

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – November 13, 2013**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Regrets:** Sherman Ross

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Debbie Thomas, Senior Education Officer Saint John; Paul Smith, Senior Education Officer Hampton; Derek O'Brien, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Kate McLellan, Director of Education Support Services; Jeff Hanson, Director Finance and Administration and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

Dan O'Connor, PSSC Chair Bayside Middle school was also in attendance.

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

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

Mr. Fowler advised that Sherman Ross will be unable to attend this meeting.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes**

Mr. Fowler reviewed the Agenda with Council and asked that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Agenda, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Agenda be approved and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Mr. Boudreau voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the October 9th meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mrs. McGill-Pierce moved that the Minutes be approved and Mr. Mabey

seconded the motion. Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Spires voted against the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.2 Public Comment**

Mr. Dan O'Connor, Chair of Bayside Middle School PSSC addressed the meeting. He reviewed for Council the successful efforts of the students at the school who raised \$31,422 for the Children's Wish Foundation this year. The total raised to date is in excess of \$250,000.

Mr. O'Connor also advised that the auditorium refurbishment will begin in December when the old chairs will be taken out and replaced with new seating. The auditorium will also be wheel chair accessible.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Bayside students will be lip syncing to the tunes of the 80's and raising money for their annual Tunes for Tech event. All money raised will go to the Technology Department at the school. Tickets are available.

Mr. O'Connor raised the issue of the District policy whereby middle schools are not permitted to travel to the United States. He believes that Bayside's trip request should be approved as another school has been exempted from the policy. Mr. Fowler addressed this topic and explained that as a DEC, they are not permitted to be involved in the day-to-day operations of the District. He explained that Mrs. Watson is charged with the responsibility for the safety of all students and she would keep the DEC informed as to her decision.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. O'Connor for his time and congratulated him on the success of the Children's Wish Foundation fundraising.

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

### **3.1 MLA Meeting**

Mrs. McGill Pierce advised that she does not have a confirmed meeting date. She will advise Council as soon as a meeting date and time have been set.

### **3.2 PSSC/Student Forum – October 5<sup>th</sup> Feedback**

Mrs. Watson advised that feedback from PSSC members as well as the students who attended the October 5<sup>th</sup> event has been posted on the DEC portal for all to review. The same information will be shared with the faculty advisors.

### **3.3 PSSC St. Stephen Meeting Follow Up**

Mrs. Watson advised that although we did not have a large attendance from St. Stephen at the PSSC/Student Forum on October 5<sup>th</sup>, the PSSC in that area have indicated they do not require a separate meeting at this time.

## **4. Presentations**

### **4.1 District Psychologist Presentation**

Mrs. Margot Rankin-Young introduced herself and staff members, Lisa Mazerolle and Suzanne Monahan. She advised that her presentation would address topics including the psychologist's role in education, the licensing process for psychologists and school based mental health.

Mrs. Rankin-Young noted that work in the schools began in the 1970's with a focus on learning disabilities. However, with Inclusion, their services have become broader based. She went on to explain the pyramid of intervention which is designed to ensure psychologists meet the needs of current students as well as collect data to be analyzed. She detailed what services are provided at each tier of the intervention pyramid and explained that 40% of their time is spent on providing Tier 1 services, 20% on Tier 2 and 40% on Tier 3.

Mrs. Rankin-Young explained that there is currently a backlog of referrals and their goal is clear those up as soon as possible and then move forward with the new model outlined above.

Mr. Cullinan asked at what age they are seeing mental health issues in students. It was explained that children suffer from issues such as anxiety and depression at really young ages, beginning in elementary and right through to high school.

Mr. Boudreau asked if students were actually waiting 12-14 months for services. Mrs. Rankin-Young advised that up until this year, it would have normally been a 3-4 month wait, but this year, 12-14 months is accurate. However, there are now triage procedures in place to see students in order of priority, which is decided by the school in consultation with the psychologists.

Another question raised was if the socio-economic status of families affects students' mental health. Ms. Monahan advised that poverty has a definite effect on the size/growth of a child's brain. Lack of food also limits stimulation and motor skill development.

Mrs. Rankin-Young explained that the New Brunswick Association of School Psychologists recently partnered with the NBTA to develop a survey for teachers to determine what teachers felt they needed from psychologists, what they would like to see, and anything that did not work. She revealed some of the key results and comments contained in the survey. It was generally felt that psychologists play a

valuable role in our education system and consensus was that we do not have enough psychologists to make an impact. The biggest challenge to overcome was seen as the waiting list.

Mrs. Rankin-Young provided statistics on school psychologist staffing in New Brunswick vs. US. She also quoted previous reports (MacKay-2006; Porter/Aucoin 2012) which recommended a ratio of 1 psychologist for every 1,000 students. Today in Anglophone NB we are at 1 psychologist for every 3,027 students. In Francophone NB, the ratio is 1 psychologist for every 1,116 students.

Mrs. Rankin-Young went on to explain that one way to help resolve the shortage of psychologists is to participate in an Intern program and work to train our own. She was happy to advise that ASD-S will be hosting 2 students from Mount St. Vincent University in the Saint John and Hampton Education Centres as a pilot project in the new year.

Mrs. Watson advised that ASD-S is funded for 8 psychologists; we currently have 4 in the Saint John Education Centre, and 4 in Hampton, with none in St. Stephen. We do have ads out for this vacancy; however, there has been no response to date. In St. Stephen we currently have a retired psychologist working one day per week on a contract basis.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. Rankin-Young and her staff for their informative presentation.

#### **4.2 District Report Card**

Mrs. Watson introduced Marc Godin, and Subject Coordinators Johanne Austin, Brenda Logan and Suzanne LeBlanc Healey. She explained that Mr. Godin has responsibilities for data and accountability within ASD-S. She explained that he is working to improve data and how we look at it. Data will tell us where we are and where we can grow to. The information Mr. Godin will provide tonight is a snapshot of the October – June time frame.

Mrs. Watson advised that the embargo has been lifted on achievement results and that results by school were not updated yet on the Department site, but would be available shortly.

Below is a summary of the achievement results which were reviewed:

## Provincial Assessment Results for Anglophone District South

Grade	Assessment	Target 2013	Province % at Appropriate or above – 2013	District % at Appropriate or above – 2013	District % at Appropriate or above - 2012	District % at appropriate or above - 2011
2	Reading	90%	79.5%	80.3%	80.3%	N/A
	Writing	90%	N/A	N/A	84.0%	N/A
	FI Reading	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	FI Writing	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Mathematics	90%	N/A	N/A	81.0%	N/A
4	Reading	90%	N/A	N/A	78.4%	N/A
	Writing	90%	N/A	N/A	59.2%	N/A
	FI Reading	90%	65.9%	58.3%	N/A	N/A
	FI Writing	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Mathematics	90%	62.9%	62.5%	63.8%	N/A
7	Reading	85%	76.2%	77.0%	N/A	N/A
	Writing	85%	62.6%	63.9%	N/A	N/A
8	Mathematics	85%	58.5%	60.8%	57.4%	N/A
9	Reading	85%	78.1%	77.5%	N/A	N/A
	Writing	85%	82.4%	82.4%	N/A	N/A

Discussion followed the presentation. A question was asked how can students write better than they can read? It was explained that at the grade 9 level, teachers concentrate on both these areas and they take it very seriously as it is a graduation requirement. Ms. McLellan went on to explain that you can't compare the two assessments.

A question with regard to numeracy results for grades 5 – 8. Ms. Logan advised that everyone is working hard to change these results. They are working with principals to show them what to look for in Math classrooms. Benchmarks are important to gauge where we are.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Godin and coordinators for their presentation.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1 DEC Policies for Review

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that last month members had requested time to review the policies and review/approval was then brought forward to the November meeting.

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to the Council-Staff Relationship policies numbered 1 through 6. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Fowler asked for a motion to adopt these policies for ASD-S. Mr. McDevitt made a motion to adopt Staff-Council Relationship policies 1 through 6 and the motion was seconded by Gerry Mabey. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler then asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to Governance policies numbered 1 through 8. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Fowler asked for a motion to approve. Mr. McDevitt made a motion to approve Governance policies 1 through 8 and the motion was seconded by Wayne Spires. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler advised that all District policies would be reviewed over the next year.

## **5.2 Surplus Land - Millidgeville**

Jeff Hanson, Director of Finance & Administration reviewed the request and provided some background information on the project. Kings Way Supportive Living has indicated their wish to obtain a parcel of land, approximately 5.0 acres in size, located on the property of Millidgeville North School on Woodward Avenue across the street from the Kennebec Manor. If granted this request, it would be their intention to construct a NB Housing Complex for seniors on the property.

The construction plan is in two phases

- Phase I - two 14-bed homes
- Phase II - apartments with Specialized Home Care

At the District Education Council meeting on January 19, 2011, the former District 8 Council declared 2.9 acres of this land to be surplus. This was the result of a request from Arc-F Saint-Jean to acquire the land with the intention to construct a 40 unit NB Housing Complex for seniors on the property. The land sale did not occur and currently Arc-F Saint-Jean is involved in the project proposed by Kings Way Supportive Living.

Mr. Hanson advised that a survey would be required to determine how much land would be required to ensure there would be access to the seniors' property from Woodward Avenue. He also advised that the District staff see no need for the land in the future and recommend it be declared surplus.

Mr. Fowler then asked for a motion. Mr. Nesbitt motioned that Council declare the following surplus to the needs of the school district:

- approximately five acres of land (including 2.9 acres previously declared surplus in 2011), including portions of PID #0049932 and PID # 55100200
- sufficient acreage along the Eastern boundary of school property to enable access to the facility from Woodward Avenue

The motion was seconded by Charlotte McGill-Pierce. Council members Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Spires voted against the motion. Motion carried.

### **5.3 Budget Update**

Mr. Hanson reviewed the status of the budget with Council Members. He highlighted a few challenges on individual line items; however, advised that we are still forecasting to be on budget at year end.

Some of the challenges include that we have 14 more EAs than we are funded for; custodial replacement costs are a little above budget and we are forecasting that we will be slightly over budget on this line item at year end; bus driver replacement costs are also slightly over budget, and we are close to budget on the District offices charges. Mr. Hanson advised the Province will fund any shortages on teachers' salaries.

Mr. Hanson advised Council that snow and garbage removal tenders have closed and were within the budgeted allocation.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Hanson for his update and also on behalf of Council, wished him well in his new position as he is leaving the District before the end of the month.

## **6. Information Items**

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

Mrs. Watson advised that we have been working with Key Industries to provide an opportunity for staff to purchase some ASD-S clothing items. Sample items are on display in the Human Resources Boardroom for any DEC member wishing to order.

Mrs. Watson advised that we are still collecting PSSC/Chair information; however, we are still missing some information. She asked Council if they would like to have copies of each committee, have them posted to the DEC portal, or emailed by school to each DEC member. The consensus was that Chairs should be posted on the DEC portal and members would have access to their school PSSC member information when they need it by checking the school website. Mrs. Watson will follow up with Principals.

Mrs. Watson advised that in our District Education Plan one of the strategies identified under "positive, safe and inclusive environments" is to move the Turnaround Achievement Award program to the St. Stephen and Saint John Education Centres and our goal is for a celebration dinner for recipients and their families in May 2014. This is a program that has a 10-year history in the Hampton Centre and one we would like to see grow across ASD-S. In this program, one or two middle/high school students per school are acknowledged for "turning their lives around" this school year – i.e. academically, socially, behaviorally. A small steering committee has been put together and we are in the early stages of finding sponsors and venues. The cost of the dinner in the Hampton Education Centre is about \$6,000 for 24 students and their families. If any DEC members know someone we can approach about becoming a sponsor, please let us know.

Mrs. Watson advised that meetings would be scheduled before Christmas with Quispamsis Elementary, Fairvale Elementary and Lakefield Elementary PSSCs to bring them up to date on the new K-5 Quispamsis School and to discuss new school boundaries.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> is the NB Student Leadership Conference in Fredericton all high schools in ASD-S are participating. Mrs. Watson noted that she is pleased to be attending on Friday evening as a guest at the banquet, and sharing her thoughts on leadership with the students. Donna Fry from Hampton High School is a lead organizer in this special event.

Mrs. Watson referenced the “Strengthening Inclusion, Strengthening Schools” booklet that was provided to each Council Member. She noted that both Millidgeville North School and Sir James Dunn Academy are highlighted in the booklet. She suggested that the Inclusion Policy 322 would be an Agenda topic for a future meeting.

Mrs. Watson advised that Theresa Murray joined ASD-S this week as our new Transition to Work Coordinator (replacing Joan Wilkins). Theresa has been the Career Workroom Coordinator at Sussex/Belleisle High Schools. Mary Ashton will be the new Coordinator at the two high school workrooms. Theresa will be based in the Saint John Office but some days may work from the Hampton Centre as well as she is from the Hampton area.

Mrs. Watson reported that Friday, November 22 would be Mr. Hanson’s last day as Director of Finance and Administration for ASD-S. The competition for his position has closed and interviews will take place next week. Mrs. Watson thanked Jeff for his work over the past year and wished him well in his new position.

Last week was Career Week and a busy one at that! November 5<sup>th</sup> marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. Stephen Centre Career Expo at St. Stephen High School. November 6 & 7 were Post-Secondary Days at the Brunswicker in Saint John and on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Sussex Regional High School hosted a Post Secondary Day! Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> was also the annual grade 9 “Take Our Kids to Work Day,” across the province. In addition, there were many special activities happening in our schools and at the high school Career Workrooms!

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> was the official opening of the outdoor classroom at Island View School – you may recall many helped Island View with the on-line voting process through the Majesta Trees of Knowledge competition.

As part of the District Improvement Plan, a 2 day session on the Red X, “Beyond the Hurt” peer anti-bullying program was held.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) has designated the week of November 18-22nd as *Anti-Bullying Awareness Week* to help promote safe schools and positive learning environments. During *Anti-Bullying Awareness Week*, New Brunswick students, school staff, parents/guardians and community members are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.



Schools are encouraged to plan activities or launch initiatives that heighten awareness of bullying and its overall impact on the school community.

Mrs. Watson highlighted the funds raised by students for charity; including Belleisle Regional High School and Elementary who raise thousands of dollars each year from their Fall Auction, and this year raised \$24,500. Bayside Middle raised over \$31,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation and hosted the Lt. Governor and his wife who were in attendance when the total was announced. Students also had fun when they tricked out Principal Pat Laskey's car to highlight their success. St. Stephen Middle School provided 6,152 pounds of food for the food drive in their community.

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

Mr. Fowler advised Council that he and Mrs. Watson would be attending the Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards ceremony in Fredericton this coming weekend. These awards honour teachers for their work in field of education.

Mr. Fowler advised Council that he attended the Minister's Forum and met with Minister Marie-Claude Blais. He was confident that she will work hard to advance education. She was receptive to the review of the Nutrition Policy and Mr. Fowler advised Council that Joan Donahue will Chair that committee.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that there would be short meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, and a Christmas reception would follow. Council members and staff are invited to bring a guest.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council to send him the dates they are available for a January retreat so a final date can be confirmed.

## **6.3 Correspondence**

Received and filed letter from Bayside Middle PSSC.

## **6.4 Members Notebook**

Mr. Spires asked Council if they would permit him to contact Naomi Klassen to get more information with regard to the Child Exploitation conference he previously attended. Council agreed.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce updated Council with regard to the new report cards and advised that a survey would go to all teachers for review and feedback. Derek O'Brien, Director of Curriculum and Instruction has been involved in this initiative and has been conducting focus groups.

**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, December 11, 2013 beginning at 6:00 p.m. due to the Christmas Reception following the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Rob Fowler, Chair

---

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary