

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – May 13, 2015

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 490 Woodward Avenue Saint John, NB. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Rob Fowler, Wayne Spires, Bob McDevitt, Roger Nesbitt, Stephen Campbell, Larry Boudreau, Gerry Mabey, and Charlotte McGill-Pierce.

Regrets: Sherman Ross, Joanne Gunter, Don Cullinan, Kerry Olinskie.

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Paul Smith, Director of Schools Hampton Education Centre; and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Fowler passed on regrets for Mr. Ross, Mrs. Gunter, Mr. Cullinan and Mr. Olinskie.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions or revisions required to the Agenda. There being no questions or concerns regarding the Agenda, he asked that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Mabey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. McDevitt moved that the Minutes be approved and Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the April 29, 2015 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Minutes be approved with one

correction; that he be listed as 'attending' at the April 29th meeting. Mr. Spires seconded the motion with the noted correction. Motion carried.

2.2 Public Comment

PSSC Chair from Simonds High School, Dan O'Connor brought good news to Council from Simonds High School in that they were selected for a Ducks Unlimited Grant. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) received a gift from the late Donald Biddington, a gentleman who was involved with conservation and youth education in Southern New Brunswick. DUC approached Simonds High School to establish a Wetland Centre of Excellence (WCE) bordering on Simonds High's campus. The projected initial budget for the project is \$35,000: \$15 000 in the initial year and \$5 000 in each of the four subsequent years. Therefore the initial involvement with DUC is a 5 year partnership.

PSSC Chair Russell Hall from Norton Elementary wanted to thank members of Council who voted in favour of keeping the school open at the April 29th meeting and Julie Booth, Mayor Norton, brought her thanks on behalf of the Village of Norton.

3. Presentations

3.1 Teacher Training – Faculty of Education, UNB

Mrs. Watson introduced Kathy Winslow, Associate Dean Post-graduate and Undergraduate Programs at the Faculty of Education at UNB.

Ms. Winslow spoke to Council on the 11 month Bachelor of Education program offered at UNB. She spoke about the unique feature of this program which is the belief that students in a teacher education program should be in schools early and often. This program sees students in their schools for two weeks at the beginning of the school year, every Monday through the fall and winter, three weeks at the end of the fall term and seven weeks at the end of the winter term.

She also explained that students are sent to schools in groups so that they can work together either in planning, peer observing, or collaborating outside of the classroom. The UNB practicum model sees students assigned to a school and the schedule is coordinated by a Liaison teacher; students work collaboratively; faculty representatives are assigned to each school and work as a part of the professional learning community of the school. The practicum encourages pre-service teachers to work with cooperating teachers to plan and even team teach before taking on full responsibilities.

Ms. Winslow then went on to review the actual course outline of the program including all required and elective courses, certificate programs and concentrations as well as international opportunities available to their students (ie advanced practicum in China or Columbia).

She spoke to Council about where UNB graduates go after graduation and highlighted classrooms afloat (teaching at sea); overseas; northern Canada and New Brunswick.

Ms. Winslow talked about the relationship that UNB enjoys with the school district which include regular meetings with the Superintendent, partnerships opportunities/PD, graduate study and cost sharing of opportunities that arise (ie Anne Davies, Sandra Herbst, Carl Kielberger, Science Fair).

She mentioned that in light of the employment opportunities available in NB, UNB has decreased their enrolment in the program over the past years. They initially had 230 students in the program and now that number is at 67. They are anticipating 80 next year.

Council members asked if UNB tracked their graduates after they left the program. Ms. Winslow advised that this is very hard to track and is anecdotal at best; it really is up to the students to send along a note to advise where they have ended up (employment) and they are encouraged to do so.

Another member asked if there were any major changes coming for future teachers with regard to vocational/trades training. Ms. Winslow advised that this has been identified as a need and they are involved in discussions with the Department of Education/NBCC/trades organizations to try and address it.

Mr. Fowler thanked Ms. Winslow for her informative presentation.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Spring Symposium

Mr. Fowler advised that registrations for this year's symposium are down from last year – there are less PSSC attending. It is being held at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton – May 29th – 31st. He reminded Council to advise their PSSC members that there is still room if anyone would like to attend. He also confirmed that Minister Rousselle would be in attendance at the breakfast on Sunday morning.

5. New Business

5.1 Review of Executive Limitations Policies/Monitoring Reports #10-12

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to the monitoring reports that were posted for review for tonight's meeting. There being no concerns, he asked for a motion to approve the monitoring reports #10 through 12. Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Mr. McDevitt. Motion carried.

There was some discussion among Council members with regard to the min/max caps under the Viable High Schools policy and whether any adjustments were required to the formula. It was decided that no action was required at this time.

5.2 Review of Trigger Schools 2015-16

Mr. Fowler reviewed recent changes to Policy 409 whereby a trigger has been added that will see any school with less than 100 students or at 30% or less functional capacity triggered for review. Mr. Fowler advised that he and Mrs. Watson had been in touch with the PSSC for the trigger schools identified for 2015-16 to explain the process.

The Minister has identified 12 schools for 2015-16 from ASD-S. This number includes Pennfield Elementary, Lorne Middle, Brown's Flat and Norton who have all had a Policy 409 review completed in 2015. Pennfield and Lorne schools will be closing effective June 30, 2015. The Chair advised that Norton will remain on this list even though the Policy 409 review has just been completed.

Mr. Fowler then went on to review in detail the 2015-16 Trigger Schools chart that had been posted with Council's meeting materials for tonight.

Apohaqui Elementary – Recommend an exemption for one year as this could be looked at in a regional approach with Norton Elementary. Apohaqui is currently a K-5 school with 82 students and a projected enrolment of 70 for 2015-16. It is approximately 11 kms from Norton.

Norton Elementary – Recommend a one year exemption as we have just completed a 409 review and the DEC decision was to leave the school open.

Back Bay Elementary – Recommend a 409 review.

Deer Island – Recommend a grade reconfiguration to K-5 with the current grade 6-8 students (13 students) moving to Fundy High School.

Lawrence Station – Recommend a 409 review.

Whitehead Island – Recommend a grade reconfiguration to K-4. There are currently 10 students at Whitehead Island and a projected enrolment of 11 students for 2015-16. Current grade 5-6 students could travel to Grand Manan Community School – a 30 minute ferry ride.

Fundy Shores – Recommend an exemption until the Grand Bay/Westfield/Morna review is complete. The plan could see students move to Island View from Fundy Shores; however, the Grand Bay/Westfield/Morna review could also recommend that some of our Morna students attend Island View and their current capacity is at 70%. Two years ago Fundy Shores was reconfigured from a K-8 school to a K-5.

Inglewood School – Recommend an exemption as this school will be part of the Grand Bay/Westfield/Morna review being completed by Ernst & Young.

St. Martins – Recommend a grade reconfiguration to K-5. The current grade 6-8 students (13 students) could move to Bayside Middle School. The nearest elementary school to St. Martins is Loch Lomond and this could mean a one hour bus ride for those farthest from Saint John. There are also modulars at Loch Lomond School.

Pennfield Elementary and Lorne Middle were also on the list; however, both have now been approved for closure effective June 30, 2015.

Brown's Flat School has been recommended for closure effective June 30, 2015 and we are currently awaiting Minister's final decision.

Following the review, Council members asked questions which the Chair and Superintendent clarified with regard to the information contained in the Trigger School chart.

One Council member expressed frustration with the lack of planning for the whole district – felt we are doing this piece-meal. He suggested we need on grand plan for all.

Mr. Fowler asked then asked for a motion to approve the recommendations included in the 2015-16 Trigger Schools document. Motion was made by Mr. Spires and seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried. Mr. Boudreau opposed the motion.

5.3 Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the deadline for having applications in for the Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards was May 29th – to District Office. He asked Council members to remind their PSSC members about this opportunity to nominate a deserving teacher. Mrs. Watson has distributed the information within the District. ASD-S can submit three names to the Minister for consideration. Mr. Fowler then asked for a sub-committee who would be willing to review the applications received. Mr. Nesbitt, Mrs. McGill-Pearce and Mr. McDevitt agreed to sit on this committee with Mr. Fowler and Mrs. Watson.

6. Information Items

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson advised Council that this had been another tough week at ASD-S with the death of Teala Cain a long time Educational Assistant Prince Charles School. Protocols are in place to assist students and staff through these difficult times. Mrs. Watson then asked for a moment of silence in memory of Ms. Cain.

Teacher Mark Perry at Kennebecasis Valley High School produced a book entitled "Soldiers of the Valley" and launched it to the public on May 7th at the Kennebecasis Library. Students researched the information contained in the book.

Stacey Briggs, teacher at Lakewood Heights School was recently named a Model of Health for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Her students made the nomination as they felt that she promoted a healthy lifestyle. Ms. Briggs also participated in The Red Dress gala as a celebrity model bringing a positive message to all students and staff in Anglophone South.

This week Grade 9 students are visiting the “Building for the Future Trades Career Expo” being held at the Trade and Convention Centre Tuesday through Thursday. The Construction Association of NB was a sponsor of the event and generously provided the busing for our students to attend as this is a very significant cost to the District.

As we examined data on student attendance there were areas of concern – prior to the March Break the Inclusion Facilitators worked with 14 schools having grades 9-12 to discuss beliefs and values about student attendance, to share what is working, the challenges and to begin discussions on action items. The attendance issues do not begin at high school, so elementary and middle school leaders also had an opportunity to discuss this important challenge through focus groups in April. The goal is to have a PR campaign ready for implementation in the fall of 2015 to bring awareness to attendance issues, tardiness, etc. at all grade levels. Tracey Friars will assist in developing this action plan for roll out.

Council members were excited to hear of the progress on the attendance front. Suggestion was made that we might want to speak with a group of parents on this subject for their input. Mrs. Watson advised that it is now too late in the year and her committee has tabled this for the fall.

This Friday, May 15, the NBTA/AEFNB Branches of Hampton Education Centre will be meeting for their AGM at Sussex Regional High School, Kennebecasis Valley High School and Rothesay High and Mrs. Watson will bring District updates to each group. And on Thursday evening the Branch 06-18 teachers in Sussex will gather to honor their three retirees – Pam Drury, Cindy Ross and Rhoda Wilson. May 31st Riverside Country Club will host Branch 0619 retirements and on June 4th, Saint John will celebrate their retiring teachers at Lily Lake Pavilion. Overall there are approximately 50 teacher retirements this year.

Turnaround Achievement Awards are being held during the month of May in all three centres; May 19 in St. Stephen; May 26 in Hampton and May 28th in Saint John. If Council members have not already replied, please let your respective Centres know if you will be in attendance. These events are very moving, celebrating middle and high school students’ successes in “turning their lives around”. The District is very thankful again this year for all the sponsors who have so generously supported these events.

This week ASD-S will have students visiting and participating in the Canada Wide Science Fair in Fredericton - over 900 ASD-S students will visit the Fair, and three young scientists, Ben d’Entremont and Reilly Sullivan from Quispamsis Middle School and Nick Cusack from MacDonald Consolidated are competing. We also have teachers attending who will participate as judges.

ASD-S has been busy with annual Heritage Fairs; last week, May 5th in the Hampton Education Centre where 60 projects were on display and judged; on May 7th at the Saint John Museum and next week, May 20th in Blacks Harbour. NB Lieutenant Governor Honourable Jocelyne Roy-Vienneau attended both the Hampton and Saint John events.

Many schools participated in the middle and high school drama festival last week. "Oklahoma" opens at Belleisle Regional High School this evening and continues until Friday evening. River Valley Middle School presents "Through the Looking Glass" and Forest Hills "Adventures of a Comic Book Artist" is also on this evening.

St. Stephen recently hosted a Youth Empowerment Summit - FIERCE – focusing on healthy relationships, self-esteem, body image, self-empowerment, healthy lifestyle choices. Great guest speaker – Executive Chef of the Waldorf Astoria – David Garcelon who is also from the community.

Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary School held their first "Parent Café" at Quispamsis Middle School with Principal Mike Wilson welcoming students/parents who will be attending the new school in the fall of 2015. Mr. Nesbitt and Paul Smith, Director of Schools for the Hampton Education Centre also attended the meeting and advised that there was a good turnout of interested parents who asked a lot of questions about the readiness of the school for the fall. PSSC elections for the new school will be held at the end of May.

6.2 Chairperson's Report & Updates

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the DEC Spring Symposium is May 29-31 in Moncton this year. Please send your name/registration information to him as soon as possible if you are planning to attend. He also suggested that members remind their PSSC committees of this opportunity. Stacey Brown will cover the first six PSSC members, and our DEC will fund members over that number.

He suggested that any Council member who could attend the upcoming Turnaround ceremonies do so as they are very positive stories for a great celebration for students who have "turned their lives around".

Bruce Van Stone, the former Anti Bullying Coordinator for the Anglophone sector has established a National Harm Prevention foundation and Mr. Fowler advised that he would be attending the first meeting of the group on May 14 in Fredericton.

6.3 Correspondence

None

6.4 Members Notebook

Mr. Mabey recommended Council members to attend the Heritage Fairs if their schedules permitted. He said is so exciting to see the students – especially when they get their awards. He also mentioned that he had read about two ASD-S students who were awarded full Royal Military of Canada scholarships. Mrs. Watson advised she will send congratulations to these students on behalf of the DEC and the District.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary