

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – October 11, 2017

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at Seaside Elementary School, 627 Havelock Street, 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, Justin Tinker, Gerry Mabey, Rob Alexander, Heather Gillis, Larry Boudreau, Richard Malone

Regrets:

ASD-S Staff:

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

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Mr. Fowler formally presented Mr. Mabey with a plaque honouring his dedication and service to the District and the school communities of Seawood, Havelock and St. Patrick's. He noted that this plaque will hang in "The Gerald (Gerry) Mabey Learning Centre" at the new Seaside Park Elementary School. Mr. Mabey was instrumental in joining these three school communities in anticipation of the opening of the new school. Council thanked him for his hard work and dedication.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fowler asked that one item be added to the agenda – a presentation to Council member, Gerry Mabey. There being no further questions or concerns, the Chair called for a motion to approve as amended. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the amended Agenda be approved. Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the September 13, 2017 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. Mr. Spires seconded the motion.

Comment on the motion arose from Mr. O'Connor who had requested that the Minutes reflect his no vote on the motion with regard to undertaking a sustainability study of Prince Charles and St. John the Baptist/King Edward schools with construction of a new K-8 school as phase one of a multi-phase process. Mr. Fowler noted that Council votes by consent. If a member votes against a motion, they must request that their "no" vote be recorded at that time.

Mr. Fowler then called for a vote on the motion to approve the Minutes. Motion carried. Mr. O'Connor voted against the motion.

2.3 Public Comment

None

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. Boudreau noted that he has attended four PSSC meetings and all went well. He noted that there had been concern raised about the number of PSSC members allowed on a committee; he advised them to take all who offered. He also noted a concern raised about getting school websites up to date with current information.

Mr. Spires attended the PSSC Orientation event in St. Stephen and all went well.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 PSSC Orientation Sessions

Mr. Spires advised that there was a good turnout for the event in St. Stephen. It was a great evening and all went away with information to work with. He found it interesting that he is now seeing former students who are serving as PSSC members in their schools.

The two remaining orientation sessions will be held at the Hampton Education Centre – October 24 @ 6:00 pm and at the Saint John Education Centre – October 25 @ 6:00 pm. Mrs. Watson noted that we are looking for DEC volunteers to work the registration table and also participate in the break out session dealing with engaging parents.

Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Malone volunteered to cover both of these tasks for the Hampton Education Centre event. Mr. Mabey will work the registration table in Saint John and Mr. Regenbogen and Mr. O'Connor will participate in the breakout session.

Mrs. Watson asked Council to remind their PSSC to get their numbers in so that we can have enough materials and food. Mr. Fowler reminded that it is especially important that new PSSC members be encouraged to attend these sessions as there is valuable information available to assist them in their role.

Council members were asked if they could try and obtain door prizes to give away at the two remaining events. Council covers the costs for supper at each event.

5. Presentation

5.1 Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mrs. Watson welcomed Big Brothers Big Sisters to the meeting. She noted that some members have asked that community groups be invited to speak and she was happy to have this group present tonight. She introduced Laurie Collins, Executive Director.

Ms. Collins introduced her colleagues, Meagin Huisman, Group Program Mentoring Coordinator, and Ms. Amy Tanner, In-School Mentoring Coordinator.

The national organization has been serving boys and girls across Canada for 100+ years, and their local group is celebrating their 45th this year. Their vision is to ensure "every child who needs a mentor, has a mentor". However; they realize they cannot yet service every child, and stated that 1 in 3 young people grow up without a mentor (US research). Mentoring has an enormous social impact and creates positive changes in confidence, self-esteem, education and quality of life.

Statistics revealed that children who have mentors are 80% more likely to finish high school, 46% less likely to use drugs and 52% less likely to skip school. It was noted that "big and littles" often share lifelong friendships and memories.

Ms. Tanner spoke about in-school mentoring programs and their many school partners. She spoke about mentoring matches and how important they are to the students. The program strives to provide: a role model and friend, promote the importance of staying in school and healthy relationships, instill trust and self-confidence and encourage leadership skills and independent thinking – all while having fun!

Ms. Huisman spoke about the group programs, including "Game On", GoGirls and Big Bunch, and how they are geared to build peer support and confidence, critical decision making and coping skills.

The group identified their biggest challenge as the need for more volunteers and asked Council to "spread the word". It was noted that children who are waiting for their own

“big”, sometimes wait for up to three years for the “right” volunteer and the list is typically over 100 children.

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for questions. Mr. Boudreau asked Council how the DEC/PSSC might be able to help promote the need for volunteers out in the community. Mr. Fowler suggested that perhaps a Synervoice message could be sent and also that Big Brothers Big Sisters could present to PSSC during the upcoming Orientation sessions (October 24th & 25th).

Mr. Spires suggested that the leadership classes in high school might be a good source to find volunteers. Challenge would be that these classes are only one semester. Mrs. Watson will see if they want to be mentors.

Mr. Fowler wondered if a strategy session with Big Brothers Big Sisters, DEC and the District might be of benefit and if our Community Engagement Coordinator could be of assistance. Mrs. Watson advised that she will invite Big Brothers Big Sisters to the PSSC events and look into what other assistance the DEC and District may be able to provide.

6. New Business

6.1 Governance Policies #1 – 4

Mr. Fowler asked that if there were no questions or concerns with the GP#1 - Governance Commitment, GP#2 - Governing Style, GP#3 - Role of the District Education Council and GP#4 - Chair’s Role, that all policies could be approved in one motion. Mr. Nesbitt moved that Governance Policies #1 - 4 be approved as presented. Mr. Mabey seconded the motion.

Ms. Sherbo advised that it would not be wise to approve all in one motion. She stated that she felt it would not be in our interest to combine them and suggested there is room for change.

She then reviewed each policy and provided feedback on what she felt could be changed/updated. With regard to GP#4, Chair’s Role, she felt that there have been meetings where Council members have not had a fair opportunity to talk. She also noted that her request for the addition of an agenda item for the in-camera session at tonight’s meeting was not acknowledged.

Mr. Fowler replied to Ms. Sherbo that he had in fact replied immediately to her email and advised that Stacey Brown was presenting on Agenda Planning in private session, but assured her that if time permitted she could certainly address the Council.

Mr. Fowler suggested that Council might choose to defer these policies to the Policy Review Committee for them to look at.

Ms. Sherbo then moved that the Governance Policies #1 – 4 be deferred to the Policy Review Committee. Ms. Gillis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report and Update

Mrs. Watson advised that her report was posted on the portal along with the meeting materials for tonight's session and will be attached to, and form part of these Minutes.

She added a reminder about the NB Student Leadership conference on November 2nd in Fredericton and asked who was planning on attending. Mr. Nesbitt, Mr. Spires, Mr. Mabey, Mr. Fowler, Ms. Sherbo, Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Tinker advised they would be in attendance.

She then asked if there were any questions on her report. Mr. Alexander noted that students at Sussex High School were trying to raise funds for students to attend and asked if there was anything we could do to assist. Mrs. Watson advised that we pay for the supply teacher so that teachers can attend with the students. She will follow up with the school.

Mr. Spires noted that it is impressive to see these intelligent, well behaved and articulate students speak at these sessions.

Mr. O'Connor mentioned the National Student Leadership conference in Waterloo, Ontario with 1,000 students from across Canada attending. In 2018, Fredericton will host this event.

Mr. Boudreau thanked the Superintendent for posting her report in advance of the meeting. He enjoyed reading it.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler asked for a motion to form a Policy Review Committee as discussed earlier in the meeting. He asked for volunteers to sit on the committee: Mr. Nesbitt, Mr. Spires, Ms. Gillis and Ms. Sherbo agreed to sit. Mr. Fowler & Mrs. Watson will also be part of this committee.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that as mentioned at the retreat, the District needs assistance with our communications and media efforts. We need to be proactive and not just reactive when it comes to dealing with items that come to the attention of the media. At the September Council meeting, members were updated on the District's self-sustaining funds, which are managed by the Superintendent. Mrs. Watson wanted to advise Council that she has moved forward and has approached a potential candidate for this position. She noted that this will be a term position.

7.3 Correspondence

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

8. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary