

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – January 11, 2023**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair (on-line), Jane Logan, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Wayne Spires, Teresa Sewell, Ginny Hooper (on-line), Jonathan Barry, Matthew Martin and Amanda Henderson-Matthews (on-line).

**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; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Peter Smith, Director of Education – Support 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 Richard Malone 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. Logan. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the December 14, 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, Ms. Logan moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

No public present.

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

Mr. O'Brien advised that his report had been posted last week for Council to review.

Mr. O'Brien began his report by mentioning there were two Educational Assistants who passed away recently. He also indicated the district support was done very well for the schools. A moment of silence for the families was observed.

He mentioned the continuation of training with all employee groups as it continues moving forward.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the positive work in our schools regarding systemic racism. The Commissioners report that was recently circulated indicated that our district was recognized for appointing one of the first anti-racism and equity coaches. This role is to build capacity with teachers and addressing systemic and overt racism in our schools.

Mr. O'Brien commented on the three schools in our district who were awarded a Desjardin Foundation prize which was based on having a driven school and community workers who are doing something to benefit students in their schools. The schools were Glen Falls, Sussex Regional High School and Quispamsis Middle School.

He noted that during the month of December it was great having Christmas concerts and theater performances back and how these elevate the tone in our buildings. Despite being a busy time of the year, the school staff continue to make memorable experiences that help to create great experiences for all our learners and staff.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned the schools had a dedicated day in December to work on their school improvement goals and that these will contribute to our district improvement plan.

#### **4. Presentation – Community Schools and PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools)**

Mr. Nesbitt introduced Erica Lane our Community Schools Coordinator.

Ms. Lane mentioned the Community Schools and PALS program was initiated 23 years ago by Mr. James K. Irving, Chairman of J.D. Irving, Limited and the Anglophone South School District. Over a period of more than two decades, one school (Prince Charles) and one partner have grown to more than 30 schools and 150 partners and this growth continues. PALS has also spread to other parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

She stated the role for Community Schools and PALS is to develop and nurture relationships between school and community, to deepen community partnerships, source funding for experiential learning and enrichment, and develop and manage programs that educate the whole child empowering them to play the role of global citizen.

Ms. Lane indicated her role was to network and represent the Office of the Superintendent by taking part in a variety of community meetings, committees, working groups and events in order to develop solid and lasting working relationships and partnerships. She also supervises 14 Community School Coordinators to ensure that all programs, activities and services reflect the primary goal of enriching and supporting educational outcomes.

She highly praised the Community School Coordinators who acquire volunteers and programming to support the School Improvement Program and Positive Learning and Work Environment Plan. They work with the school principal and the District Community Schools Coordinator to develop long-term strategic plans for local community and business involvement with the schools. They also act as the prime liaison with the school and community in cooperation with the principal. They ensure student nutritional and clothing needs are met.

Ms. Lane indicated the PALS Coordinators develop and facilitate partnerships, volunteers, programs and opportunities to support the needs of students lacking resources which are identified by the school and support these initiatives. They ensure that all programs, activities and services follow all necessary guidelines mandated by EECD.

Ms. Lane commented about the many items in their tool box which allows them to move forward with this wonderful program.

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

##### **5.1 Nomination of Student Representative: Student Leaders Council**

Mr. O'Brien will move forward with the Student Leadership Council. As a follow up to the question in December about having an "alternate" for the DEC Student Representative, it was suggested to go with one member. Staff will begin organizing and aim to have a student representative chosen for DEC to consider and recommend to the Minister by the end of June 2023.

Mr. O'Brien commented that Governance Policy 4.8 will need to align so the policy committee will review it for any necessary changes and bring back to the next meeting in February.

**6. New Business**

**6.1 Council-Staff Relationship**

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed C-SR 1.2 Accountability of the Superintendent and C-SR 1.3 Delegation to the Superintendent. There was discussion about C-SR 1.2 point 3 regarding wording change for "identical".

**6.2 Expenditure Plan Update (2022-2023)**

Mr. John MacDonald presented the Expenditure Plan Update (2022-2023) forecasting the break even. Mr. Spires moved that we accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Expenditure Plan Update as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

**7. Information Items**

**7.1 Member's Notebook**

Mr. Spires mentioned that each student at the Milltown Elementary School received a new pair of pajamas to go home with before Christmas Break. St. Stephen Elementary school has great success with the auction in December and he noted how impressed he was with the French language learning at Vincent Massey School. Learning in that school has leaped and bounded to the forefront of what language learning should be about.

**7.2 Chair's Report and Update**

Mr. Nesbitt spoke about the new school planning committee being established for the new schools to replace St. John the Baptist/King Edward and Prince Charles Schools, and Centennial and Hazen White/St. Francis. DEC member Matthew Martin has agreed to serve on the planning committee for the south end school and Jane Logan will be on the planning committee for the north end school.

Mr. Nesbitt congratulated Matthew Martin on receiving the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for his anti-racism work.

He reminded the members about the Minister's Forum which will be held on January 26 & 27, 2023.

**7.3 Correspondence**

Mr. Nesbitt reported he received a letter of resignation from Shelly Merrill-McKillop in December. Mr. Spires moved that we accept this resignation with regret. Seconded by Ms. Logan. Motion carried.

**8. Adjournment**

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary