

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

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

**Council Members:**

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Jonathan Barry, Wayne Spires, Justin Tinker, Dan O'Connor, Bernie Regenbogen, Heather Gillis, Kristen Murphy, Richard Malone

**Regrets:** Lory-Ann MacAskill

**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 7:00 pm. Mr. Fowler introduced Council members attending in person at the District Office, and members attending virtually. Mrs. Watson then introduced all District staff attending in person, and virtually.

**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 Ms. Murphy. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the January 13, 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 Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

**3. Member's Notebook**

Ms. Gillis advised that the Bayside Middle School PSSC commented that virtual parent teacher was enjoyed by parents and they hope the option will be available in the future. She also noted that the four high school virtual open house events were very well done. She wanted to send a shout out to those in the early learning centres dealing with COVID-19 from 6 am – 6 pm every day. The extra cleaning duties, low staff numbers, etc. were stressful; however, they provided a safe and healthy environment for the children.

Mr. O'Connor wanted to pass on that the Glen Falls PSSC were very happy with the work done by John MacDonald and the transportation folks in ensuring that Tim Street is safe and plowed. He also noted that it being Staff Appreciation Week, he wanted to send along his congratulations for a job well done in keeping schools open in the red phase of recovery and keeping students safe throughout this pandemic.

Mr. Spires commented on a video created by Krista MacKnight of St. Stephen High School on how they are managing during COVID-19 with on line learning. He said it was very well done. Mrs. Watson advised that she will forward the video on to all members of the DEC.

Mr. Barry noted that several of his PSSCs commented on the positive data with regard to the virtual parent teacher events and hope that the option will continue to be available in the future.

#### **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.** Mrs. Watson introduced the following district staff, attending virtually, who work on the goals and strategies in ENDS #2 including Darren White, Technology and Skilled Trades Coordinator, Jillian Ingalls Garey, French Second Language and Assessment Coordinator, and Laura Taylor, First Nations, Social Studies and Global Competencies Coordinator. Mrs. Watson explained that Mr. Hall and his team would be reporting on curriculum updates and the remaining strategies on promoting mental fitness would be addressed by Director of Education Support Services at the March meeting. The monitoring report and additional supporting documents were posted with Council's meeting materials for their review and form part of these Minutes.

District staff then provided Council with an overview of the main strategy (2.2.1) which focuses on demonstrating continuous improvement by increasing engagement through innovative teaching and assessment practices. This involves building capacity in coordinators, coaches, leads and SPRs to promote best instructional and assessment practices in the areas of global competencies and cross-curricular opportunities in instruction to support teacher PLCs live and virtually using Microsoft Teams. Mr. White spoke about the creation of Microsoft TEAMS sites for each subject area and for Education Support Services for monthly coaches meetings, including PL, and self-directed PL for coaches. Ms. Taylor spoke about the global competencies formative assessment documents and clipboard cruisers created for K-2 Exploratory and 3-5 Cross Curricular and professional learning during coaches meetings. Ms. Ingalls Garey advised that the SPR (Special Positions of Responsibility) guidelines have been updated, approved by schools and shared. They now reflect additional focus on the SPR's role as a "coach". Assessing student learning has been a focus of our DIP in the past, and with blended learning many teachers took the opportunity to use different means of assessing learning at the end of the first semester, moving away from the transitional written exam. High schools continue to be focused on the work of writer and teacher Myron Dueck. A few evening optional PD sessions for SPRs have been presented and well attended.

Mr. Fowler thanked the District staff for their informative presentation and noted that the motion to approve the monitoring report for ENDS #2 would be at the March meeting.

#### **5. Business Arising from Minutes**

##### **5.1 City of Saint John Sidewalk Plowing Update**

Mr. MacDonald reported that the District's Transportation Department reviewed the link provided by the city indicating their final sidewalk plowing maps. He noted that the District's recommended changes were included in the final plan, and that no areas of concerns were noted.

##### **5.2 Request to Cost Out a Reduction From 1.5 km to 750 m for K-5**

Mr. Fowler commented that the costs associated with reducing the walking distance for K-5 was posted with Council's meeting materials for review. He noted that this is a purely operational responsibility and that Council would not be moving forward with the request.

Mrs. Watson reviewed the information in the briefing note that had been posted and highlighted that the Education Act states those eligible for transportation must be farther than 2.4 km – ASD-S already does

better than that measure by providing transportation from 1.5 km. She noted that the transportation manager provided a breakdown of the cost to provide this service in a cross section of rural and urban schools. This would be a significant cost to acquire additional buses, and the salaries of the additional drivers that would be required. The cost breakdown is posted on the website for review.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. Watson and District staff for the information provided.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Executive Limitations 3.1, 3 & 4**

Mr. Fowler advised that Executive Limitations policies 3.1 (Emergency Superintendent Succession); 3 (Staff Hiring) and 4 (Information and Reporting to Council) 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. Mr. Nesbitt moved to approve as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry.

Mr. Tinker reminded Council that these monitoring reports are an opportunity to have a direct input into the policies of the District and are appreciated by Council.

There being no further questions or comments, motion carried.

### **6.2 Capital Projects 2021-2022**

Mrs. Watson advised that the District had received the approved project list for 2021-2022 in the amount of approximately \$4 million, with a discretionary budget of \$80,000 whereby the District can choose a project of their own. She reviewed the highlights of the list for Council.

## **7. 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.

Mrs. Watson noted that St. Malachys Memorial High School learned in late January of the death of Omar Alqasab, a student at their school. Omar was in hospital prior to Christmas. She asked Council to observe a minute of silence in his memory.

She highlighted the following from her report: a summary of the COVID-19 outbreaks in 5 schools and the work of all staff to quickly inform all those who needed to know; a thank you to Nick Munn for creating a COVID-19 screening app for staff; staff resource "Positive Workplace Framework" championed by Dr. Bill Morrison; high school assessment week; book study on "Cultivating Genius" by Subject Coordinator Amy Marshall; Grand Bay-Westfield bus driver of the year, Dwain Lyttle; communications with families during the month of January; highlights of the many activities of Community School Coordinators in our three education centres who work closely with community partners, volunteers and the PALS program, despite the pandemic; virtual program information nights; and staff appreciation week.

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

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the Minister had recently appointed a replacement for Subdistrict #2 and that Shelly Merrill MacKillop would be in attendance at the March meeting.

Mr. Fowler reported that the Department of Education and Early Childhood has requested that all DECs transfer any surplus funds at year end back to the Department. In exchange, the Department has agreed to fund all costs related to COVID-19 incurred by the school districts, including: cleaning expenses, costs related to pupil transportation, supervision expenses for educational assistants, teachers and related costs and increased absenteeism funding.

He asked that if there were no questions or concerns, that a motion be put forth to approve the request. Mr. Nesbitt then moved that Council approve the return of surplus funds at year end to the Department in exchange for their covering COVID-19 related expenses. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

None, all had been posted.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Rob Fowler, Chair

---

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary