

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – February 14, 2024**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Ginny Hooper, Matthew Martin, Jennifer Sheils, Shane Borthwick (on-line), Christine Eruokwu, Sarah Craig (on-Line), Amanda Henderson-Matthews (on-line), Teresa Sewell (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, John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration, Susan Moffatt (on-line) and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

**1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets**

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. He advised that Jonathan Barry may not be able to attend tonight's meeting due to work commitments.

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.

Student Representative – Kaylee Johnson was sworn in as a new council member.

Mr. Nesbitt introduced Roland Colette who is the new DEC Manager.

**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. Hamm moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the December 13, 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. Hooper. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

Two members of the public were in attendance.

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

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

He began his report by sharing that this is Teacher and Staff Appreciation. He recognized the dedicated staff we have in Anglophone South School District stating that serving communities is extremely challenging work and our teachers and staff go above and beyond the leading, learning and growing of our district improvement plan.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the early career teacher support where 50 new teachers visited an experienced classroom teacher to observe and debrief based on a personalized professional goal.

He mentioned the Violence Threat Risk Assessment refresher training that Principals received in January 2024. He spoke about the K-8 School Counselling Professional Learning along with the Resource Leads who met with schools participating in the Personal Learning Plan Review.

Mr. O'Brien indicated that 25 educators from Kindergarten to Grade 12 had an opportunity to connect with other teachers in the district who are working to provide safer and more inclusive spaces.

He referenced the work our Director of Curriculum and Instruction is doing to implement best practices regarding the holistic curriculum. The implementation is underway.

Mr. O'Brien concluded by speaking about the Behaviour Intervention Mentors identifying the schools that currently have mentors and how some mentors from the District Office can be dispatched to support the schools that do not have a mentor.

#### **4. Presentation – Technologies that Enhance Learning**

Mr. Darren White began his presentation by explaining how far we have come in technology from chalk boards, chalk and over head projectors to smart boards. Since COVID technology has been pushed forward.

He spoke about the three areas where technology has made huge leaps. The first is accessibility tools which allows students to use speech to text/text to speech, immersive reader, the ability to rehearse with a coach and present PowerPoint live. The second area is Interactive Whiteboard (Smart Boards). Whiteboards are touch screens allowing better student engagement and benefits students with disabilities as well as an effective formative assessment tool. The third area is Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI as a classroom tool has its challenges but also has potential uses with outlining, idea generation and school AI. The Chat GPT is a big AI generative text tool. AI tools that are now in use at schools, include School AI and Magic AI.

Mr. White concluded his presentation indicating all these areas will take a bit of work and we are not quite there yet, but he is excited to see where we will be over the next weeks and months as it continues to gain momentum.

### **New Business**

#### **5.1 Council-Staff Relationship**

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the following during the meeting:

- C-SR 1.2 Accountability of the Superintendent
- C-SR 1.3 Delegation to the Superintendent
- C-SR 1.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
- C-SR 1.5 Reappointment of the Superintendent

#### **5.2 Executive Limitations: Monitoring Reports**

- EL 3.1 – Emergency Superintendent Succession

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the monitoring report. Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hooper moved to approve the monitoring report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

- EL 3.2 – Human Resources

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

#### **5.3 Schools not visited by DEC (from Policy 4.6)**

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned to the DEC members that a minimum of one visit per year to a PSSC meeting is required and if the members are unable to get to all the school to reach out to Mr. Nesbitt.

#### **5.4 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter forecast to end of December 2023**

Mr. John MacDonald presented the Expenditure Plan Update (2023-2024) forecasting a balanced budget. Mr. Spires moved that we accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Expenditure Plan Update as presented. Seconded by Ms. Sheils. Motion carried.

### **5. Information Items**

#### **5.1 Member's Notebook**

Ms. Hamm spoke about the staff appreciation week and that she had the opportunity to attend the Saint John High School Show "A Bit of Broadway". The students did a phenomenal job.

Mr. Spires mentioned he participated in a virtual PSSC meeting with Milltown Elementary School. He also spoke about the presentation on Teaching Children How To Read. He also attended the St. Stephen Elementary School PSSC meeting, and they too were talking about the Teaching Children How To Read program.

Ms. Sheils spoke about the PSSC meeting she attended at Dr. A. T. Leatherbarrow Primary School. The PSSC group is looking at building a campaign or awareness for families around the impact of screen time. She talked about the keen interest the families have wanting to learn more about access to primary care options in their communities. She also mentioned about the gaps in the system around engagement for speech language pathology and occupational therapy, and how the early age of the intervention is important.

Mr. Martin spoke about the virtual training around Antiracism which will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Johnson indicated the student leaders from the other high schools haven't been together for awhile but from her perspective Saint John High School is doing well as they are a pilot school for High School Renewal where different credit programs are beginning.

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

##### Dates Since Last Meeting

December 20, 2023 – CDC met with new DEC Manager, Roland Colette, on teams

January 17, 2024 – Appeal Hearings

January 19, 2024 – CDC met with Mr. Colette in Moncton

January 23, 2024 – PSSC at Lakefield Elementary

January 24, 2024 – Met with D. O'Brien regarding DEC Retreat plans

January 24, 2024 – PSSC at Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary

January 31, 2024 – Parents Night at Quispamsis Middle

February 9, 2024 – Appeal Hearing

##### Excellence in Education Awards

The deadline for nominations was Friday the February 9<sup>th</sup>. This deadline had been extended from the original date of January 26<sup>th</sup>. We received 9 nominations from across ASD-S and with the help of Amanda Hamm, Ginny Hooper and Wayne Spires 3 were selected to receive the awards on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

##### April 20 DEC Retreat

You received a DRAFT copy of the agenda for the session planned for Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Delta Brunswick, Saint John. The agenda is in draft form as the details are being finalized. Mr. Nesbitt hopes everyone will be able to attend as he thinks we have put together a very important day and have tried to respond to requests and suggestions that have come forth from DEC members.

##### Appeal Committee on Teacher Certification

Mr. Nesbitt has recently been appointed to this important committee for a 3 year term.

#### **5.2 Correspondence**

Dealt with prior to the meeting.

**6. Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary