

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – February 8, 2023**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**ASD-S Staff:**

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications (on-line); John MacDonald, Director of Finance (on-line), 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 7:00pm. He advised that Richard Malone and Jonathan Barry 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. Ms. Logan 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 January 11, 2023 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. Craig. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

No public wished to address Council. Todd Johnston, the PSSC Chair from Quispamsis Elementary School, was present to observe the meeting.

**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 that student data on reading comprehension is being collected and used to identify vulnerable, on track, and accelerated readers when they transition to middle school. All schools will have year-end data to share with middle schools and ten elementary schools will collect pre and post data to measure student progress.

He mentioned ASD-S is joining other "coalition partners" in Saint John in a project called Planet Youth. Planet Youth is provincial initiative to address substance use among adolescents. Saint John is one of the four provincial pilot sites for the five-year project. The project aims to find community-driven solutions that are specific to the needs in Saint John, based on the Icelandic Prevention Model, a highly successful evidence-based and community-based model of harm reduction used in that country.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about administrators and counsellors from each high school who are receiving a one-day training in Digital Threat Assessment. This training is a live, online training run by Safer Schools Together, a Canadian organization specializing in threat assessment and is complimentary to our current Violent Threat Risk Assessment training. When collecting data to assess a threat made to a school or the risk an individual may present, each high school will have staff with the skills to screen the social media platforms that youth currently use.

He mentioned that Todd Cormier, a School Counselling Coordinator, is completing training in the new Violent Threat Risk Assessment. Once Todd is certified as a VTRA trainer, he will take on the responsibility of training our district and partner agencies in the VTRA model.

Mr. O'Brien pointed out that our Welcoming Schools Initiative is proceeding. 23 schools have done an environmental scan and have chosen areas of growth to work on. Environment/inclusion tends to be a popular one for growth.

He spoke about a drum program that includes a series of lesson plans, World-of-wisdom visit, authentic music, and actual drums for students to use.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by congratulating Ann Hogan, Healthy Learners Nurse from the Hampton Education Centre, as she was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee award for her contribution to our schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He also mentioned about the press release regarding Early Childhood and the call for proposals for preschool spaces across the South. He spoke about the continuing growth of newcomers to the province and the additional staff required in the Welcome Centre to accommodate the families and students coming to the area.

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **4.1 Ends #1 Provide a healthy, safe, inclusive environment for learners, staff, families, and partners.**

Mr. O'Brien began his presentation by stating this policy was agreed on back at the end of October. There are two specific goals in this policy with the first one indicating we ensure all learners, staff, families, and partners benefit from a positive, inclusive learning and working environment that promotes health and safety.

Mr. O'Brien outlined the first strategy which supports schools in the development and implementation of ASD-S Health and Safety practices. He mentioned the School Safety Plans which are updated every year as per the District template. These templates were built in collaboration with EECD Safety/Crisis Planning staff, RCMP and Municipal Police Forces. Mr. O'Brien indicated the Occupation Health and Safety Coordinator visited every school to ensure their Health and Safety Boards are consistent and have all required legislated information posted.

The second strategy is to support learners, staff, families, and partners with the priorities identified by the ASD-S District Health Advisory committee. This committee met and identified priorities which are mental fitness, healthy relationships, vaping/smoking, and nutrition in schools.

Mr. O'Brien continued the presentation with the second goal, maximize the re-engagement of staff, families, and the school community through effective communication and outreach. The first strategy for this goal is to ensure school leaders have opportunities to share best practices and engage their PSSC's at meetings. Clusters of Principals met back in October 2022 and will meet again in April/May to discuss and share ways to engage their PSSC's.

The second strategy was to develop a school survey for December and May/June to measure involvement of families, community, and partners. Our Director of Communications surveyed schools. Schools are hosting events again, seeing many parents participate, and there is evidence of schools offering new events to engage families.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hamm moved to approve the Ends #1 Monitoring Report as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn Nixon. Motion Carried.

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

### **5.1 Sub District #2 Update**

Mr. Nesbitt reported that a letter was sent to the Minister and nothing has come back at this time.

### **5.2 Policy Revisions**

Mr. Nesbitt reported that the Policy Committee met to review wording for the following policies: C-SR 1.2, C-SR 1.4, C-SR 1.5. and GP 4.8

C-SR 1.2 – Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the policy and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the revised policy as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion Carried.

C-SR 1.4 - Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the policy and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Logan moved to approve the revised policy as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion Carried.

C-SR 1.5 - Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the policy and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Logan moved to approve the revised policy as presented. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion Carried.

GP 4.8 - Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the policy and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hamm moved to approve the revised policy as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion Carried.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 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. Ms. Craig indicated she was having difficulty attending the PSSC meeting at Glen Falls due to schedule conflicts, but she stays in regular contact with the PSSC chair.

### **6.2 Council-Staff Relationship**

C-SR-1.4 – Monitoring Superintendent Performance and Annual Evaluation

C-SR 1.5 – Reappointment of the Superintendent

These policies were review and approved under Business Arising from Minutes.

### **6.3 Monitoring Reports**

EL 3.1 – Emergency Superintendent Succession

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

EL 3.2 – Human Resources

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

## **7. Information Items**

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

Ms. Craig spoke about a PSSC meeting she attended at Forest Hills School and how one of the teachers is helping students in grades 6, 7 and 8 on financial literacy. Students develop a budget and learn how to start a business.

Ms. Logan mentioned that one of our priority schools has a Walking School Bus. With attendance being an issue and students struggling to get to school regularly an initiative was started by walking the Kindergarten to Grade 2 students to school. The principal and school coordinator are generally walking with 13 – 18 children on average every day.

Mr. Spires commented about a PSSC meeting which he attended where Lisa Williams, an RCMP officer, spoke to the group about the use of cell phones by children and how students that are in the earlier grades are being targeted. He is arranging a meeting for Officer Williams to speak with another PSSC group. Mr. Spires mentioned that it might be good to have Officer Williams speak to all the parents of each Education Centre.

Ms. Hamm reported that she had the opportunity to attend PSSC meetings at Westfield Primary and River Valley Middle Schools. One item that was consistent through all the PSSC meetings is that we have a number of schools that are focusing on family engagement, volunteer hot lunch programs and outdoor family night. She mentioned she attended the sessions regarding the New Brunswick Innovative Immersion Program. Ms. Hamm also indicated from the PSSC meetings which she attended, many are focusing on their school improvement plan.

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

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned that we move the March meeting to the 22<sup>nd</sup> as the Superintendent will be away on vacation during our scheduled meeting.

He gave an update about the New School Committees (North & South) which have started to meet with good discussion amongst the members.

He reminded the members about the Minister's Forum which will now be held on February 16, 2023 with Governance changes being on the agenda.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary