

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – November 9, 2022

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Jane Logan, Wayne Spires, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Teresa Sewell, Richard Malone, Sarah Craig, Ginny Hooper, Jonathan Barry and Shelly Merrill-MacKillop.

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; John MacDonald, Director of Finance, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Marc Godin, Interim Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, 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 7:02 pm. He advised that Amanda Henderson Matthews was 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. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn Nixon. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the October 12, 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. Malone moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

No public wished to address Council. Nicole Craft, a University Student studying Education, was present to observe the meeting.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

Mr. O'Brien began his report by expressing the numerous best wishes he received. He mentioned that on his first official day he met with the Leadership Team. The transition was going really well with positive steps forward.

He mentioned that Marc Godin has taken on the acting responsibility as the Director of Schools in the St. Stephen Education Centre until the position is filled. Interviews will be taking place soon to fill this role.

He noted that a new Admissions Officer was hired in the Welcome Centre in preparation for the arrival of newcomer students in January.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned the Take Me Outside Day which occurred on Wednesday, October 19th. It was an entire week based around encouraging more opportunities for students to learn outdoors.

He spoke about the 200 students who participated in the Middle Level Gay Straight Alliance. He mentioned the Pride in Education Conference which was hosted in Saint John with 100 students from our district who participated.

He commented that 27 high school French Second Language teachers completed the second leg of a First Nations Professional Learning Series. Sessions culminated with a workshop led by Elders David and Imelda Perley. ASD-S is very honoured to have the Perley's take time to work with our high school educators. A series of books were given to the teachers with ready made lessons on how to use each book.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about a Presentation from David A. Robertson, Indigenous Author, on looking at history through an Indigenous lens.

4. Presentation

4.1 Early Childhood Update – Lissa McNaughton-Dickie

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie began the presentation regarding the Canada-Wide for Early Learning Childcare with the agreement which was signed in December 2021. This program will build on our current designation with a 5-year agreement of \$491 million for New Brunswick.

She spoke about the Federal Vision with average reduction of parent costs, establishing an average of a \$10 per day fee by 2025-2026, creating more affordable high-quality licensed early learning and childcare spaces, addressing barriers preventing the delivery of inclusive and flexible services, building a strong base line of common, publicly available data to measure progress, valuing the learning and childhood workforce providing them with training and development opportunities.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie expressed the Provincial Vision – “to create a high quality Early Learning and Childcare system that families can count on and where each child receives the necessary services allowing them to reach their full potential.”

She spoke about each of the four pillars of the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement: Access – every child has access to childcare; Quality – services offering high-quality learning experiences; Affordable – affordable service for parents; Inclusive – services respecting children unicity and that meet their specific needs.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie concluded her presentation by capturing the accomplishments and sharing ongoing work of the 2021-2023 action plan.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Sub District #5 DEC Representative

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned the candidates who have submitted their names for Sub-District #5 are now required to forward a current CV to the Minister's Office. At this time only one of the candidates has completed this task and waiting on the other to do so as well.

6. New Business

6.1 Governance Policies:

GP 4.6 – Effective Communication

GP 4.7 – Public Comments and Presentations

GP 4.8 – Nomination of Student Representative

GP 11 – Code of Conduct

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials.

Ms. Hamm mentioned that Policy 4.6 section 1.2.b. will require the public link to the ASD-S website.

Policy 4.7 was discussed at length. Ms. Craig moved that the sentence in 4.7.4 “Employees are not permitted to request a presentation and must follow appropriate channels” be removed. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion Carried.

Mr. Spires spoke about Policy 4.8 regarding the DEC nominating a Student Representative. There was dialogue amongst the DEC members. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent will review the policy and come back with a Draft copy for the next meeting.

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the topics outlined in GP 11 with the DEC members. He indicated there are references to appendices in the policy, however, they have not been part of it.

6.2 Draft Public Presentation to DEC

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Draft public presentation form. This form was discussed with one change being made on 4.7.5d to indicate 15 minutes (maximum) as well as on the form: Length of Presentation (15 min. max).

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Hamm reported to the DEC members that she attended some PSSC meetings. One was at Inglewood School where they have completed their outdoor classroom.

She mentioned River Valley Middle School PSSC repurposing a space in the school to have a Zen Den for students and staff.

She spoke about PSSC training with new members of her sub-district and that they understand the importance and purpose of the PSSC.

Ms. Hamm commented on the future of French Language studies, which she thinks is paramount and on the minds of many families within the district. Families have been calling, emailing and stopping her on the street to talk about the upcoming changes of French Immersion programming in fall 2023.

Mr. Spires indicated that French is a successful program and Government should continue with the on-going program.

Mr. Spires spoke about the Student Leadership Conference he attended on Nov. 3rd and what an amazing group of students we have in our schools. He talked about the wellness work the students are doing and how they are looking after each other and after Covid they are getting back to normalcy.

Ms. Hooper stated she attended the PSSC meetings in her sub-district recently. She read letters that she received from the PSSC's of Island View School, Beaconsfield School and Seaside Park School voicing their concerns about the changes to the French Immersion program for fall of 2023.

Ms. Logan remarked about her time at the Student Leadership Conference she attended on Nov. 3rd and how insightful and encouraged she was following meeting.

Ms. Logan commented about the presentation by Dr. Chorney at Simonds High School. Some valuable tips were given for families to incorporate at home immediately. She thanked the District for inviting the parents as well to this presentation.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Dates Since Last Meeting

October 14, 2022 – Virtual meeting of the Council of DEC Chairs.

October 20, 2022 – Retirement event for Zoe at Lily Lake.

October 25, 2022 – Meeting with Derek O'Brien re: contract signing

October 25, 2022 – Retirement dinner for Zoe at Shadow Lawn.

October 26, 2022 – Appeal hearing in Saint John.

Governance Review

Since the last meeting the Council of DEC Chairs has decided to engage a lawyer to write a letter to the Hon. Bill Hogan, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development outlining our concerns with proposed

changes to the governance structure. The intent is for this to be followed up with a face to face meeting with the new minister.

The CDC is also planning for a face to face meeting with Susan Holt, Leader of the Liberal Party to bring her up to speed on this matter.

French Immersion

Mr. Nesbitt has been receiving a few questions regarding possible changes to French Immersion. It is our understanding that there will not be French Immersion for grade 1 in the Fall of 2023 but that students already in immersion will continue in that program. Grade 1 students will be introduced to a new program that will be phased in over the next 12 years with the goal of having all students graduate with a conversational level of French.

7.3 Correspondence

Mr. Nesbitt received and read a Thank You card from Zoë Watson.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary