

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – March 10, 2021**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met virtually on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Shelly Merrill-MacKillop, Jonathan Barry, Dan O'Connor, Wayne Spires, Justin Tinker, Heather Gillis, Richard Malone

**Regrets:** Lory-Ann MacAskill, Bernie Regenbogen, Kristen Murphy

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communication, Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services, John MacDonald, Director Finance & Administration, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre, Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood, Marc Godin, Alignment Champion; and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

**1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets**

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. He advised that Bernie Regenbogen, Kristen Murphy and Lory-Ann MacAskill were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**1.1 Swearing in of New DEC Member**

Mrs. Shelly Merrill-MacKillop was sworn in by a Commissioner of Oaths as Councilor for Sub-district #2.

Mrs. Watson then provided the following introduction to Council:

Shelly is a life-long resident of eastern Charlotte County residing in Blacks Harbour and St. George both of which she served as a municipal councilor. She is married with one son and recently became a grandmother.

Shelly holds a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology, a Bachelor of Education specializing in Social Studies and English, and a Master of Education with a specialization in Exceptional Learners. She has also earned three college certificates with specializations in Human Services, Administrative Assistant and Assistive Technologies.

For the last nine years she has been employed with NBCC starting out as a Student Accommodations Advisor which evolved into Learning Strategist and this past March, began her current position as an Academic Technology Specialist.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Agenda for the meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

### 3. Member's Notebook

Mr. Barry commented that at his high school PSSC meetings (and middle school) there have been discussions around how important it is to get our high school students back in school full time. There is broad concern among parents over the mental health and educational challenges students face not being in school every day. He suggested Council, as an advocate for our students and our education system, send a letter to the Minister to express how important it is to work to return high school students to daily in person classes as soon as possible.

Following discussion, Mr. Barry then moved that Council write a letter to the Minister advocating in the strongest terms possible for the return of high school students to daily in person classes. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

Ms. Gillis commented that Bayside Middle held their Enrichment Day virtually this year. The PSSC and leadership team got behind the event and all had a fun time. She noted that Pat Lasky, Principal of Bayside Middle, noted that a group of grade 8 students want to acknowledge that they are "moving on" and are developing a proposal with different ideas on how to celebrate the milestone and do it safely. She also noted that the Millidgeville PSSC connected with the city of Saint John with their concern that their sidewalk clearing needs to be a priority due to the high number of students walking.

Ms. Gills advised that following the February meeting of Council, she received questions about why some of those who were attending the meeting were not wearing masks. She asked that Mrs. Watson address this question for the public. Mrs. Watson commented that at the last meeting, we were in the orange phase, and everyone attending the meeting was 2m physically distanced (although that would be difficult to see for those watching from home) and allowed to remove their masks while seated. Masks were worn any time people were not seated at their designated spot in the room (i.e. coming into and out of the meeting room, walking around within the meeting room, or in any common areas). This was following appropriate Public Health guidelines. She noted that Council members are all 2m distanced tonight as well.

Mr. Spires commented that St. Stephen Elementary school PSSC wanted to compliment Mrs. Watson for the 3 day staggered entry in September and encourage her to consider it again for September 2021. Schools were given the flexibility for September 2020 due to the pandemic and many new rules and procedures. They were also very appreciate of the computers they received.

### 4. Presentations

**4.1 ENDS #2 – Demonstrate continuous improvement by increasing engagement through innovative teaching and assessment practices, promoting mental fitness through social-emotional learning.** Mr. Peter Smith, Director of Educational Support Services was in attendance to update Council on the goal of promoting mental fitness through social-emotional learning. Mrs. Watson reminded Council that Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction spoke last month about the strategies being undertaken to improve engagement through teaching and assessment practices. The monitoring report and additional supporting documents were posted with Council's meeting materials for their review and form part of these Minutes.

Mr. Smith then provided Council with an overview of strategy 2.1.1 – to explicitly embed best practices related to resiliency and social emotional learning with all ASD-S staff and students. He noted that the status of this strategy is in progress.

He spoke about a workshop based on Shawn Achor's "The Happiness Advantage" which has been developed and will be rolled out to principals in April. This book applies positive psychology to management. He talked about the ongoing consultations with mental health experts including Kevin Cameron (North American Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response) who consulted with principals on: working with staff during stressful events, his "Trauma-Informed Return to School" which focused on emotional supports, understanding the impact of the pandemic on families, and anxiety and stress, to name a few. Mr. Cameron also met with the ASD-S management team which led to visits with each school administrative team to check in on specific coping concerns with Covid (December/January).

Dr. Daniel Chorney worked with principals on understanding anxiety related to Covid, the most common types of anxiety staff experience and how to approach each concern, and other components of mental health that needed to be considered with the return to school.

Mr. Smith also talked about Positive Workplace Framework which some schools will be adopting. We have 25 Principals, two early childhood leaders and members of management participating in the two half-day training sessions with Dr. Bill Morrison, Fredericton. The program involves surveying school staff for positive workplace practices. Those trained will have access to many resources. He noted the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Physical Activity Challenge where 655 employees were challenged to complete 150 minutes of physical activity each week for 4 weeks.

Strategy 2.2.1 strives to ensure 100% of the District educational will staff have the capacity to embed positive education to promote social emotional learning in their practices, and this continues as work in progress. He commented on the collaboration between ESS staff and curriculum coordinators and coaches to improve knowledge and understanding of social emotional learning; training received from experts (Dr. Chorney) as well as continuing school based initiatives focusing on growth mindset.

Mrs. Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood and Ms. Krystle Hanson, Early Childhood Coordinator, then provided Council with an update on strategy 2.3.1 which strives to bring an awareness to district leaders about Early Childhood through engagement with the NB Curriculum Framework to ensure a collaborative effort toward a shared vision. Mrs. McNaughton-Dickie commented on the 5 one hour sessions held with Management where surveys following the sessions showed increased awareness; Ms. Hanson spoke of the NB Curriculum Framework which is a comprehensive document that identifies the theories and concepts for parents, early childhood educators and other professionals – it provides educators with reflective questions and ideas to build their practices; she outlined the four goals of the curriculum including: wellbeing, play and playfulness, communication and literacies and diversity and social responsibility noting that these goals are aligned to global competencies.

Mr. Fowler thanked the District staff for their informative presentations and called for a motion to approve the monitoring report for ENDS #2. Mr. Tinker moved that the monitoring report for ENDS # 2 be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Executive Limitations #5, 6 & 7**

Mr. Fowler advised that Executive Limitations policies 5 (Staff Evaluation); 6 (Budget/Financial Planning) and 7 (Financial Administration) were all posted with Council's meeting materials for review. He asked that if there were no questions or concerns, that a motion be put forth to approve all three monitoring reports in one motion.

Mrs. Watson briefly reviewed each policy highlighting challenges and/or any changes from the previous year.

There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Nesbitt moved to approve the Executive Limitation policies #5, 6 & 7 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

### **5.2 Capital Projects & 2022 Summer Improvement Projects**

Mrs. Watson noted that Council has previously requested that the Capital Projects and Summer Improvement Projects be presented at the March meeting to provide time for them to review, followed by a motion at the April meeting.

John MacDonald reviewed the list of large projects for 2022 (approx. \$2.65 million) which had been posted with Council's meeting materials for review, noting that Saint John High School is again on the list as repairs were deferred while the mid-life upgrade was underway; however, that has been postponed and repairs must now be carried out. Mrs. Watson reminded Council that last year the District used self sustaining funds to carry out a number of necessary repairs in our schools.

Question arose about how much money was being directed to Saint John High School and concern over the remaining schools who also need repairs. Mr. MacDonald noted that following the 2022 capital project expenditures, there will only be one major project remaining for Saint John High which would need to be at the top of the list. Comment was also made that the District should submit the hundreds of capital improvement items that are required across all of our schools.

The major capital projects list was presented to Council. The prioritization of the 6 projects (listed below) remains unchanged from last year and will require a motion at the April meeting.

- Recommendation for new K–8 school to replace St. John the Baptist / King Edward School and Prince Charles School as per 409 study completed 2017–2018.
- Recommendation for new K–5 school to replace Centennial School and Hazen-White/St. Francis School as per 409 study completed 2017–2018.
- Recommendation for Major Mid-Life Upgrade for Saint John High School to proceed.
- Recommendation for either expansion onto M. Gerald Teed School or replacement of M. Gerald Teed School to provide full K-5 school as per 409 study completed 2018-2019.
- Recommendation for Mid-Life upgrade for Princess Elizabeth School.
- Recommendation for new K–5 school to replace Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood.

### **5.3 Expenditure Plan 2020-2021**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the expenditures to February 24, 2021, noting that District is projecting a break even for year end. He reminded Council that any surpluses that might remain will be returned to the government in exchange for their funding of all COVID-19 expenses incurred by the District over the last year. If there is a deficit, the government will cover it.

He highlighted the pressure points including underfunding for 71 EAs, wage and replacement costs for staff and repairs required for aging infrastructure.

There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Expenditure Plan Update be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried

### **5.4 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee**

Mr. Tinker called for volunteers to email him if they are interested in taking part in the Superintendent evaluation process. He advised that he would be sending out the required survey for completion within the next week to those interested in participating, with a report at the April meeting.

## **6. Information Items**

### **6.1 Superintendent Report and Update**

Mrs. Watson advised that her report had been posted with Council's meeting materials for their review and included a COVID-19 Operational Plan Audit Template from Clare Tooley.

She highlighted the following from her report: school audits being conducted by Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator Clare Tooley and Healthy Learners Nurses; an update on the home learning program; upcoming PL with Catlin Tucker in the area of online learning and the NB blended learning model; purchase of resource for high school teachers "Principles and Practices for Effective Blended Learning; self-directed PD by teachers on their own time; NB Science Week; meetings by clusters to review the new Policy 713 (Gender Identity) and an upcoming 2 hour virtual PD awareness session on anti-racism for all Principals; examples of continued community support for our schools; Turnaround Achievement Awards for 2021 (virtual

by education centre); leadership development modules being conducted virtually; Rothesay High School named an AP Capstone School as part of the advanced placement program whereby they will be able to offer AP Seminar next school year.

### **6.2 Chair's Report and Update**

Mr. Fowler reminded Council of the upcoming May 10<sup>th</sup> election and suggested that if Council members were not planning on re-offering, that they consider approaching members of their PSSC to see who may be interested in running.

He commented that the Turnaround Achievement Awards are a very special event each year in the District and that he will be taping a greeting for the event. It is disappointing they cannot be in person; however, the students are always honest and open with their turnaround stories.

Mr. Fowler commented on the resiliency of teachers and staff over the past year during a very challenging time. He expressed his thanks for the great job done by Mrs. Watson, teachers and all school and District staff.

Mr. Fowler thanked all staff who attended tonight's meeting in person and on line for their time.

### **6.3 Correspondence**

None, all had been posted.

## **7. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Council may choose to attend in person or virtually.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary