

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – October 11, 2023**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Wayne Spires, Amanda Henderson-Matthews (on-line), Jon Barry (on-line), Ginny Hooper, Matthew Martin, Sarah Craig, Beth McQuinn-Nixon, Teresa Sewell, Shane Borthwick and Jennifer Sheils

**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 (on-line); Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Peter Smith, Director of Educational Support Services; Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood Education & Development and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the September 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, Ms. Hooper moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

No public were 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 indicating the challenge as we are in between district improvement plans. We have done a lot of work on the new improvement plan and continue with the strategies to align with the goals. The Leadership team will be working to refine goals and strategies which will be ready to bring to the next meeting for the DEC's approval.

He spoke about the activities of belonging that happened in the month of September, even though it was the beginning of the school year there still were lots of things going on. One in particular was September 22<sup>nd</sup>, which was one of our first professional learning days in the district. It was a department owned day where packages were given to principals to implement in their schools.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned the achievement of the transition coaches who support students with the new career framework and hopeful transition at three high schools (Simonds, Hampton and Kennebecasis Valley). He also mentioned that subject coordinators are supporting early career teachers.

He reported on professional competences where we are working with staff to fulfil their leadership potential through a variety of workshops.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by speaking about the work that is being done with the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) group with the creation of the educator's network. This means our teacher group is supporting learners in school and this demonstrates what is being done in the area of equity.

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **4.1. Early Childhood Update**

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie began her presentation by highlighting the Canada Wide pillars: access and affordability, quality learning environments, inclusion and diversity and workforce capacity. She explained that early childhood is currently in negotiations with the federal government for the Canada Wide 2023-2026 action plan and hoping to get it signed off so their initiatives and projects can get started.

She introduced the members of her team and the important roles they play in providing families support during the formative years.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie spoke about the early learning facilities who have been designated with a quality improvement plan. These facilities have goals to work towards throughout the year with the support of the early learning consultants by providing professional learning opportunities.

She mentioned the bridging program which has been in place for approximately 7 years now and this past year the focus was on Anti-Bias and Inclusivity. With the District Improvement Plan continuing to evolve, Early Childhood is looking to cultivate a sense of belonging and inclusivity that empowers and honors all learners.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie concluded her presentation by introducing the members of the Talk with Me team and the roles they have in providing families support. Talk with Me is a community-based program designed to support the needs of families with children prior to school entry. They provide Speech Language Pathology services to over 1000 families each year. Talk with Me has also partnered with the Newcomers Welcome Centre and Family and Child Education by helping 17 families through interpreters representing 3 languages in the 2022-2023 school year.

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

##### **5.1 Sub District #6 Update**

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the Minister has information regarding the three qualified individuals. We are still waiting for Minister Hogan to select and appoint one person to complete the term of office that ends June 30, 2025.

##### **5.2 Report from the Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee was called to meet on October 3, 2023 in response to the motion referred from the September DEC meeting. Stacey Brown, former DEC Manager was engaged as the policy expert. The result was that she was comfortable with the wording of the motion made and the addition to Ends Policy 4.

No further recommendations were made by the committee at this time.

#### **6. New Business**

##### **Governance Policies**

4.3 Chairs Role

4.4 Council Committee Principles and Structure

4.5 Annual Council Planning Cycle

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials.

## 7. Information Items

### 7.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Hamm reported she had the opportunity to attend PSSC meetings at both Inglewood and River Valley Middle School. River Valley Middle School was selected by the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation for their 2023 Adopt a School Program. River Valley Middle School was a successful recipient of a generous grant from the New Brunswick's Children's Foundation to help support the revitalization of their active outdoor space. Ms. Hamm also attended a couple of events one being the Middle School Cross Country event with students from all over the district, and the second, the HONK musical put on by the students at Harbour View High School.

Mr. Spires reported he was pleased to visit St. Stephen High School one evening where the parents of the grade 9 students became students for the evening. The parents followed the schedule of their student and had a great time finding out exactly how to navigate their way through the school and this allowed the parents to meet the teachers. He also attended the PSSC meeting at Vincent Massey Elementary and they are struggling to get members. An option may be for parents to attend on-line for the meetings. He also attended the PSSC meeting at Milltown Elementary School where lots of parents attended.

Mr. Martin reported he attended a conference in Moncton where all the principals attended as well. He was able to get a different perspective of their role. He spoke about the sense of team he witnessed during the conference that Mr. O'Brien has with the principals along with the district staff.

Ms. Craig reported she attended the Glen Falls PSSC meeting and that they are working on their improvement plan. She indicated the members were concerned about attendance and how they are doing some innovative things to get children back in school and it is beginning to show improvement.

Mr. Borthwick reported that Blacks Harbour school had a great turnout for the PSSC with newcomer community members attending. He indicated the members are also concerned about attendance and how it can be handled.

Ms. Hooper reported she attended a PSSC meeting at Beaconsfield Middle School and the classroom was full of parents looking to get involved. She indicated the members were appreciative of the District Education Council looking into the policy 713. Ms. Hooper was pleased to hear what the parents were planning and doing in the school over the next few months.

### 7.2 Chair's Report and Update

#### Since Last Meeting

September 14 – Council of DEC Chairs on Teams

September 15 – Attended the United Way Luncheon

September 19 – Appeal Hearings

September 21 – Teams meeting re: preliminary drawings for new South End school

September 27 – Attended the announcement of the site for the new North End School

October 3 – Teams Meeting with EECD and Chairs re: provincial test results

October 3 – Teams Meeting with the Policy Committee and Stacey Brown

October 4 – Teams meeting with Minister and others from EECD, Chairs, Vice Chairs and Superintendents re: Policy 713

October 6 – Appeal Hearing

#### Other

- Provincial Test Results – have moved to online format with only 10% done on paper this past year. Noted a decline in Reading scores over the last 3 years. Noted chronic absenteeism.
- School District Boundary Changes Proposal – An email has been sent objecting to the proposal that the Fundy islands would be part of the St. George subdistrict as well as the change that would move a small number of children from out of and some into district schools as there is no net gain here.
- Letter from the Minister – Just received today that states they have “no issues” with the most recent wording of the addition to Ends Policy 4.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

Mr. Nesbitt reported he received a letter from the Minister acknowledging our changes for Ends Policy #4.

### **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary