

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – August 16, 2023

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, August 16, 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, Shane Borthwick and Jennifer Sheils

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administrative, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Peter Smith, Director of Educational Support Services and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He advised that Jane Logan was 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 #10 Representative – Jennifer Sheils 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 amended. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the June 8, 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. Borthwick. 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.

He highlighted various activities that took place over the summer months with professional learning activities for staff. Such activities included curriculum and instruction sessions, leadership development modules, education support services sessions, and driver training learning week.

He spoke about the recruitment and hiring process for educational assistants, teachers, bus drivers, the principals and vice principals.

Mr. O'Brien drew attention to the draft District Improvement and the projected timeline and actions.

He mentioned some of the common themes that ASD-S strives to achieve along with the district goals and global competencies. The district goals comprise belonging, achievement, leadership potential and equity.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by asking the DEC for direction going forward to provide additional feedback to help shape the district improvement plan.

There was a consensual agreement to hold a special "in camera" meeting to provide DEC members the opportunity to give input into the District Improvement Plan.

4. Presentation

4.1. Human Resources Annual Report

Ms. Susan Moffatt the Director of Human Resources presented the Annual Report. She began by reviewing the HR staffing and their roles.

Ms. Moffatt spoke about the various challenges with the volume and complexity of issues along with supporting principals, managers, and supervisors with difficult conversations. Work continues preparing for a new Gestion/AESOP system, the recruitment for casual employees is constant.

Ms. Moffatt mentioned the employee breakdown with there being 3,534 permanent employees throughout the district and 1,029 casual employees.

She noted the number of grievances and complaints from the past year; WorkSafeNB claims; paid and unpaid sick leave days per month comparing back to 2019; Homewood health – EFAP and the number of service utilization; the amount of vacancies from 2022-2023 from teaching and non-teaching positions; the volume of recruitment for casual and permanent postings; and finally the new leadership job postings which were posted and filled for the 2023-2024 school year.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Sub District #10 Update

Mr. Nesbitt welcomed Jennifer Sheils who has been appointed to the DEC member position for Sub-District #10. He also mentioned the student leader council nominee for the DEC has not been approved by the Minister.

6. New Business

6.1 Draft Annual Planning Calendar (2023-24)

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the planning calendar for 2023-2024 year.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Draft Annual Planning Calendar as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

6.2 PSSC Orientations

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned one of the responsibilities as a DEC is to provide some kind of orientation for the PSSC groups across the district. A small committee was asked to be formed and report back to the DEC at the meeting in September with ways to engage parents to become a PSSC member. The committee will also recommend a format for PSSC training to take place in October.

6.3 PSSC Budgets (2023-24)

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the PSSC Budgets (2023-2024) which had been posted last week. The budget is based on \$2.40/student or minimum of \$500.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Craig moved that the motion be approved with pending changes. Seconded by Ms. Sheils. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Nesbitt indicated that prior to going into the Member's notebook that during our private session there was a great deal of discussion around Policy 713. Ms. McQuinn-Nixon moved the DEC send a letter to Minister Hogan, encouraging him to adopt Mr. Lamrock's recommendations for Policy 713. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion carried.

Ms. Hooper moved the Choose Kindness report from Mr. Lamrock be forwarded to the Policy Committee to review. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

Ms. Hamm mentioned it was a quiet summer, however, on July 9th she attended an education roundtable put on by the New Brunswick Liberal Association. Three takeaways from the meeting were infrastructure, technology and better budget planning.

Mr. Spires spoke about the PSSC pamphlet for parents to be taken to the Principal's meeting for distribution to parents for the beginning of school.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned about the number of District Appeal hearings he was involved in during the summer.

He spoke about the DEC – Self Evaluation report for the 2022-2023 school year. One item from the report that stands out is the shift in school improvement planning with it being more up from the bottom rather than down from the top in terms of developing the district to improvement plans and also the DEC training and onboarding materials which have been developed by our Vice Chair – Amanda Hamm.

Mr. Nesbitt indicated that on June 16th he was on Information Morning regarding Policy 713.

He mentioned about Bill 46 issues which have now been withdrawn.

He also spoke of attending a virtual meeting along with other members of the Council of DEC Chairs with Tiffany Bastin who reviewed the 8 recommendations that have been brought forward from the Executive Steering Committee. Joe Peterson, President of the CDC and our Superintendent, Derek O'Brien are members of this committee.

7.3 Correspondence

Mr. Nesbitt reported he received a letter of resignation from Jane Logan. Mr. Spires moved that we accept this resignation with regret. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary