

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – March 16, 2022**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person and virtually on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Heather Gillis, Vice-Chair; Jane Logan, Wayne Spires, David Connell, Amanda Hamm, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Shelly Merrill-MacKillop, Jonathan Barry and Amanda Henderson-Matthews.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; John MacDonald, Director, Finance & Administration, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director, Early Childhood Services and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. He advised that Richard Malone and Kristin Murphy were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Nesbitt began the meeting respectfully acknowledging the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We strive for respectful relationships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation and honour this beautiful land together.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Nesbitt 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. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved as presented with the addition of Public Comment. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the February 9, 2022 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. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Henderson-Matthews. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

Mr. Tinker commented on the issues with the possible change with governance. PSSCs are valuable as well as the District Education Council. Where will the accountability be as it would be a shame to lose this. It is all about the kids and losing the voice would be an insult to the kids. He hopes the DEC will ask the Minister to reconsider.

**3. Superintendent's Report & Update**

Mrs. Watson advised that her report had been posted last week for Council to review.

Mrs. Watson received some very sad news on Wednesday of the March Break, with the sudden and unexpected death of retired teacher Rhonda Internoscia. Rhonda retired from SJHS and had returned to work part-time in a grade 2 FI class at M. Gerald Teed School. The loss has impacted both schools this week, and we keep colleagues in our thoughts. A moment of silence took place to remember Ms. Internoscia.

She mentioned that in-person classes began on Monday, January 31 at K-8 and Wednesday, February 2, 2022 for high school. We hired 75-80 supply teachers for two weeks and they were paired with one or two

schools to replace absent teachers if vacancies were not filled through our absence management system. This was extended the three weeks until March Break and will be extended the week after. Our curriculum and some Education Support Services (ESS) teacher coaches and Subject Coordinators were also in schools teaching, or filling roles if a replacement could not be found.

She advised that communication was sent to families on Friday, March 4, 2022, about the lifting of restrictions on Monday, March 14, 2022 when students return to school. Masks will no longer be required for students, staff and visitors at any time in schools and on buses. Some will prefer to continue wearing a mask and it is very important that this be respected. One package of 5 rapid tests has been sent to each staff member. Sanitizer will be provided to the staff and students. When staff have opportunities, they are encouraged to have students outside – at noon and during the school day for classes other than physical education.

Mrs. Watson indicated this spring we will be offering a “Leadership Professional Learning Series,” with many curriculum, ESS and instructional leadership sessions being offered for 60-90 minutes at the end of the school day. The sessions will focus on new curriculum initiatives and areas of focus from our District Improvement Plan such as the Building Blocks of Reading, the new grades 3-10 science curriculum, early childhood education, anti-racism, and social emotional learning.

She mentioned a one hour virtual session with Kevin Cameron from the North American Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response for all school and district leaders. We had over 100 participants in the meeting. Kevin spoke of the challenges this pandemic has placed on families, colleagues and friends and advised “not to ruin long term relationships over short term conflicts.” We need to remember that many students and adults may be afraid, and it is important that we “make our world small again.” Students need a safe and caring environment.

Mrs. Watson mentioned about the virtual “Think Tank” sessions that she hosted for K-5 and grades 6-8 Principals and Vice Principals to discuss next school year. It is important for District leader hear the thoughts of our school administrators on what the needs are and what must be priority as we move from the pandemic.

Mrs. Watson talked about February being Black History Month. The District hosted a virtual presentation by Bill Riley for 100 teachers. Mr. Riley was the third person of color to play in the NHL. Coordinator Laura Taylor has a book study with “Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain,” by Zaretta Hammond. By the end of March eight schools will complete the Culturally and Linguistically Inclusive Schools.

She mentioned that in early April ASD-S will have 18 school principals attend a conference in Banff called u Lead – The Summit of Educational Leadership. The theme of the conference is, “Reimagining School Leadership.”

#### 4. Presentation

**4.1 ENDS #2: Improve student engagement and achievement by embedding research based best practices in a variety of learning environments** (Ryan Price, Nick Munn, Darren White, Kari Parsons, Nicole MacNeill and Chantale Barsalou, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie)

The focus of Ends 2 is to improve student engagement and achievement through the embedment of researched based best practices system wide. This is being accomplished working through three pillars (goals) of focus. These pillars include modelling, promoting, and supporting the embedment of best instructional pedagogy to support curriculum delivery, building capacity in engaging learners in non-traditional learning environments, and improving collaboration with early childhood to ensure a smooth transition to school. Mr. Price noted that since November the Subject Coordinators have not been able to have PD sessions during the day and since early February the coaches and coordinators have been teaching when needed. Mr. Price explained the slides and highlighted a few examples. He noted a full list of all strategies posted with the meeting documents. The monitoring report and additional supporting documents were posted with Council’s meeting materials for their review and form part of these Minutes.

## Best Instructional and Assessment Pedagogy

- Focus on capacity building in Plan, Do, Check, Act Methodology
- Actions: K-2 When Children Succeed Project involving 7 schools in the inner city of Saint John, Rural School K-5 project, School Improvement Framework, Request for Support
- Focus on capacity building in using feedback system wide to improve teacher practice and enhance student learning
- Actions: Coordinator and Coach professional growth, Leadership PL on feedback conversations and walk-throughs, teacher professional learning focused on feedback cycle and student self-assessment, request for support

## Non-Traditional Learning Environments

- Focus on Learning Outdoors
- Actions: District coordinator and coach PL focused on learning outdoors, learning outdoor teacher cohort, Take Me Outside Day, Learning Outdoor cross-curricular kits, learning outdoor focus in SIPs and in requests for support
- Engaging Learners through Technology
- Actions: Tech requests for support, tech office hours, Microsoft Teams and Lumio professional learning

## Early Childhood

- Instructional Leader Capacity Building
- Actions: Leadership professional learning session on Early Childhood Curriculum Framework in April, professional collaboration between early learning centres and K-5 schools, support of Early Learning Literacy Coach, district professional learning, information sessions at PSSC meetings

## Bridging Project

- Actions: Bridging project with four elementary schools and feeder early learning facilities, in person meeting in October with teachers and early learning educators, online sharing platform launched in March, online meeting hopeful to resume in April. The pandemic limited this initiative.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Gillis moved to approve the Ends#2 Monitoring Report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion Carried.

## 5. Business Arising from Minutes

### 5.1 Policy Committee Update

Mr. Malone provided a written report to the Council and the draft Council – Staff Relationship Policies. These new and revised policies have been approved by the policy committee and the committee is recommending approval to the DEC. Stacey Brown – Manager, District Education Councils - worked with the committee and the Superintendent to develop these new policies. Throughout the process, the committee worked to ensure that these are clear and concise and easily understandable to all parties. Some of the policies had several changes and some only formatting.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hamm moved to approve the revised policies as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

### 5.2 First Nations DEC Representative

Mrs. Watson reported a letter was written and forwarded to the Minister of Education along with the information from two individuals who submitted their intention to be considered as a First Nations DEC member. At this time we will wait on a decision from the Minister.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Monitoring Reports**

EL 3.1 – Emergency Superintendent Succession

EL 3.4 – Financial Administration

EL 3.5 – Property management

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Logan moved to approve the three monitoring reports as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

### **6.2 Summer 2023 Improvement Projects**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Capital Improvement List (10 projects) that are slotted to be completed in the summer of 2023. There was some discussion about a project at Grand Bay Primary regarding the new windows.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no other questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Summer 2023 Improvement Projects List as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

### **6.3 2022 Summer Improvement Projects**

Mrs. Watson reviewed the 2022 Summer Improvement Project list. These will be completed in the summer of 2022. There was some discussion about the schools which do not have central ventilation.

### **6.4 Minister's Excellence in Education Award Nominations**

The Minister's Excellence in Education Awards Sub-committee will be represented by Heather Gillis, Chair; Jane Logan, Amanda Henderson-Matthews and Amanda Hamm.

It was so moved by Mr. Spires and seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion Carried

### **6.5 PSSC Linkages – Policy 4.6 Section 4(4.1)(b)(i)**

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed this section of policy and asked the DEC members if there were any schools that they were unable to get to before the end of the school year. All indicated they would be able to get to the schools.

### **6.6 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee**

The Superintendent Evaluation Sub-committee will be represented by Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Wayne Spires and Richard Malone. It was so moved by Ms. Logan and seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

## **7. Information Items**

### **7.1 Member's Notebook**

Mr. Spires indicated he has participated on-line with the St. Stephen and Vincent Massey Elementary Schools PSSC meetings. Vincent Massey Elementary is having a hard time securing PSSC members while the St. Stephen Elementary School has an abundance of members. They are working hard so the students are doing well at school.

Ms. Gillis commented on how great it is that extra-curriculars are back in middle school...this will go a long way in improving school spirit and morale. She hopes middle school principals will be considering something to celebrate their grade 8 students before they move on to high school.

She also spoke about the "It Takes A Village" committee. They have narrowed down some topics of interest to present to parents. She has been in touch with Peter Smith and he thinks he will be able to provide local presenters from ASD-S. This committee is meeting again next week.

Ms. Henderson-Matthews was very excited to say that in the next week or two, Campobello Island Consolidated School and the rural community will finally have a Community Use of School agreement in place. This has been an ongoing process for approximately 10 years. Last fall she reached out to Zoe and John MacDonald for their guidance and to bring them together with the Rural Council's recreation committee as the school and council had reached a stalemate. With the hard work of the Recreation Council, the Mayor and Principal Daphne Carten, a successful agreement has been put forward.

Ms. Hamm mentioned that she was able to attend PSSC meetings for RVMS, Grand Bay Primary, and HVHS. GBP was thankful to receive additional funding to help support their Building Blocks of Reading literacy program.

Two PSSC's are planning to submit nominations for the Ministers Excellence in Education Awards

On March 15th, 2022, Ms. Hamm had the opportunity to attend a tour of Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood School with the following stakeholders: GNB - Hon. Mr. Oliver & staff; Municipality – Mayor Ms. Merrifield & staff, Grand Bay School Facilities Improvement Task Force – Chair Ms. Hohmann, ASD-S - Facilities Manager - Mr. Connors, DEC – Chair Mr. Nesbitt and School Principals – Mrs. Burt and Mrs. Nickerson. It was very clear during the tour that positive student outcomes are a top priority at both schools. Both school leaders are committed to creating caring and safe learning environments for all students.

Ms. Merrill-MacKillop spoke about: Fundy Middle & High School - Principal McDade says that students have been doing great with the online learning. Recovery models for grades 6 to 12 to assist with concepts they have missed are already in place.

There is still concern over the struggles of the French Immersion Program provincially and more specifically at FMHS. PSSC believes that there should be a plan put in place by the district to remedy this issue for current and future students.

Blacks Harbour Elementary School has a small group of people interested in forming a parent committee (PSSC/Home and School). The principal has met a couple of times and they are hoping to have an in-person meeting later in the school year. Unfortunately, plans for an introduction meeting fell through a couple of times (due to the CUPE strike, then Covid). Hoping that this will be the framework for a Parent committee for next year.

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

### Activities Since Last Meeting

February 16, 2022 – Virtual PSSC with Quispamsis Elementary School. Discussion on School Improvement Plan, Teacher Perception Survey, and upcoming events.

February 17, 2022 – Anglophone and Francophone Chairs met virtually with David Coon, Leader of the Green Party.

February 17, 2022 – Virtual PSSC with Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary School. Discussion on PA announcements, maintenance items, level 1 covid restrictions, expenditure of PSSC funds, end of year activities and a special project on science and technology being started with Irving.

February 23, 2022 – Virtual Policy Committee meeting.

February 24, 2022 – Virtual meeting with Superintendent and Director of Finance and Administration.

March 2, 2022 – Regular monthly virtual meeting with Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister and chairs and vice chairs.

March 4, 2022 – Virtual meeting of chairs, vice chairs and Stacey Brown.

### Governance Review

Anglophone and Francophone chairs have completed an initial round of virtual meetings with all political leaders that hold seats in the legislature except for the Conservatives who have not responded to invitations to meet. In addition, an initial meeting has been held with NBTA President Connie Keating and Executive Director Ardith Shirley. The chairs and vice chairs have requested a Minister's Forum where a half-day will be devoted to looking into the new model. The proposed date for this meeting is March 19th.

#### DEC Conference

A reminder of the planning that is underway for an in-person conference for all DEC members and district superintendents and others in Fredericton on May 13 and 14. Mr. Nesbitt hopes many will be able to attend.

#### Minister's Excellence Awards

A reminder that the nomination forms are now available and a reminder that an ad hoc committee will be created to select our district's 3 successful nominees. The task is to be completed by the end of April.

#### **7.3 Correspondence**

A letter of resignation was received from DEC Member, Kristen Murphy, indicating she is unable to fulfill her duties.

Mr. Spires moved that we accept with regret the letter of resignation from Kristen Murphy. Seconded by Heather Gillis. Motion carried. A letter will be sent to Ms. Murphy and vacancy posted for expressions of interest. In the interim members agreed to act as a liaison to the schools in subdistrict #4: Seaside Park (Jane Logan), Island View (Amanda Hamm), Barnhill (Jane Logan), Beaconsfield (Heather Gillis) and Saint Rose (Amanda Hamm).

#### **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary