

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – June 12, 2013**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Stewart Stanger, Director of Human Resources; Debbie Thomas, Senior Education Officer, Saint John Education Centre; Jeff Hanson, Director Finance & Administration; Kate McLellan, Director Education Support Services; Paul Smith, Senior Education Officer, Hampton Education Centre and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

PSSC Chairs Dan O'Connor, Bayside Middle School and Bernie Regenbogen, Millidgeville North were in attendance along with the media, members of the public and students from Saint John High School.

**1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets**

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes**

Mr. Fowler reviewed the Agenda with Council and advised that he would like to add an item, 6.2.1 whereby Mr. Nesbitt would provide a report on the Superintendent's evaluation. He advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve with the one addition. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved with the one addition and Mr. Crossman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup> 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 and Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.2 Public Comment**

A member of the public stood and began to speak about their concern over a personnel issue within the District. The Chair intervened to advise that personnel issues could not be discussed at Council as such matters are not part of their mandate.

## **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **3.1 Student Council Day – Saturday, June 1**

Mrs. Watson advised that after a high school planning meeting, it was evident that attendance would not be high at this event as the timing is not good. There are too many events happening on the same day. It was recommended that we reschedule until the fall. This would provide an opportunity to expand the scope, add a guest speaker (Charlie MacDonald) and possibly invite PSSC members as well.

### **3.2 School Supplies/Fees Update**

Mrs. Watson advised that focus groups had been held recently at the elementary, middle and high school levels to review/develop guidelines for school supplies and fees for the 2013-14 school year. Teachers, administrators, PSSC members and parents were part of each group. Each group was facilitated by a Senior Education Officer.

The three groups worked to develop general guidelines; however, did not decide on the actual list of supplies or set the fee structure. There were a number of similarities within the groups. A draft document outlining the results and recommendations of these focus groups was sent to all Principals and also posted on the District Education Council portal for members' review. Mrs. Watson reviewed the highlights/discussions of the focus groups and asked Council if there were any concerns with proceeding. Council advised that they were in agreement and going forward, Mrs. Watson could remove the word 'draft'.

### **3.3 Tell Them from Me Survey Results**

Mrs. Watson advised that schools are just now seeing the survey results (student and parent) and she has asked the Department when they will be posted. She was advised that results will likely be posted over the summer. She confirmed that the survey results will be available to Council – but did not yet have confirmation on how they will be viewed or when they will be available. Mrs. Watson will advise Council as soon as she receives this information.

### **3.4 Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards**

Mr. Fowler called for volunteers to sit on a sub-committee to review the nominations received for the Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards. Mr. Boudreau, Mr. Nesbitt

and Mr. Crossman agreed to assist the Chair on this committee. Mrs. Watson will provide members with the deadline for submissions.

#### **4. Presentations**

##### **4.1 International Student Program**

Mrs. Watson introduced and welcomed Lynn MacDonald, International Student Coordinator for Anglophone South School District to the meeting.

Mrs. MacDonald began her presentation with an overall picture of where our international students come from, and how they get here. This includes those students who move into the area (referred to as walk-ins) and those who are recruited by Atlantic Education International (AEI).

She went on to explain that AEI is an incorporated company (a Crown Corporation) focused on representing the Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development (EECD) and the province of New Brunswick in the international education community. AEI is governed by a Board of Directors and contracts with school districts to appoint a liaison and to accommodate in-coming students. Mrs. MacDonald has been appointed as that liaison for ASD-S. The estimated in-province economic impact of AEI activities is \$5 million through payments to the districts, schools, homestay parents and coordinators. AEI currently employs 6 homestay coordinators whose main function is to secure homes for our international students, plan monthly activities for students and their families, and to monitor the students.

Mrs. MacDonald provided a breakdown of the demographics of the 519 students we had this past year across the District. She advised that the number of students receiving tutor support at the beginning of the year was 194 – with only 180 requiring support as of this date. She explained that the District has a total of 18 International Student Mentors (or EAL tutors) across the District. These mentors are for the most part retired teachers, who spend an average of 11-25 hours per week with these students. Mrs. MacDonald went on to identify 15 schools within the District who have an international student population; highlighting Millidgeville North, Princess Elizabeth, Kennebecasis Valley High and Saint John High School as the schools having the highest numbers of international students. The goal is to grow the number of schools to 20 in 2013-14.

She advised that tuition paid by walk-in students in 2012/13 was \$6080.50 per semester; and there were 25 of these students this year. Grants received from EECD covered 158 students (any student who is a permanent resident getting tutor support) at \$720 per student.

Mrs. MacDonald explained that the AEI Enhanced Program sees students from China attend our schools for one semester and also offers a one week winter camp in January where more students attend. There is also the NB International Student Program which sees students from countries such as Mexico, Germany/Europe, Brazil, and Colombia coming to our schools for a semester, with many extending their stay.

Mrs. MacDonald ended her presentation with two success stories: a little girl who hardly spoke and was not communicating well got into trouble one day recently for 'speaking too much in class'. And, an international student who is in line to be Valedictorian.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. MacDonald for her time and informative presentation.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Capital Projects Update**

Mrs. Watson advised Council that we have asked and received permission for an extension of time to work on this over the summer months. Therefore, there is nothing to report at this time.

### **5.2 Budget Report 2012-13**

Mr. Hanson, Director Finance & Administration presented the Year End Financial Report for 2012-13. He reviewed each line item in detail for Council and explained where costs savings were gained, and reasons for any cost over runs.

In general, Mr. Hanson explained that some savings were realized due to the late arrival of the budget last year and that some costs were out of our control (ie Employee Benefits). He did admit there were some serious challenges that arose due to the amalgamation. At the end of the year, we were \$350,000 under budget; allowing us to carry over \$100,000 of that savings into next year's budget.

Mr. Fowler advised Council that we would be asking the Deputy Minister to adjust the carry over to \$300,000 as there were actually three districts that came in under budget.

Council congratulated both Mr. Hanson and Mrs. Watson for their incredible work bringing this budget in, especially considering the challenges of the amalgamation.

Motion made by Mr. Mabey to accept the Year End Financial Report 2012-2013. Motion carried.

## **6. Information Items**

### **6.1 Superintendent's Report & Update**

Mrs. Watson reported that the staffing process was well under way with the three Senior Education Officers actively involved. She advises that there will be a reduction in classroom teachers in 2013-14. Management is working with the schools to identify their needs. She advised that placing "B" teachers would be the first priority. She also advised that Management is working with CUPE unions on postings for EAs/SIWs/Administrative support, etc. She wanted to thank Senior Education Officers

Debbie Thomas, Paul Smith and Jenny MacDougall for their hard work during this challenging process.

Mrs. Watson reported that ASD-S recently participated in a unique twist on the annual "Marigold Project". Teacher Barry Ogden and his organizing committee worked tirelessly to engage 45 of our schools to all participate at the same time, planting marigolds from Sussex to St. Stephen, in hopes of claiming a spot in the Guinness World Book of Records. The Premier, several MLAs and the Mayor of Saint John and Council members all planted marigolds on Main Street at the same time.

Mrs. Watson presented two awards at the ceremonies; one to Bernie Regenbogen in recognition of his work with our youth; and to Vice Principal of Lakefield Elementary, David Ripley, for his significant involvement in community initiatives. Mrs. Watson wanted to publicly thank Mr. Ogden and his committee for all the hard work that went into pulling this event together. She invited members to check out the video clip of the planting of marigolds on Main Street that has been posted on the Telegraph Journal website.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that there would be three 2/day sessions of Mental Health First Aid held in all Education Centres over the summer months. There is room for 20 participants in each session. This training is in line with our Ends policy #4.

Mr. Fowler advised that ASD-E was enquiring about what we were doing with regard to Mental Health First Aid and requested that any information we have be shared with them.

Mrs. Watson advised that the 2013-14 School Calendar was emailed to Principals and Vice Principals and will be posted on the ASD-S website. Schools have been asked to also post it on their individual sites as well.

Council was brought up-to-date on the many retirement events happening over the next month across ASD-S. Mrs. Watson advised that an Aitken Pewter 'clock' has been chosen as the District gift. It has been engraved and will be presented to anyone retiring this year. The gift packages for each retiree will also contain a certificate signed by the Minister and a lapel pin with the number of years service.

Mrs. Watson will attend the PALS and Woodlawn graduations this week, and over the next week, all 15 high schools will host graduation ceremonies. Mrs. Watson congratulates all graduates and extends a thank you to all staff who organize these ceremonies and graduation dances.

Mrs. Watson advised that the District has offered to pay busing costs for all "Safe Grad" activities. Mr. Boudreau asked if the union (ie bus drivers) were offering their support for these events. Mrs. Watson advised that some drivers do volunteer and that the District also covers their 'sub' for the next morning, as drivers are out all night for some events.

Mrs. Watson acknowledged Principal Tina Estabrooks (Centennial School) on receiving the Vince Sunderland Award for Outstanding School Administrators which was announced at the NBTA AGM.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that a tree had been planted on the front lawn of the District Office and plaque erected to thank Mr. Irving for his constant and unwavering support of the PALS program and initiatives in our priority neighborhoods.

## **6.2 Chairperson's Report & Updates**

Mr. Fowler advised that the DEC Chairs would be having a conference call with the Minister and Deputy Minister with regard to changes to the Assessment Protocol. He will report back at the September meeting.

Mr. Fowler advised Council that a draft version of the Education Plan is now out for review and he felt that it was a comprehensive document with a good description of what we've been doing.

Mr. Campbell commented that the Education Plan was a pretty simplistic document that was easy to read. Mr. Spires questioned who was going to implement it, and how will the actions be funded? He noted that inclusion/special needs will cost more money. Mrs. Watson commented that she sees a number of tie ins with our DEC Ends policies.

Mr. Fowler advised that feedback from the Spring Symposium was very positive and that possibly a similar session would be considered for the fall to address social media and governance.

Mr. Fowler updated Council on the Governance Committee which will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in a few weeks and will then report back to the Minister.

Mr. Fowler addressed the meeting schedule for 2013-14 and advised that the August meeting will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup> and he suggested that we follow the same schedule as this year, but change up the schools we visit. All members were in agreement.

### **6.2.1 Report on the Superintendent's Evaluation**

Mr. Roger Nesbitt explained the four phases that were followed to complete a comprehensive review of Mrs. Watson's performance as Superintendent. These included: a self-reflection document provided by Mrs. Watson; an on-line survey distributed to some 121 personnel of the District and all DEC members; a review of the self-reflection document and survey responses by the sub-committee tasked with completing the review; and finally, their recommendation to the DEC members presented at this meeting. Recommendations were as follows:

"Moved that the District Education Council of Anglophone South School District expresses thanks and strongly commends Zoë Watson for her tireless efforts this year on behalf of the district, all employees, students and parents. Through her dedication and commitment this first year of the newly amalgamated district has been very successful." Moved by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

And, "moved that as a result of her successful administration of Anglophone South School District this year, Zoë Watson's performance is rated as 'Exceeds All

Expectations'. It is further moved that her contract as Superintendent be extended for a five (5) year term. Moved by Roger Nesbitt, seconded by Gary Crossman. Motion carried.

### **6.3 Correspondence**

None.

### **6.4 Members Notebook**

Mr. Spires commented that he found the Spring Symposium very valuable. He was very interested to hear what other DEC members and PSSC members had to say. He strongly encouraged all members to attend the next one.

Gary Crossman brought forward an item from the Southern Exposure newsletter with regard to a Hampton Tourism Video Contest. In an attempt to raise awareness of all that Hampton has to offer as a destination, the Town of Hampton and its Tourism Committee recently partnered with Hampton High School and ran a Tourism Video Contest. There were three technology-based classes that participated, yielding eight submissions in total. The contest was implemented into the classes' curriculum and a prize of \$250 was offered for the winning entry.

The winning entry was submitted by a team of three grade twelve students: Nicholas Diggle, Chris Donovan and Sarah Sehl. The winning entry was announced on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>, and students were recognized at the Hampton Town Council meeting on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> where they were awarded their cheques. A huge thank you to HHS staff Brian Haas and Ken Stackhouse! You can view the winning video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qtN7K1MDWE>

Mrs. McGill-Pierce commented that we as a DEC might like to plan our own mini-symposium and include PSSC. Mr. Fowler suggested that we might come in on a Saturday and have Charlie MacDonald speak to students/PSSC and then continue on with PSSC orientation.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce, Mr. Spires, Mrs. Gunter and Mr. Mabey agreed to work on some preliminary fall plans.

Mr. Fowler advised that the PSSC brochures are ready and will come from Stacey Brown.

Mr. Campbell commented that he hopes for a safe graduation for all of our students and encourages all graduates to enjoy this time, but also to enjoy it in a safe manner.

Mr. Fowler acknowledged students in attendance from Saint John High School and congratulated them on their big track team win!

Mr. Fowler advised that Council would meet informally sometime in July for a working session and that date would be communicated to all.

## **7. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's council meeting. Members were advised the next meeting will be held at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, August, 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary