2019-2020

Mr. MacDonald advised Council that the funding formula used is the same as last year - \$2.40 per student with a minimum of \$500 per school. The amounts allotted were very close to last year with minor differences due to enrolment.

Mr. Nesbitt moved that the PSSC Budget Allocations be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

6.3 Draft Council Meeting Dates/Locations 2019-2020

Mrs. Watson advised that as in the past, the schedule is based on meetings being held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Saint John Education Centre. If Council should choose to meet in a different location for some reason, that could be arranged.

Mr. Regenbogen moved that the Council Meeting Dates/Locations be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tinker. Motion carried.

6.4 Draft Annual Planning Calendar

Mrs. Watson advised that this is a draft only, as it is a fluid document and can be adjusted as required during the year. She advised that ENDS policies will be reviewed beginning in October this year as the Department is now looking to have updated District Improvement Plans by June and staff require time to get this ready. Mr. Fowler advised that there will not be a DEC Symposium in November and that Stacey Brown is working on an Orientation Session for new members that will likely take place in late May, after the election.

Mr. Tinker moved that Council approve the Annual Planning Calendar as presented. Seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion carried.

6.5 PSSC Orientation Sessions

Mrs. Sherbo advised that the format will be the same as last year and Gary Hall is working on a new skit. Discussion arose on getting Principals involved, tentative dates, inviting participants to the Info Fair, food, and getting the information out to PSSC as soon as possible. Mrs. Watson advised that she and the three Directors of Schools will reach out and find Principals for each session.

Tentative dates: Sept 25 in the Hampton Education Centre; Sept 26 in St. Stephen and Oct 1 in Saint John.

Council members were asked to remind their Principals that new and returning PSSC members, and any people possibly interested in offering for PSSC, are welcome to attend these sessions.

Mrs. Watson advised that Principals will be confirming Open House Dates in the next few days and she will be able to confirm if there are any conflicts with the tentative Orientation Session dates set for each Centre. Open House dates will be posted soon.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

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

She highlighted the summer PD sessions, hiring of casual staff and the many capital projects which happened over the summer.

She advised that there are 5 new administrators this year and they met on Tuesday of this week. Principals and Vice Principals met today at Kings Church. The meeting was opened by two First Nations Elders. On Thursday of this week, Principals will meet in their education centres. Next week Admin Assistants will meet for a half day of professional learning in their education centres.

Mrs. Watson wanted to acknowledge the work of our custodians who work long and hard over the summer to get schools ready for the fall. Our schools are not air conditioned and this can make for very hot conditions in the schools.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler advised that Stacey Brown is working on an Orientation Session for new members which will likely take place in Fredericton in late May, following the election.

Mr. Fowler noted that he had spoken with Mark Perry (ASD-S Subject Coordinator for First Nations) and two First Nations Elders and suggested that Council consider having a First Nations representative. He offered to talk to Policy and Planning at EECD to find out the process and bring the information back to Council. He also noted that in the past, Council has engaged students each year during Student Council sessions; however, asked if Council would like to have a student representative sit at the table. He noted that this representative would be chosen by the students. Council was in agreement. Mr. Fowler will work to get the process started.

7.3 Correspondence

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

Mr. Tinker updated Council on the Canadian School Board Association conference he attended over the summer. He thanked Council for the opportunity and found it was a great experience and well worth attending. He outlined a few of the sessions he attended and offered to stay and speak to anyone who might have questions or like more information.

Ms. Murphy also attended the conference and found it very informative. She advised that information from the conference is available on line and worth taking a look at.

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, September 11, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary