

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – April 10, 2024**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Ginny Hooper, Matthew Martin, Shane Borthwick, Christine Eruokwu, Sarah Craig (on-line), Amanda Henderson-Matthews (on-line), Teresa Sewell, Jon Barry, Kaylee Johnson and Wayne Spires.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent (on-line); 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, John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration, and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. He noted regrets from Beth McQuinn-Nixon.

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 Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the March 13, 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**

Two members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Ben McNamara, the Director of Education and Policy with Inclusion New Brunswick, shared that one of the recipients of the National Inclusive Education Awards for the Province of New Brunswick will be Matthew Martin. Each year, Inclusion New Brunswick solicits public nominations for educators, parents or students who support individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. It was apparent to the selection committee how Mr. Martin's work has helped transform Anglophone South School District to become more inclusive.

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

Prior to beginning his report, Mr. O'Brien offered congratulations to three teachers who were honored in our district with the Brilliant Labs Innovation and Creativity in Education Awards. The awards were presented to Andrew Jones of Grand Manan Community School, Joceyln Wells of St. Malachy's Memorial High School and Ashley McDade of Fundy Shores School. These awards are presented to teachers who have demonstrated the problem-solving skills and ideas needed to create, innovate, and inspire a future of sustainable, socially and environmentally responsible growth.

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

He began his report by highlighting our Leadership Development and how we are working with, training, and preparing teachers to be school principals or school vice principals. He noted we had over 40 applicants for the next cohort.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the ESS training that continues with the resource leads as well as school counselors and the behavior intervention mentors. We are seeing progress in schools that have behavior intervention mentors.

Mr. O'Brien noted that staff, Child and Youth teams, and counselling coordinators who took part in the Radius Child & Youth Services workshop. We also have 15 teachers who will start their work in May towards qualifications to be school guidance counselors.

He highlighted a few activities that took place in February and March around Black History Month, but particularly in March, there was a bus tour focus on the black history of Saint John and surrounding area. 25 educators participated.

He spoke about the positive results with the academic support teachers who are in K-5 schools supporting teachers and learners. We also have Rick Wormeli, a leading expert in assessment and grading, who is working with our curriculum team to begin building long term assessment plans.

Mr. O'Brien indicated that we continue to move forward with the implementation of the holistic curriculum and there will be a number of sessions over the next couple of months for teachers, but also for principals and vice principals.

He concluded his report by mentioning the Education Support Services Subject Coordinators who are completing needs assessments for transition to kindergarten students in each of our schools. They are meeting with the schools and families to determine what needs the child has and how we can meet those with the services available at the school. These meetings take a bit of time, but it is important for data collection to make staffing recommendations.

#### **4. Presentation – Community Schools & PALS**

Ms. Erica Lane, our Community Engagement Coordinator, began the presentation by stating that she works with all the Community Schools and works closely with the PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) Program.

She mentioned that PALS is now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year and next year will celebrate 25 years of huge successes within our district. PALS began at Prince Charles School with the premise of bringing mentors into the school. Mr. J.K. Irving saw the need and thought we can make a difference. He freed up an hour a day for his staff to go into the school and work one on one with students in every way either academically or socially. There are over 30 schools and over 180 partners who are attached to various schools.

Ms. Lane spoke about how the Community Schools came along in 2007 which was a Provincial initiative and launched at Hazen White School. Currently, there are 16 Community Schools with 14 Community School Coordinators.

Ms. Lane introduced Victoria Mosley, the PALS En Route to Success Lead, and Susan Tipper, PALS High School Coordinator. Ms. Mosley spoke about the En Route Program that supports high school students. The focus for En Route is specifically for students who live below the poverty line and who are at risk of potentially dropping out of school. En Route is an opportunity for students to learn outside of the walls of a school for part of their day. We have various businesses that support our students and part of our job is recruiting businesses that will accept our students. The students have guaranteed summer employment with the business where they learned through the semester.

Ms. Tipper indicated one of the largest hurdles is finding businesses which would be willing to take a grade 9 student into their workplace. She explained that the businesses who take on the students are responsible for

appointing two employees to be the student's mentor while they are there. Ms. Tipper shared success stories of some students who have gone through this program and how it assisted in life-long learning and employment.

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

### **5.1 Executive Limitations: Monitoring Reports**

#### EL 3.3 – Information to Council

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. Mr. Spires moved to approve the monitoring report as presented. Seconded by Ms. Eruokwu. Motion carried.

#### EL 3.4 – Financial Administration

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. Hamm moved to approve the monitoring report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 2025 Capital Projects & 2024 Summer Improvement Projects**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Capital Improvement List 2025-2026 (9 projects) that are slotted to be completed in the summer of 2025.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no other questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Capital Improvement List 2025-2026 Improvement Projects List as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Major Capital Projects (6 projects) and requested the recommendation for mid-life upgrade for Princess Elizabeth School be considered as the third project of district priority.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no other questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Major Capital Projects List with the recommendation for mid-life upgrade for Princess Elizabeth School the third project in priority as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

## **7. Information Items**

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

Ms. Johnson indicated that Saint John High School has received the Halo devices for some washrooms which will detect vaping and will help alleviate the number of students in the washrooms. She mentioned a student from Grand Manan Community School reached out to her regarding the large snowstorm on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The roads were not cleared; however, school was not cancelled. She mentioned the community would like to be able to make decisions for their school during snowstorms. Ms. Johnson also mentioned the next Student Leaders Council meeting is scheduled in June.

Ms. Amanda Hamm mentioned she attended the PSSC meeting at Inglewood on March 20<sup>th</sup>. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> she attended the St. Malachy's production of the Adams Family which was amazing. On April 9<sup>th</sup> she attended the PSSC meeting at River Valley Middle School. There are still numerous challenges within this school, including being short staffed and not knowing how they are going to have the classrooms with certified educators. Another topic that was spoken about at this meeting was the importance of the replacement for the Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood Schools. Ms. Hamm also mentioned about the Wellness Night happening at Westfield School that is put on by all the PSSCs in Sub-District #3.

Mr. Wayne Spires indicated that he attended 2 PSSC meetings one at Milltown School where they have a reading specialist in the school and the work she is doing is amazing how. The children have come a long way in a short time with the inclusion of phonics in their teaching. The second meeting was at St. Stephen Middle School where an announcement was made about Sistema coming to Charlotte County.

Ms. Christine Eruokwu mentioned she attended a few PSSC meetings, but one of the remarkable ones was at Centennial School when they will be given School Start in the new school year. This program will provide

students with supplies. Centennial School is also preparing for a career fair for their students. She mentioned that during the Black History month they also had a dance group from Halifax teaching the students how to drum.

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

### Extended School Day

A reminder about the extended day for all K-2 which begins in September with students staying to the end of day with the other grades. It would be helpful to ensure that your PSSC's know about this.

### DEC Retreat

A reminder that the DEC Retreat is set for next Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Delta Brunswick Hotel in Saint John in the McAvity Room. There are about a dozen confirmed so far and there is room for a few more.

### Chair's Meeting with Roland Collette

We held our first monthly meeting on teams with Roland Collette on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. The focus of this meeting was on EECD policies. Lisa Lanacaire-McHardie and Beth Morrison from Policy and Planning updated us on policies currently being reviewed. EECD has some 69 policies that are being looked at for relevancy.

### ELPA Results

Chair's also met on teams with Inga Boehler from Assessment Branch regarding the grade 9 results on the English Language Proficiency Assessments. This meeting took place on Wednesday, April 4, 2024. These results are currently under embargo until the Department releases them publicly.

### Superintendent Evaluation

This committee was formed at the March meeting with Wayne Spires volunteering to work with me on it. There is room for 1 or 2 more so if interested, please send me an email.

## **7.3 Correspondence**

Dealt with prior to the meeting.

## **8 Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary