

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Conference Call – September 23, 2015**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met via conference call on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 8:00 pm. 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, Charlotte McGill-Pierce, Joanne Gunter, Sherman Ross, Kerry Olinskie and Don Cullinan.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; John MacDonald, Director Finance and Administration; Jenny MacDougall, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Fowler who explained the reason for the call was to discuss the sustainability review scheduled for Back Bay Elementary. He asked Mrs. Watson to bring Council up to date on the current issues.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that since the May, 2015 decision to undergo a sustainability review for Back Bay, a number of enrolment changes have taken place including:

- Back Bay has seen an increase in kindergarten students to 16 from 12 in 2014-2015 and 10 in 2013-2014.
- St. George Elementary currently has 34 in Grade 3 FI and this is an increase from 21 and 16 the last two school years. Of these students, 8 have registered from the Pennfield area. This could be attributed to their school closing in June 2015.
- St. George Elementary School saw 2 out of catchment area requests granted prior to the announcement of the Pennfield closure which is typical; however, since then another 12 were received and approved. Parents in Pennfield did ask for some flexibility if their school were to close; most moved to Blacks Harbour as planned and a few asked to attend St. George Elementary.
- There are 16 available classrooms at St. George Elementary; however, depending on grade configurations, we may require 17 for next year and this would necessitate moving the staff room and using it as a classroom. We also are uncertain about changes to the Early French Immersion Program and how this would impact St. George Elementary.

In light of the above noted comments, Mrs. Watson advised that the District is not comfortable with the space available at St. George Elementary and recommends that we ask the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for an exemption for Back Bay Elementary for the

2015-16 school year. The school would remain a trigger school and would be looked at again in the spring of 2016.

Questions arose from Council which were addressed by Mrs. Watson. Mrs. Watson advised that she had discussed Back Bay Elementary with the Deputy Minister while in Fredericton earlier today. He did not foresee any issues with the exemption being granted.

Mr. Fowler then asked for a motion to support the exemption request for Back Bay Elementary. Mr. Spires moved that we ask the Minister for an exemption for Back Bay Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year. Motion seconded by Gerry Mabey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary