

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – November 14th, 2012

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, November 14th, 2012 at Fundy High School, 44 Mount Pleasant Road, St. George, NB. The following council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Gerry Mabey, Roger Nesbitt, Stephen Campbell, Gary Crossman, Don Cullinan, Rob Fowler, Bob McDevitt, Charlotte McGill-Pierce, Wayne Spires. Regrets: Larry Boudreau, Joanne Gunter Sherman Ross.

ASD-S Staff:

Zoe Watson, Superintendent; Jeff Hanson, Director of Finance and Administration; Derek O'Brien, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Tina Vallis, Executive Assistant.

The media was present.

1. Call to Order / Welcome /Regrets

Rob Fowler, Chairperson called the meeting to order.

2.1 Approval of the Agenda/ Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler reviewed the agenda with council and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Fowler requested that item 3.1 *Council/Staff Relationship* be deleted from the agenda. It was suggested that this item could be placed on a subsequent agenda for further discussion and possible adoption. Mr. Spires moved that the agenda be approved, as amended. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the minutes of the October 10th meeting and advised 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. Mr. Cullinan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Public Comment

Nil

3. Business Arising from Minutes

3.2 Quispamsis School K- 5

A subcommittee has been established to examine the provincial education specifications for the new K-5 Quispamsis school that will house approximately 400 students. Since its formation, the committee has met three times. Part of this process included a trip to tour a new school facility in Fredericton. Ms. Watson reported that there was an expression of interest by the Kennebecasis Valley Basketball Association (KVBA) regarding this new facility. Currently this group organizes evening and weekend league play basketball camps, tournaments, etc. for over 700 children. The district provided this group with specifications on this new facility which they are hoping to utilize for some of their activities.

3.3 PSSC Orientation Sessions Feedback

Parent School Support Committee Orientation evenings were held on October 15th – Saint John Education Centre, October 16th – Hampton Education Centre, October 17th – St. Stephen Education Centre. PSSC Chairpersons were extended an invitation to attend by Ms. Watson and Principals communicated the dates to their respective committees. Evaluations and a sign in sheet were available for attendees during the meetings as well as various other documents. Ms. Watson and Mr. Fowler attended all three meetings. Feedback summaries are now available on the DEC portal site. Overall, results were positive.

3.4 Draft Ends Policies

Ms. Watson and staff members reviewed all three former district improvement plans. Derek O'Brien provided council with a *Wordle*[™]. Mr. O'Brien told council that this is a tool used to generate "word clouds" from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. Mr. O'Brien developed two goal statements which could be the interim area of focus for the DEC for 2012-2013:

Anglophone South School District will:

1. Create safe, healthy, inclusive, and positive learning environments supported by staff, families, and communities.
2. Create engaging learning environments where students achieve individual success in literacy and numeracy.

Ms. Watson suggested this is the year to meet with partners, students, parents and staff to develop their mission, vision and goals for Anglophone South School District.

Mr. Spires put forward a motion to approve the interim goals from the former three districts so that council would have something to work with this year. Mr. Cullinan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Presentations

4.1 Skills Trades

Moira Sherwood, Subject Coordinator of Technology & Skills Trades and Joan Wilkins, School to Work Transition Coordinator presented to council an overview of the skills trades curriculum within the district. Ms. Sherwood provided council with a spreadsheet listing all of the skills trades & technology programs courses (STTE) available across the entire district. There are a wide variety of courses with some unique to a specific region and some others offered online to students. Local option courses are also available and an example of this would be a Cosmetology course available at Fundy High School which ties in both math and chemistry skills. Ms. Sherwood reviewed various partnerships such as the Canada-wide FIT (Focus on Technology) Program which provides high school graduates with technology and business/entrepreneurial skills and with essential workplace skills and experience. The WoodLINKS program allows students to accumulate hours towards their apprenticeship at the post-secondary level. Ms. Wilkins reviewed the school to work portfolio that includes the New Brunswick Teen Apprentice Program (NBTAP). This is a highly selective program and acceptance is based on "Attitude, Aptitude and Ability". Students seeking a youth apprenticeship in skills trades are able to "earn while they learn". The results of this pilot program with Simonds High School has been extremely positive and there is a potential to extend this program to three other schools, Sussex High School, Kennebecasis Valley High School and Harbour View High School. Ms. Wilkins also reviewed the high school pre-apprenticeship program which currently exists within the Cooperative Education program in the Saint John Education Centre and Hampton Education Centre high schools. There are plans in the works to expand this to the High Schools within the St. Stephen Education Centre. There are approximately 300 students taking Co-operative Education this semester within the district.

Mr. Fowler, on behalf of council, thanked Ms. Sherwood and Ms. Wilkins for their informative presentations.

5. New Business

5.1 Budget Presentation 2012 -2013

Jeff Hanson, Director of Finance and Administration provided council members with the district expenditure plan for 2012-2013 for their review and approval. These documents were posted on the DEC portal prior to the meeting. Mr. Hanson stated that this year's budget is very tight with not much "wobble room". Although there was a small increase to minor repairs, Ms. Watson reported that the district is still receiving requests from the schools for additional Educational Assistants and that this budget line item is being watched closely. Following up on a previous question, Ms. Watson advised council that the district currently has 25 school librarians (10 – St. Stephen, 8 – Saint John, 7 – Hampton).

Mr. Fowler requested, that if there were no concerns or questions regarding this document, a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the district expenditure plan for 2012-2013 be approved. Mr. Crossman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Hanson reviewed a second document outlining the PSSC budget allocation for 2012-2013 for all schools within the district. There was a slight amendment to this document in that Grand Manan Community School and White Head Elementary School share a PSSC so

the dollar amount would be shared between these two schools. Ms. Watson told council that PSSC members were advised that these monies are to be used towards parent-school communication, an example of this would be the purchase of *Synervoice*™ which is used by most schools to communicate with parents.

Mr. Fowler requested, that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the PSSC budget allocation, a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. McGill-Pierce moved that this document be approved. Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Information Items

6.1 Role of Subject Coordinators

Mr. O'Brien reviewed a document that provided council with an overview of all subject coordinators and their respective portfolios. Subject Coordinators are spending many hours each week in schools and the feedback from Principals has been positive. Mr. Spires found tonight's presentation very useful and asked to add additional presentations by Subject Coordinators to the DEC planning agenda.

6.2 Superintendent's Report and Updates

Ms. Watson stated that the embargo on provincial assessments for 2012 was lifted on Friday, November 9th. The full assessment results for the district will be presented to council during the December meeting by staff.

Ms. Watson reported that Anglophone South was at or slightly above the provincial average for the numeracy and literacy assessments which is very positive news. The large scale provincial assessments are one more piece of data that is used to measure growth and to look for trends from year to year. This data is helpful in developing strategies and actions for the School and District Improvement Plans.

Ms. Watson reviewed the final enrolment statistics as of September 30th, 2012. During the week of November 5th, the district celebrated career week with Post-secondary Career Days and Take Our Kids to Work Day. The NBTA, Branch 20 held the annual fall Supper Seminar Series a two-day event with teachers presenting to teachers a variety of professional development workshops. A professional development day is being planned for November 30th for non-teaching staff. This day coincides with a district-wide parent/teacher day. Bus drivers will meet at Bayside Middle School and custodial staff will meet at St. Rose School and School Administrative Assistants will meet at the Saint John Education Centre. A parent information document on inclement weather and school closures is in its final stages and will be published on the district and school websites. This year, communication to parents will include a *twitter*™ account and a toll-free phone line. The Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards will be held the weekend of November 24th with three recipients from Anglo South receiving an award. The New Brunswick Teachers Association (NBTA) held three meetings this month, one in each centre and Ms. Watson was present at all three meetings. During the meeting, Ms. Watson circulated some concept logos that were designed by students for council to review. A plan is in the works to

select a logo and deliver to a graphic artist for a professional rendition which will then be the official district logo.

6.3 Chairperson's Report and Updates

Mr. Fowler, on behalf of council, thanked Fundy High School Principal Mr. John Tanner and his staff for hosting this evening's council meeting. He also thanked the Culinary Technology 110 students who provided council with a very tasty meal this evening. On behalf of council, Mr. Fowler thanked Tina Vallis for her hard work and wished her well with her future plans. Mr. Fowler reminded council that the Minister's Forum for council chairs would be held at the end of November and if any member had agenda items, he would bring these agenda items to this meeting.

6.4 Learning 2026 Initiative

Mr. Nesbitt provided council with a handout that reviewed the purpose of this initiative which is about trying to change the culture of the province. Mr. Nesbitt also had a book to loan to council members regarding this topic. The acronym NB2026 comes from or was arrived at because it symbolizes a span of twenty (20) years from the original articulation of the Self-Sufficiency Agenda in 2006 by the then Liberal government. An NB2026 Roundtable was created consisting of New Brunswickers from all walks of life. They were tasked with choosing a priority area of focus that would significantly improve our society. In March 2009, the Roundtable chose overwhelmingly to make learning the priority for our province. The Learning Initiative (Learning Everybody's Project), which is supported by the current Conservative government, is a citizen-led initiative where ownership of issues is shared, potential solutions are discussed, and actions are determined once the problem is well understood and expected outcomes can be measured.

Both Mr. Fowler and Mr. Nesbitt attended a provincial forum held November 5th and 6th, 2012 in Fredericton, numerous stakeholders from across New Brunswick were brought together. The two day forum was organized around the theme "Learning Everybody's Project". At the forum, participants heard a number of background presentations and dealt with the document Learn for Life! Building a Learning Agenda for New Brunswick Together. The document contained a set of Guiding Principles under the headings – Passion, Holistic, Inclusive, Celebration, Excellence and Innovation, Partnerships, Economic Development, Knowledge Transfer, Accessibility, and Shared Identity.

6.5 Correspondence

Nil

6.6 Meeting with MLA's

Council members wish to extend an invitation to MLA's whose constituency resides within the district boundary. A plan is in the works to have a breakfast meeting on Monday, December 3rd. Ms. Watson will follow up with Mr. Glen Savoie, MLA to make arrangements. Council members will prepare topics for discussion.

6.7 Members Notebook

Council wishes to acknowledge the accomplishments of various school sports teams throughout the school year. Ms. Watson will ask staff to monitor this and letters of congratulations will be presented on behalf of council. Mr. Spires wished to acknowledge the phenomenal work that Erica Lane, Community Engagement Coordinator is doing regarding the weekly Southern Exposure newsletter. Council members were all in agreement that they enjoyed receiving the weekly news.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all staff and members of the public who attended this evening's council meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue on December 12th at 7:00 p.m. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chairperson

Tina Vallis, Recording Secretary