

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – December 13, 2023

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, December 13, 2022. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair (on-line), Beth McQuinn Nixon, Ginny Hooper, Jonathan Barry, Matthew Martin, Jennifer Sheils, Shane Borthwick 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, Mark Blucher, Acting Supervisor of Data & Accountability, Susan Moffatt (on-line) and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. He advised that Sarah Craig and Amanda Henderson-Matthews 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.

Sub-District #6 Representative – Christine Eruokwu was sworn in as a new council member.

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 Mr. McQuinn Nixon. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the November 15, 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 Mr. Barry. 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 the second annual Anti-Racism Summit which took place on November 14, 2023. We are also working diligently internally on developing a policy of anti-racism and Melissa Savoie has taken the lead on this process and will bring the draft policy for DEC to review.

He spoke about the Elementary Principal meetings which took place the last couple of days and a good portion of their agenda was around the holistic curriculum. The Middle Schools Principals and High Schools Principals will also be meeting to discuss the key changes in the holistic curriculum.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned he participated in the Pride in Education Conference which was hosted at Saint John High School. There were schools across the province who attended this conference and it was a fantastic event. Having these events reminded him how important the work that is happening in middle and high schools with the Gay Straight Alliances is to our students.

He commented on the number of staff including school administrators, counsellors and child & youth team members who attended the Hope Restored Trauma Conference in November.

He spoke about the Master of Education in Counselling cohort with UNB which will run a program for ASD-S teachers. Finding qualified guidance counsellors in our schools is often a challenge. There are several teachers in our district who want to complete their guidance certification and take advantage of this program. At this time, 18 people have completed the program and others will be entering the program.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Sub District #6 DEC Representative

Mr. Nesbitt welcomed Christine Eruokwu as a new member of the District Education Council for Sub-District #6.

Mr. Nesbitt advised the members that our Student Member, Kaylee Johnson, was approved and will be joining the committee in January 2024.

5. New Business

5.1 Council-Staff Relationship

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed C-SR 1.0 Global Governance and C-SR 1.1 Unity of Control.

6. Information Items

6.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Spires talked about Vincent Massey Elementary School who have developed a school plan called Dive into Five at MES. They are trying to produce within the student's self-control, empathy, integrity and embracing diversity. He also visited Milltown Elementary School where they are in the process of collecting pajamas for every student.

Mr. Martin spoke about the Saint John High School Holiday Breakfast which he attended. This is one of the fundraising events they do within the school and following the breakfast the staff put on a variety show for the students. Being at these events also gave him an opportunity to chat with the students and just hang out with them.

Ms. Hooper mentioned the Memorial Basketball Game between Saint John High School and St. Malachy's Memorial High School.

Mr. Borthwick spoke about the staffing issues at Fundy Middle/High School and the continued challenge not just at this school but schools in the district. He also mentioned about the homelessness in his area along with the district.

6.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Nesbitt began his report by indicating he attended the Ministers Forum on November 14th in Fredericton with EECD, the Deputy Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister. It was a good session and lots of topics were talked about. Staffing and budget issues were among the discussions. There seemed to be a spirit of cooperation with the leadership in the department and a more positive atmosphere.

He remarked about a possible strike with the Custodial, Bus and Administrative staff.

Mr. Nesbitt took the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and expressed the hope that all would experience great joy and peace this Christmas season.

6.2 Correspondence

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

7. Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary

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