

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – May 11, 2022

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person and virtually on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Peter Smith, Director of Education – Support Services; John MacDonald, Director, Finance & Administration, Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

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

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.

Our First Nation's Representative – Teresa Sewell was sworn in as a new council member.

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 Amended Agenda be approved as presented with the change in the order with item 4.1 being moved after the Public Comment. Seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the April 13, 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. Barry moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

No public were present.

4.1. ENDS #3: Engage system's leaders in improving mental health and resiliency for both learners and staff through proactive strategies such as Positive Education and Social Emotional Learning

Mr. Peter Smith, Director of Educational Support Services was in attendance to update Council on the goal of ensuring all members of the school community are improving mental health and resiliency for both learners and staff through proactive strategies. The supporting documents were posted with Council's meeting materials for review and form part of these Minutes.

Mr. Smith provided Council with an overview of strategy 3.1.1 – support adoption of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports in identified schools; and strategy 3.1.2 – support adoption of Restorative Practices in identified schools. The status of these strategies are in progress and ongoing – the pandemic with staff sick leave and the challenges filling positions have resulted in PD being postponed.

Mr. Smith provided Council with an overview of strategy 3.1.3 – provide direct support to coordinators and coaches to increase integration of Social Emotional learning into curricular outcomes; and strategy 3.1.4 – provide direct support to teachers to implement Positive Education and Social Emotional Learning into their classroom practices, specifically at the middle school level. The status of these strategies is on-going.

Mr. Smith provided Council with an overview of strategy 3.1.5 – continue to implement the Positive Mental Health Framework with school and district leaders using the Mental Fitness Resilience Inventory. The status of this strategy is in progress and ongoing with 27 school staffs completing the inventory.

Mr. Smith invited Cohen Draper a Grade 11 student from Fundy Middle and High School along with Vice-Principal, Jeff Matheson and Joey Murphy, Alexandra Warman, Ella Summerville, Faith Kilpatrick, Autumn Saiz and Abbigail Smith all students from Hampton High School along with Principal Rosemary Southard to present what they are doing at each of their schools respectively with addressing Mental Health.

Cohen spoke about their first Mental Health week which had two big events. The first was the Jack Talk an organization about mental health for youth. The other big event was a Mental Health Fair organized by students. During the past couple of years they had many events for students. The latest event planned was to launch the #YellowIsForHello campaign that is anchored around a yellow Friendship Bench. The bench is set in a prominent area in or around the building and encourages peer to peer conversations. The bench allows students a place where they can talk about anything and everything and it has supports around it to assist with conversations about mental health.

The Hampton High Students spoke about their Mental Health Mondays which is featured on their YouTube Channel. They talked about many mental health issues such as anxiety, suicide prevention, body image and stress. They are looking to their next steps, growing their audience, how to educate staff and students about mental illness.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Spires moved to approve the Ends#3 Monitoring Report as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion Carried.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

Mrs. Watson mentioned there have been fewer staff days coded as sick leave in the past couple of weeks. Most jobs are being picked up through the supply teacher/casual booking system.

She mentioned the week of May 1 -7 was Safety and Health Week – during this time there were many free virtual learning opportunities. Schools of over 20 employees are required to have a Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Mrs, Watson spoke about the 32 schools who are registered to pilot in May the grades 4-6 teacher/student resources on food allergy awareness made available through Food Allergy Canada in partnership with the local Sweet Caroline Foundation.

She spoke about a partnership with Brilliant Labs, who will be hosting a Maker Faire on May 24th. Various stations will be available so visitors can see innovative things that have been happening around the district this year.

Mrs. Watson mentioned the Antiracism and Equity Coach continues to be very busy with school-based requests. Coach Therese Trofimencoff has developed an antiracism unit to be delivered to English Language Arts classes at high school.

She mentioned to date ASD-S has had nine Principals and two Vice Principals retirements – the first round of posting closed and were announced as of May 4, 2022.

She spoke about the Kindergarten Orientation Day in late May or early June. This consists of sessions for parents and teacher will meet the children. Each student will go home with a back pack of materials they can use while the children are at school.

Mrs. Watson mentioned the Turnaround Achievement Awards which will be held in person for the St. Stephen Education Centre and Saint John Education Centre. Hampton Education Center have opted to do a virtual ceremony.

Mrs. Watson spoke about recognition of our retirees and the 25 year watch recipients. These celebrations will be held in early June by Education Centre. We want to offer all retiring employees the opportunity to be recognized.

4. Presentation

4.2 Functional Capacity Report

Mr. John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration was in attendance to update Council on the function capacity of each school in their respective Education Centres.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spiers moved to approve the Functional Capacity Report as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion Carried.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 First Nation DEC Representative – Teresa Sewel

Mrs. Watson welcomed Ms. Sewell as a new member of the District Education Council and talked about her background as a First Nation member.

5.2 DEC Vacancy (Sub District #7)

Mr. Nesbitt reported that a resignation was received from David Connell indicating he had resigned from the Council. An advertisement has now been posted to secure a member to replace Mr. Connell in Sub District #7. Other members of the Council will be supporting schools in this Sub District until a member has been secured.

6. New Business

6.1 EL 3.0 Monitoring Report – Global Executive Constraint

EL 3.3 Monitoring Report – Information to Council

EL 3.6 Monitoring Report – Stakeholders and Public Relations

The Superintendent stated her monitoring reports for these policies were posted as part of the meeting materials.

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

6.2 Motion re: Porter O'Brien

WHEREAS the Council of DEC Chairs in conjunction with the Francophone DEC's has recommended that all DEC's cost share the hiring of Porter O'Brien for lobbying the government about proposed changes to governance and,

WHEREAS the timing is crucial as it relates to getting the message out during the period beginning in May and possibly extending into December,

BE IT RESOLVED that the District Education Council of ASD-S approve the expenditure from DEC funds of up to \$1,000.00 per month, subject to approval by Roger Nesbitt and Heather Gillis of the overall plan of action.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Barry moved that the amended motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Merrill-MacKillop. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Gillis commented the assessments are happening at the Middle and Elementary Schools. She commented that Bayside Middle School hosted a Volleyball Tournament and are hosting the Provincial Cheer Leading. The

French Immersion girls participating in Franco games in July. "It takes a Village" session held on May 4th was well attended and had three great presentations. She mentioned about the retiring Principals in her sub district.

Mr. Spires commented the St. Stephen High School Spartan News Team who were at the ECMA's and have now been invited to the Juno's. Great students in our district. He also mentioned about the St. Stephen Elementary School getting donations of dog food and blankets for the local SPCA. Vincent Massey Elementary and the community have a plan to refurbish the playground.

Ms. Shelly Merrill-MacKillop mentioned that Fundy Shores held their final meeting of the year on May 3rd where they discussed the school supply list and year end celebrations. They have 22 grade 5 students moving to middle school next year and are expecting 16 Kindergarten students in the fall.

Blacks Harbour Elementary - April 27th, this was the first and last PSSC meeting for the school year as it was a struggle to get a PSSC together. 30% of K-2 students have missed 10% of their school days. They are working on engagement. The school has some additional resource staffing. This teacher develops plans for zones of regulation, social skills, and behaviour plans. As a result, there have been reduced behavioural incidences at the school.

Ms. Hamm mentioned she attended three PSSC meetings since our last DEC meeting, St Rose School, River Valley Middle School and Inglewood School.

Inglewood School is celebrating the following grant awards: a partnership with Bell Canada and the Grand Bay Baptist Church resulting in \$3,000 to support their healthy learners' school nutrition program; Crane Mountain Enhancement Inc. awarded the school over \$4,000 to support their STEM enrichment programming; Farm to School Canada awarded \$8,400 to help bring in more healthy, local food into the school and to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities to enhance their food literacy skills; finally, MusiCounts Band Aid Program awarded Inglewood School \$12,000 to purchase new instruments to help support the school's inclusive music program.

At all three PSSC meetings members walked through the most recent updates on Education Governance Reform. There were some takeaway questions related to the election and appointment process and there were also questions around the potential involvement of the NB Home and School Association.

Mr. Barry mentioned that the Rothesay High School PSSC is very engaged. There are 15 parents on the committee and have a model of how the PSSC should run. Mr. Barry also mentioned they had a healthy debate on governance.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Activities

April 7, 2022 – PSSC at Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary School

April 11, 2022 – CBC Information Morning Interview

April 20, 2022 – Recorded a video message for the Hampton Education Centre Turnaround Achievement Awards (Virtual)

April 20, 2022 – Virtual PSSC Quispamsis Elementary School

April 21, 2022 – Virtual Meeting of the Council of DEC Chairs

April 27, 2022 – PSSC at Lakefield Elementary School

April 29, 2022 – Virtual meeting with Chairs and Vice Chairs

May 4, 2022 – Virtual meeting with Chairs and Vice Chairs

Governance Update

Mr. Nesbitt forwarded feedback, etc. from the engagement sessions held by EECD with all DEC's. Council of DEC Chairs is recommending engaging a firm to lobby EECD regarding the proposed changes in governance. The latest communique which Mr. Nesbitt sent to members seems to suggest that only the DEC's will be replaced and that PSSC's will return in some form.

DEC Symposium

EECD notified DEC that the symposium that was being planned for May has been postponed. An email from the ADM indicates that will now take place during the weekend of November 25, 2022 at the Delta, Fredericton.

7.3 Correspondence

Posted for this meeting.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary