

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – April 11, 2018

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Wayne Spires, Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Heather Gillis, Larry Boudreau, Justin Tinker (via telephone), Gerry Mabey, Rob Alexander, Richard Malone

Regrets:

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration, Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services, Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

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

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fowler asked if there were no questions or concerns with the Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the March 21, 2018 meeting and asked that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Ms. Sherbo asked about the use of the Governance Process (GP) designation going

forward. Mr. Nesbitt clarified it is not being used in the re-numbering of the new policies, but they would still be referred to as GP policies. There being no further questions, motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

Mayor of Grand Bay/Westfield, Grace Losier addressed Council. She wanted to advocate leaving Grand Bay Primary, Morna Heights and Inglewood as a priority for a new school by this Council. She noted that the schools have not changed since she attended. There is no sound system, they are inaccessible, Inglewood has no grass, there is no playground, no gym, and the basketball court is 50 years old. In contrast, Westfield has everything and is able to host events such as the Heritage Fair and a science and technology event. She felt that Grand Bay students were not getting the same advantages recreationally, or educationally. She requested that Council leave these schools where they are on the priority list – they were put there for a reason and those reasons have not changed.

Amanda Hamm, parent of two children attending Grand Bay Primary addressed Council. She noted that there are repairs required at these schools – issues of accessibility, space at Grand Bay Primary (there is no stage, no music room). She felt that the educators at these schools are phenomenal – but are not able to offer the same opportunities as those available at Westfield School. She felt they are held back by infrastructure problems, including the cost to run the buildings. The new school for this area should remain a priority.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. Spires commented that he had been a judge at the St. Stephen Middle School science fair and he offered two French immersion students the opportunity to present in either French or English, and they chose French. Both were winners at the event.

Mr. O'Connor reminded Council that Simonds High School was presenting the musical "Back to the 80s", April 24 – 29.

Ms. Gillis advised that Bayside Middle School were presenting Shrek the Musical Jr. from April 12-14. She also noted that there was a great turn out for girls' volleyball – enough to make three teams!

4. Presentation

Mrs. Watson reviewed the Briefing Note she had posted with the meeting materials for Council's review. She outlined the extensive work that District staff had undertaken since the approval of the ENDS statements at the November 8, 2017 meeting. She noted that Council had before them a draft version (placemat) of the work up to this point. She then explained the goals will now be broken down into strategies that are measurable, a timeline

will be outlined and indicators of success identified. This exercise will be ready for presentation and a motion to approve by Council at the May 9, 2018 meeting. Mrs. Watson explained Principals have been engaged in this discussion and Vice Principals will have an opportunity for input on April 18th at their meeting.

Mr. Gary Hall and Mr. Peter Smith then reviewed the highlights of ENDS policies that are directly related to their departments.

Questions followed the presentation including: why teachers are not trained in MHFA before administrators; the high cost of teaching materials and where funding might be available. All questions were addressed by Mrs. Watson and staff.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. Watson and staff for their presentation.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Sustainability Studies – Hazen-White/St. Francis School and Centennial School

Mr. Fowler advised that he would be reading into the record the summary documents of the consultations held in both schools followed by a request for a motion. At that time, the floor would be open to Council members who had questions or wished to make a comment.

Mr. Fowler then read into the record the summary documents of the meetings that were held at Centennial School and Hazen-White/St. Francis School. The summary documents are attached to and form part of these Minutes.

Mr. Fowler then called for a motion. Motion was made by Ms. Sherbo that Council direct the Superintendent to inform Minister Kenny that we recommend the closure of Hazen-White/St. Francis School and Centennial School and the construction of a new K-5 school, in a central location to both. Seconded by Mr. Spires. The floor was then open for discussion.

Mr. O'Connor noted his concern over the impact on other schools. Council has been focused on the 7 central city schools and he was not sure if these were the right priority over the remaining schools in the District.

Mr. Nesbitt commented that the reality is that we would like to build all new schools, as many are needed. At this point in time, we are focused on the central city schools and we can't build all at once. Council will make a recommendation to the government and they will decide.

Mr. Spires noted that we can only recommend – the Minister is responsible for all areas in the province as well as the Francophone district. ASD-S could end up being number fifteen on the provincial list – all we can do is put forth our recommendation and send it in and pray it is accepted. He stated that Saint John has not seen a new school (other than

Seaside Park) since the 1970s – we have been left out. We need quality schools and have to push for them.

Mr. Regenbogen commented that Council had completed a pretty extensive review and received tremendous input from the public. The PSSC would like to see a new school located in between both schools, with the walking distance kept the same. They are very supportive.

Mr. Fowler added that he has been around a long time and toured many schools and feels by far, Saint John has the worst schools. DEC have toured and dealt with Charlotte County schools (Fundy Middle and High School, Pennfield, Lawrence Station) and have more to deal with. He stated he was confident that these are the priority. DEC reviewed seven schools last year and did a good job – we came away with a three phase approach.

There being no further comments or questions, motion carried. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Boudreau voted against the motion.

5.2 Policy Review Committee Draft GP #6

Mr. Nesbitt referred to GP #6 Agenda Planning and the revised draft (4.5) that were posted with Council's meeting materials for review. He suggested that there were no major changes to the policy other than the name was changed to "Annual Council Planning Cycle" and it has been re-numbered.

Mr. Nesbitt moved that the current GP #6 be rescinded and replaced with the revised policy 4.5 as posted. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

5.3 Tabled Motion – GP #7 (Pupil Appeals)

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed that at the March meeting, Council wanted more time to review this policy and voted to table the motion to rescind GP #7. The vote to rescind was due to the fact that it is redundant and is clearly outlined in the Education Act. Motion was then made by Mr. Nesbitt to remove the tabled motion and bring it forward for discussion. Discussion then arose including reasons to keep the current policy and the need for the Policy Review Committee to re-evaluate it. Motion defeated. The Policy Review Committee will review GP #7 and return to Council with their recommendation at a future meeting.

5.4 Motion – 2019 Summer Improvement Projects

Mrs. Watson explained that at the March meeting, Council had asked for additional information with regard to roofs prior to approving the project list and requested this agenda item be moved to the April meeting. She noted that Mr. MacDonald had provided a briefing note on the topic which was included with Council's meeting materials for review. She reminded Council that the deadline for approving this list was approaching. Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt that the 2019 Summer Improvement Projects be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Following a question, Mr. MacDonald clarified that

roof costs come out of the same budget as the washrooms and other projects. Motion carried. Mr. Boudreau voted against the motion.

5.5 Tabled Motion – Major Capital Projects

Mr. O'Connor recused himself from the meeting for this portion of the agenda.

Mr. Fowler explained that at the March meeting, Council had asked for additional time to consider the Major Capital Projects list and voted to table the approval of this item until the April meeting.

Mr. Fowler reviewed recommendations of staff in priority order:

- (1) Major mid-life upgrade for Saint John High School to proceed;
- (2) New K-8 school to replace St. John the Baptist/King Edward School and Prince Charles School as per Policy 409 study completed 2017-18 (upon Minister's approval);
- (3) New K-5 school to replace Morna Heights School, Inglewood School and Grand Bay Primary as per Policy 409 study completed 2015-16.

He noted that with regard to a new school, it would remain on the list until the keys were actually turned over to the District.

There being no questions, Mr. Spires moved that the Major Capital Projects list be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried. Mr. Boudreau voted against the motion.

6. New Business

6.1 Executive Limitations # 5, 8 & 9

Mrs. Watson noted that her Monitoring Reports had been posted on the portal for Council's review and advised that she outlined her interpretation and evidence for each. She stated that some are very lengthy and have many parts (i.e. Treatment of Media, Public, Stakeholders and Staff) which might be something the Policy Review Committee could look to cut down when it is up for review. She highlighted the key points from each policy for Council and addressed any questions.

Mr. Boudreau moved that the Monitoring Reports be accepted as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

6.2 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee

Mr. Fowler advised that Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, Mike Mortlock, Gregg Ingersoll (Superintendent ASD-E) and Dawn Myers (EECD) were currently working on developing a process that will be used to evaluate all Superintendents across the District; however, it will not be finalized until sometime later this spring.

Mr. Fowler asked Mr. Nesbitt to Chair this subcommittee. Mr. Nesbitt agreed. Mr. Fowler then asked for volunteers to sit on the committee. Mr. Boudreau, Mr. Regenbogen and Mr. Spires agreed.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson advised that her report was posted on the website for review with tonight's meeting materials. She noted that she is open to feedback on the new format, suggesting that she is now aligning her reporting to the ENDS policies. Not all ENDS would be reported on each month. Two Councilors commented that they liked this format.

Question was raised by Mr. Spires with regard the upcoming legalization of cannabis and how schools would handle any issues that might arise. Mr. Fowler advised that the Canadian School Board Association has position papers circulating, but nothing specific yet. Mrs. Watson added that the police do not have a lot of information at this time either. High school principals and PSSC are asking questions. She advised that on Friday, all high school principals will be meeting at Portage Atlantic (Cassidy Lake) and Dr. Jennifer Russell, Chief Medical Officer of Health will be the guest speaker and will address this topic. She advised that she will provide an update in her Superintendent's report next month. She noted that we have ordered posters from the NB Medical Health Society for all high schools.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler reminded Council of the upcoming DEC symposium, May 4 – 6 in Fredericton. He confirmed that the Minister will be attending the breakfast on Sunday morning. He noted that there are a record number of PSSC registered to attend.

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the Annual Meeting of the Canadian School Board Association (of which we are now a member) will be held in Nova Scotia in July and he will provide information when he receives it. All are welcome to attend. He will be attending the meetings.

7.3 Correspondence

None; all correspondence was posted on the portal for Council's information.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary