

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – March 13, 2024

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Ginny Hooper, Shane Borthwick, Christine Eruokwu, Jon Barry (on-line), Kaylee Johnson (on-line), Amanda Henderson-Matthews (on-line) and Wayne Spires.

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; 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 and Instruction, Peter Smith, Director of Educational Support Services, John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (on-line), Mark Blucher, Acting Supervisor of Data & Accountability and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. He advised that Jennifer Sheils, Sarah Craig and Matthew Martin sent their regrets.

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. Hamm. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 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. Hooper moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

Mr. Nesbitt opened the floor for public comment and asked if anyone wished to address Council. The first member of the public to address council was Will Warman, a student on the football team at KVHS, who spoke about the recent dismissal of their coach, Mike Mangusso, and the profound impact it has had on the community, particularly the students. The second member of the public to address the council was Kaiden Christie, another student on the football team at KVHS who also made a statement regarding the release of the head coach, Michael Mangusso.

The third member of the public to address the council was Amy Hoyt. Ms. Hoyt came in to express her wishes that a memorial to her son be included in the Hampton High yearbook. Other members of the public spoke on her behalf and did not identify themselves.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

He spoke about the District Improvement Plan goals and the training that has continued in education support services with subject coordinators, the counselling coordinators, school leads, and the child and youth teams. They participated in a workshop in February on Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in children and youth presented by Dr. Dan Chorney. He also noted the work that continues around trauma treatment.

Mr. O'Brien mention how pleased he is with the second goal and the work that Therese Trofimencoff is doing around antiracism and equity. Each week the Southern Exposure has added an article "Ask Me Anything" about race and racism. This gives opportunities for questions to be asked that may be difficult and she provides some really great responses. He pointed out that other schools are also doing antiracism initiatives that are student led, and that February, Black History Month, was observed in many schools. He also mentioned the other work going on around First Nations with the teacher Drum Workshop which is always a popular event.

He spoke of the When Children Succeed Project and how encouraging the results were from the final report that will be shared with the DEC members. This project focuses on additional co-teaching support in classroom to close reading and numeracy gaps.

Mr. O'Brien commented on our resource teachers who are being trained to do assessments that will provide information to schools so that they can help students with learning challenges.

He concluded his report by mentioning that there were six additional Behavior Intervention Mentors who have now been hired for various schools. He mentioned about attending the production at Norton Elementary School "High Seas" which was very well attended for a small school. He alluded to the large attendance at the "Author's Night" at Hampton Elementary School to celebrate literacy. Mr. O'Brien congratulated the NBIAA Basketball Final 12, Kennebecasis Valley High School who won the Boy's AAA championship for the first time in 37 years as well as St. Stephen High School who won the Girl's AA championship.

4. Presentation – Equity and Inclusion

Mr. Peter Smith began the presentation by speaking about the goals: strengthen our inclusive system to be antiracist, affirming, and equitable and honor diversity and welcome all students. He continued by defining the terms of inclusive education, antiracism, affirming, equity and diversity.

He spoke about the ASD-S Equity Anchor Events with the first event being the High School Antiracism Summit which occurred in the fall of 2023. All high schools in ASD-S were invited to send a teacher and a group of students to learn about antiracism and plan initiatives for antiracism activities at their schools. This will now be an annual event. The second event also occurred in the fall of 2023 with the Middle School GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliance) Day. All middle schools were invited to send a teacher and a group of students, and the goal of this event was to help students learn how to make their schools more affirming and supportive of LGBTQ+ youth. The third event was the Youth Mental Health Forum which began in ASD-S in 2017. This forum was an opportunity for high school students across the district to come together and learn about mental health, share their experiences and concerns, and brainstorm actions they can take within their schools to address the problems they see.

Mr. Smith continued his presentation by talking about the Advisory Committees that are in ASD-S. There are two advisory committees that meet twice annually. These are the Antiracism Advisory Committee and the LGBTQ+/SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Advisory Committee. These committees ensure that ASD-S leadership hear the voices of students and community members on homophobia/transphobia and racism and to allow ASD-S to develop the best interventions to address these problems.

He spoke about the daily work that Ms. Jennifer Grant, School Counselling Coordinator, who leads a team of three teachers in building capacity in schools to address racism, sexism, and homophobia. Some of the daily work includes supporting 8 schools with the Capacity for Courage Grants, reviewing 32 school requests at all

levels, staff presentations around antiracism, teacher coaching, classroom presentations on empathy, SOGI and antiracism.

Mr. Smith mentioned the 2022 High School Systemic Racism Survey. This was the first survey of its kind in New Brunswick and was designed to provide ASD-S leadership with a snapshot of the experiences of our high school students and to give us a baseline by which we can measure our progress with antiracism initiatives. Results of the survey were given to the principals who were encouraged to add antiracism and equity goals to their school improvement plans.

Mr. Smith concluded his presentation by indicating that in October 2023, ASD-S created a SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Educator Network for staff members to connect them with each other, encourage peer support, allow them to consult with one another on problem-solving, and to share the successes in their schools.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt advised there was no new business arising from the February 14, 2024 minutes.

6. New Business

6.1 Capital Projects & 2024 Summer Improvement Projects

It was decided that this would be tabled and reported on at the April 10, 2024 meeting.

6.2 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there would any members who would take part in the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee. The committee will be represented by Roger Nesbitt, Chair, and Wayne Spires at this point.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Kaylee Johnson, our student representative, explained the top 5 issues at the high schools. The issues are discrimination, bathrooms, career/course planning, mental health and community. She broke down these issues starting with discrimination and how it is based on special needs, language programs, culture and bigotry; access to bathrooms concerns are vaping, gender-neutral access and doors. Career/course planning (guidance) is another issue where access to early guidance to inform course selection, post-secondary program information, in-person guidance and hearing from people in the workforce. Access to mental health support concerns are that there are not enough guidance counsellors, long wait time, students with trauma, socialization, emotional well-being and impacts from COVID. The final issue she mentioned was the lack of community engagement and how school spirit has been difficult to gain after COVID and how there are fewer school initiatives so fewer chances to connect with peers.

Mr. Shane Borthwick reported that he attended two PSSC meetings in his sub-district and that there are lots of issues in the hopper.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Retreat Planning

A reminder of the DEC retreat planned for **Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Delta Hotel 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.** He sincerely hopes that you all will be able to attend as this is a very worthwhile day and will be of great benefit to all.

Chairs Virtual Meetings

Roland Collette has proposed that he meet virtually with all the DEC Chairs on a monthly basis. The purpose of these meetings would be to bring us up to date on his activities and alert us to EECD initiatives.

7.3 Correspondence

Mr. Nesbitt read a letter received from Stephen Hickey, Phys. Ed. Specialist from Princess Elizabeth School on behalf of the school community requesting to name the school gymnasium in honor of one of the schools greatest members, Trevor Morris.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward. Mr. Spires moved that the District Education Council of ASD-S approve the request to name the gymnasium at Princess Elizabeth School in memory of the late Trevor Morris as per authority under provincial Policy 409. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion Caried.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary