

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – September 8, 2021

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Zoë Watson, Acting Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Jane Logan, Wayne Spires, Shelly Merrill-MacKillop (attended virtually), Jonathan Barry, Heather Gillis, Kristen Murphy, David Connell, Amanda Hamm, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Richard Malone

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; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, Saint Stephen Education Centre; Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood Services and Tanya Bannister, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mrs. Watson, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Mrs. Watson began the meeting by acknowledging that we are on the unceded territories of the Wolastoqiyik, Passamaquoddy and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mrs. Watson 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. Malone. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Watson referred to the Minutes of the August 18, 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, Ms. Hamm moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Murphy. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None

3. Member's Notebook

Ms. Henderson-Matthews advised that on Campobello, they have a benefactor who has started a foundation called B Kind. The foundation gives out a full scholarship every year. The benefactor originally heard about the school on Campobello because of a shoe box project put on by students last year. Students put together 100 shoe boxes for the community – students work in pairs and each box has a craft and a card. Concerns were brought to the District about bussing on the main road and this has been arranged, as well as a speed sign in front of the school. Ms. Henderson-Matthews spoke about the challenges finding PSSC members.

Ms. Hamm shared that Grand Bay Primary has tried to cultivate a love of outdoor learning this past year. She stated that in addition to recess and physical education classes, the school clocked 4000 minutes of outdoor learning time. She advised that the well-loved After School Activity Program (ASAP), which is a program that focuses on enrichment activities, is back at River Valley Middle School. At Inglewood School, a lot of the work going on there in the summer has been completed and that they are crafting a program called "Blasting Off To

a Stellar School Year". Mr. Malone advised that the Town of Hampton is hosting "Honoring the Children and Peace Powow" on Saturday September 25, 2021 from noon-5:30pm.

4. Presentations

4.1 Early Childhood Update

Ms. Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood, was in attendance to update Council on the progress in her department over the past year. Her presentation is attached to and forms part of these Minutes. The highlights of her presentation included the *road to alignment* between Early Childhood and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, statistics on the percentage of children aged 0 to 5 in regulated or unregulated childcare, childhood educators' professional learning hours, statistics on the parent subsidy program, and information regarding the Department's partnership with contracted programs.

During the presentation, questions arose from Council including: how does the percentage of children in childcare match up with the province's benchmark, how do early childhood educators report their completed hours of professional learning, what is the participation rate for professional learning for early childhood educators, and whether they have seen success in the EYE-DA testing now that early childhood centres are following a common curriculum, all of which were addressed by Ms. McNaughton-Dickie.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Selection of Chair & Vice Chair

Mrs. Watson advised that the selection of Chair & Vice Chair had been postponed from Council's August meeting to tonight's meeting and opened to the floor calls for nominations and expressions of interest. Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Spires advised they were both interested in the position of Chair. There were no nominations from the floor and no other member put their name forth for the Chair position. Both Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Spires spoke as to why they felt they were well-suited for the role. Following a secret ballot vote, Mr. Nesbitt was elected as Chair. Mr. Nesbitt asked that Mrs. Watson finish chairing the election portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Watson then called for nominations from the floor, or expressions of interest from any Council member wanting to put their name forth as Vice Chair. Mr. Spires and Ms. Gillis expressed their interest and indicated why they felt they were well suited for the role. Following a secret ballot vote, Ms. Gillis was elected as Vice Chair.

5.2 Provincial Curriculum Evaluation Advisory Committee (PCEAC) – ASD-S representation

Mr. Nesbitt asked if Council members were interested in serving on the PCEAC. This matter had been discussed at the previous month's meeting. Mr. Nesbitt stated that as past Chair of the PCEAC, it is a good experience however a lot of work. Mrs. Watson confirmed after requesting clarification from the Department that one DEC member from each district was needed to serve on the PCEAC. There were no Council members expressing interest.

5.3 First Nations/Student Representative update

Mr. Nesbitt stated that at the last meeting, a request had been put forward to have a letter written to the Minister regarding a First Nations appointment and that this letter had been included with Council's posted material. He reminded that a sub-committee had been formed regarding a student representative. Ms. Murphy then indicated that the sub-committee has had one meeting thus far. They've had consultations with Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, who has provided the committee with documents from other districts. The committee has a meeting scheduled for next week and she is hopeful to have a document prepared for Council for the next meeting.

Mrs. Watson informed that she had connected with Melissa Wright, a teacher at KVHS who has had a leadership role with the NB Student Leadership Association and with Student Councils in ASD-S. She informed Mrs. Watson of the process used in naming students to the Provincial Leadership Group for student councils. In November

when the Provincial Student Leadership Conference is held, one student will be selected to represent each Education Centre.

5.4 PSSC Orientation

Mrs. Watson mentioned that since we are not permitted to have usual welcome back to school events, the principals will be connecting with parents and attempting to setup the schools' PSSC's. The process of setting up PSSCs usually takes until the end of September/early October, and meetings usually begin in October. Last year there was a mix of virtual and in-person meetings. Mrs. Watson was wondering if Council wanted to form a sub-committee on orientation with PSSC members, and whether orientation should be geared only towards new members. There was a discussion on the best way to attract PSSC members and to educate parents on what to expect while serving on a PSSC. It was discussed that Ms. Hanlon, Director of Communications, will send a letter promoting the benefits of joining a PSSC to all parents in School Messenger and it was suggested that the letter be shared on social media as well. A discussion was held regarding what platform to hold the first meeting for new PSSC members. Mrs. Watson pointed out that tools and resources are available on the DEC website that would be beneficial to PSSC members. DEC members indicated a willingness to attend PSSC meetings to review the role. There will be no District led orientation event.

6. New Business

6.1 PSSC Budget

Mrs. Watson advised that the document in question ("Draft Executive Limitation for PSSC Budget Expenses") was posted with documents. This matter was brought forward from a February 2021 meeting, at which time the last DEC thought this matter should be deferred to the new DEC. The document originated with Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, who is seeing "a lot of all over the map spending" with respect to PSSC budget. In the past we have asked PSSCs to direct the funds to supporting family communication, education sessions for families or to support the SIP. There was also a discussion that the title of the document should contain the word "Guideline" rather than an Executive Limitation Policy. It was decided that Mrs. Watson, Mr. Nesbitt, and Ms. Gillis would meet in order to discuss the draft document and its content before the October meeting.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report & Update

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

She highlighted several key areas from her report such as the importance of continuing the practice of having accurate visitor logs for contact tracing, and that it's important for families to advise if they've had contact information changes. She also reported that that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development announced that all staff must submit proof of complete vaccination, and that this was a large undertaking with 69 schools, office and itinerant staff. She advised that class sizes returned to regular sizes for K-5 and there are no more "class bubbles", that bussing has returned to full capacity, and that masking is only required in common areas. She advised that community use of schools is currently only for youth-orientated activities and spoke of the success and continuance of staggered entries into schools. She advised that there was a virtual PD session on September 1st for all teachers led by George Couros, and that she hopes to have a draft DIP by the end of October. She spoke of the success of "Stuff the Bus" at East Point, the greenhouse project at Rothesay Elementary School, that "Hub Kitchen" in east Saint John has relocated and that this program will supply approximately 600 daily lunches to six schools. She advised that kindergarten registration will take place the week after Thanksgiving for fall 2022.

7.2 Correspondence

None. All was 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, October 13, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Tanya Bannister, Recording Secretary