

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – October 14, 2020**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met virtually on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Wayne Spires, Justin Tinker, Larry Boudreau, Dan O'Connor, Bernie Regenbogen, Kristen Murphy; Richard Malone

**Regrets:** Rob Fowler; Chair, Heather Gillis, Lory-Ann MacAskill

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communication, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood; Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, Marc Godin, District Alignment Champion, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Agenda for the meeting and advised of an amendment to move item 6.1 (Superintendent Evaluation 2019-2020) to the November meeting. Mr. Nesbitt asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the September 9, 2020 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. O'Connor moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

**3. Member's Notebook**

Nothing to report.

**4. Presentations**

**4.1 District Improvement Plan**

Mrs. Watson reminded Council that at the September 2020 meeting Council agreed staff would revisit the District Improvement Plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the change of focus required within the District to adjust to a new learning environment and health and safety guidelines initiated by Public Health. Also, with the loss of almost one half of our curriculum coaches (reassigned back to the classroom) it would not be possible to support the current plan.

In light of this, staff took a look at what we know today and developed a one year transitional plan with 4 ENDS policies to achieve our goals over the coming year. Mrs. Watson then reviewed the goals and strategies which were posted with Council's meeting materials and are attached to, and form part of these Minutes.

ENDS Policy #1: Provide positive, safe, healthy, and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff with the goal to ensure all students benefit from a positive learning and working environment that promotes health, safety, and outdoor learning. This includes ensuring current health and safety practices are in place providing education for vulnerable students and those who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse.

ENDS Policy # 2: A combination of the previous ENDS policies #2, #3 & #4. Demonstrate continuous improvement by increasing engagement through innovative teaching and assessment practices, promoting mental fitness through social-emotional learning. Goals include explicitly embedding best practices related to resiliency and social emotional learning with all ASD-S staff and students; supporting PLCs to embed global competencies and cross-curricular opportunities in instruction both live and virtually using Microsoft Teams. Another goal is bringing awareness to district educational staff about Early Childhood through engagement with the NB Curriculum Framework.

ENDS Policy #3: Previous ENDS #5. Ensure all members of the school community to be welcomed, respected, accepted and supported and to address heterosexism and discrimination with a goal to develop a strategic plan to continue to promote diversity and address heterosexism, discrimination and anti-racism by creating affirming cultures.

ENDS Policy #4: A combination of previous ENDS # 6 & #7. Maximize the engagement of families and the community through effective communication and outreach. Goals include ensuring all stakeholders have access to relevant information and resources pertinent to student success and well-being, maintaining existing partnerships and engagement with outside organizations, and replacing existing websites.

Following the presentation Mr. Spires moved that Council accept the transitional plan as presented. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt thanked Mrs. Watson and staff for their work on updating the plan.

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

### **5.1 PSSC Orientation Update**

Mr. Nesbitt advised that a subcommittee had been working on a plan for this year's orientation sessions; however, with the COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidelines in place at this time, Council will be unable to host an in-person event. Mrs. Watson advised that Principals have been provided with many of the PSSC documents that would normally be distributed at the in-person events. If further information is required, Principals should get in touch. Ms. Murphy commented that the PSSCs seem to be up and running well at this time, with a lot of returning members, and some new people. She noted that a short video is in the works and as soon as it is ready, it will be provided to all Principals.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Superintendent Evaluation (2019-2020)**

This item has been moved to the November agenda.

### **6.2 Minister's Excellence in Education Awards**

Mr. Nesbitt noted that the nomination forms are now available for the Minister's Excellence in Education Awards. Mrs. Watson noted that information on the awards has been sent to all PSSC Chairs and that all nominations must be received at the District Office by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were any Council members who wanted to sit on the subcommittee with the Chair, Mr. Fowler, to review any nominations received. Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Nesbitt volunteered.

## **7. Information Items**

### **7.1 Superintendent's Report and Update**

Mrs. Watson reviewed her report which had been posted with Council's meeting materials for their review.

This past weekend began with very sad news later Friday evening from St. Stephen about a tractor accident claiming the life of grade 11 student David Jacques. She thanked the administration team and Jennifer Grant for ensuring that messaging was shared over the weekend and an opportunity made for friends to come to the school. Tuesday morning there was lots of support for Mrs. Amos and her staff from the Child and Youth Team, NBTA Counsellor Ronna Gauthier and District staff. Our thoughts are with this family and school community. She asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

She noted that posted for Council was a powerpoint from Clare Tooley, Health & Safety Coordinator and the Healthy Learner Nurses of their visits to schools to view operational plans and provide feedback. To date they have visited 50/69 schools in ASD-S. Also posted were media stories from the past month which were compiled by Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications.

She highlighted several key areas from her report including: regular virtual check-in meetings with clusters of principals; 40 additional custodial FTEs; cancellation of rentals until at least after Christmas; immunization clinics for grades 7 and 9; student absentee rates due to illness (increase 132%) over last year; development of a sharepoint site for teacher resources and collaborative sites where teachers can post questions; use of self-sustaining funds to purchase 80 webcams for high school teachers to support learning from home; community partnerships including the brown bag lunch program which now feeds 600 students a day in Saint John; a tree-planting event celebrating the 10 year partnership with Emera NB and UNBSJ Promise Partnership held at Hazen-White/St. Francis, and the three ASD-S recipients of a Prime Minister's Award of Excellence – Stacey Stairs from Sussex Regional High School, Michelle Lang Standing from Rothesay High School and Lisa Brown from Lisa's Playhouse Inc. in Roachville, NB.

Mr. Nesbitt thanked Mrs. Watson for her report.

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

Mr. Fowler was unable to attend.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

None, all had been posted.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary