

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – October 8, 2014

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 490 Woodward Avenue Saint John, NB. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

Regrets: Gary Crossman, Sherman Ross, Joanne Gunter

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration, Kate McLellan, Director of Education Support Services and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

Dorothy Shepard, MLA for Saint John-Lancaster was in attendance along with PSSC Chairs Jason Gaudet (St. George Elementary) and Dan O'Connor (Simonds High).

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

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

Mr. Fowler passed on regrets for Mr. Ross. He also advised Council that he had received the resignation of Mr. Crossman and read the letter to all.

Mr. Boudreau made a motion to accept the resignation, with regret, and with sincere appreciation for Mr. Crossman's dedication to Council and Anglophone South School District. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mabey. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler advised Council that he had informed the Minister of this vacancy and that the process would now begin to fill Mr. Crossman's seat on Council. Names will be gathered, an ad will be placed in local newspapers and then 3 names will be submitted to the Minister who will make the final decision.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes

Mr. Fowler reviewed the Agenda with Council and made note that our Presenter for this evening, Bernard Richard (DOTS NB), was sick and unable to make it. So with #4 off the Agenda, he asked if there were no concerns or questions regarding the amended Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the amended Agenda be approved. Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved and Mr. Cullinan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Public Comment

None

Mr. Fowler offered congratulations to MLA Shephard who was in attendance. He also advised that newly appointed Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Serge Rousselle had called to say he was looking forward to working with Council in the future.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 PSS Budget – Use in 2013-14

Mrs. Watson reviewed some of the many ways PSSC used their budget allocation last school year. This included helping to pay for all, or part of Synervoice costs; signage/repairing of school signs; lobby screens (to promote school activities, Celebrate); green screen (to do video announcements at Quispamsis Middle School); community parenting workshops; brochures to families; bullying awareness; food for family events; Edline (in high schools) to name a few.

3.2 PSSC Symposium

Mrs. Watson advised that some sessions have been developed including Allan Davis, who will speak on School Improvement Plans and a teacher from Rothesay High who will speak about her personal journey through the mental health system with her daughter. Mr. Fowler advised that Charlie MacDonald has been booked as a guest speaker for first thing in the morning. He also noted that he is looking for door prizes.

Mrs. Watson advised that she has communicated to Principals and PSSC Chairs. Mrs. McGill-Pierce noted that all of her schools know about the event and that it is on Twitter. Mr. Boudreau advised that his schools did not know. The next item will be to get a rough idea of the number of attendees so food can be arranged.

4. Presentation – DOTS NB

Cancelled due to illness of the presenter, Bernard Richard. This presentation will be re-scheduled at a later date.

5. New Business

5.1 Island View School Property

Mr. MacDonald addressed a request from the City of Saint John to acquire land located behind Island View School for production wells for portable water for the City. Specifically, the parcel of property is located in the back of the school and borders on a gravel pit that is owned by Galbraith Construction and land that was sold to Emera for a pipeline. The school currently has a playground and there are no long term plans to expand the school. This request would require Council declaring the identified parcel of land as surplus. He reminded Council that DTI will negotiate the price of the land with the City. He reviewed the map of the area which District staff are asking to be declared surplus.

Mr. Fowler asked for a motion on the land to be declared surplus. Mr. Spires made a motion that Council declare the parcel of land located at the north end of the Island View School property surplus to the needs of the school district. Motion seconded by Stephen Campbell. Mr. Boudreau voted against the motion. Motion carried.

5.2 District Education Plan Updates 2014-15

Mrs. Watson advised Council that staff reviewed and updated the District Education Plan, tweaking timelines and strategies as required. There were no major changes made to specific goals. She advised that we will replace the current document on the ASD-S website, with the updated one.

She briefly reviewed with Council some of the key updates to each of the four Ends policies which are reflected in the updated document.

5.3 Review of Governance Policies #1-4

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to Governance Policies #1-4 which had been posted with tonight's meeting materials for Council to review. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Boudreau moved to accept the policies as written. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

5.4 Reconfiguration of Fundy High School

Mrs. Watson advised that during family consultations on the re-configuring of Pennfield Elementary School from K-4 to K-5 last year, parents asked if grade 5 students could be moved from Pennfield to Fundy High for grade 6. At the time, Mrs. Watson advised that the Director of Schools for St. Stephen, Jenny MacDougall and she would look into the possibility and that according to Policy 409, would need to consult families from nearby schools. It was later decided a meeting of the PSSC's of Fundy High, Blacks Harbour

Elementary, Back Bay Elementary and St. George Elementary would be held to discuss the possibility of a reconfiguration of Fundy High School to grades 6-12. The meeting was held on June 9, 2014 at Fundy High with Mrs. Watson and Mrs. MacDougall attending. Derek O'Brien, Director of Curriculum & Instruction also attended the meeting and presented the provincial middle school concept. At that time, it was decided to continue discussions this fall.

Currently Pennfield students go to Blacks Harbour for grade 6 and Fundy High School for grade 7. Back Bay is K-5 with grade 5's going to St. George Elementary for grade 6 and moving again for grade 7 to Fundy High School. The reconfiguration recommendation would eliminate an additional move for grade 6.

Mrs. Watson advised that meetings with PSSC will take place later in November.

5.5 Student Leadership Conference November 6, 2014

Mrs. Watson advised that Donna Fry of Hampton High School, approached her with the suggestion that we connect District Education Councils with students at their annual Student Leadership Conference. Last May Mrs. Watson and Mr. Fowler met with Donna Fry to discuss this opportunity.

The conference is being held on Thursday, November 6th in Fredericton and Council will have approximately 2.5 hours to meet with their student representatives. Council will have ten minutes to talk about what they do, and then each high school will address Council about two things they are most proud of and two challenges. All members of Council who can are encouraged to attend. Ms. Watson will email more details as they become available.

5.6 Rationalization of Schools Policy 409

Mr. Fowler advised Council that we have a number of these to review at tonight's meeting.

Mr. MacDonald first addressed Council with regard to St. Patrick's, Seawood and Havelock schools. Due to the recent closure of St. Patrick's School, a temporary solution was needed to house the students for 2014-15 school year (students are now situated at Havelock or Beaconsfield schools). However, he noted that it is Council's #1 priority to have a new school for the west side. This would impact Havelock, Seawood and St. Patrick's schools.

Mr. Fowler called for a motion on West Side Schools: Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt that Council direct the Superintendent to inform Minister Rousselle that we intend to study School Sustainability in the Saint John West Side area. Specifically constructing a new K-5 school and closing St. Patrick's, Seawood and Havelock Schools. This will allow us under the department's Policy 409 - *Multi Year School Infrastructure Planning* - to begin the public consultation process to gather community and stakeholder input to the recommendation. Motion seconded by Mr. Cullinan. Motion carried.

Mr. MacDonald then went on to review a proposal to close Lorne Middle School where there are currently only 52 students. He reviewed three possible scenarios and the pros and cons of each plan. Members of Council offered suggestions and comments throughout the presentation, which highlighted the fact that with only 52 students, it would be impossible to provide a good middle school program for these students currently attending Lorne.

Mr. Fowler called for a motion on Lorne School: Motion was made by Mr. Cullinan that Council direct the Superintendent to inform Minister Rousselle that we intend to study School Sustainability for Lorne School in the Saint John North end. This will allow us under the department's Policy 409 - *Multi Year School Infrastructure Planning* - to begin the public consultation process to gather community and stakeholder input to the recommendation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mabey. Motion carried.

Mr. MacDonald next reviewed the proposed plan to close Pennfield School. Mr. Fowler then advised Council that a reconfiguration of schools is the responsibility of the Superintendent and does not require Council's approval. Council would be addressing only the closure of Pennfield School and not the reconfiguration of Fundy High.

Mr. Fowler called for a motion on Pennfield School: Motion was made by Mr. Spires that Council direct the Superintendent to inform Minister Rousselle that we intend to study School Sustainability for Pennfield School. This will allow us under the department's Policy 409 - *Multi Year School Infrastructure Planning* - to begin the public consultation process to gather community and stakeholder input to the recommendation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

6. Information Items

6.1 Superintendent's Report and Updates

Mrs. Watson advised Council of the death of Jonathan Young, a student who had just completed his K-5 years at Rothesay Elementary School and was to begin grade 6 at Rothesay Park this September. A very difficult week for staff at Rothesay Elementary and for his friends at Rothesay Park and Harry Miller Middle schools. A very sad event for many in our school community.

She mentioned that ASD-S has two big days of Professional Development coming up on Thursday and Friday of this week. For teachers, many of the sessions are provincial and curriculum related, and then other District sessions are offered as well. Since these days are provincially designated the Department curriculum sessions are the priority. Custodians are at Bayside School, Administrative Assistants are at Millidgeville North, and librarians meet on Friday at KVHS. As well, the fall Seminar Series put on by NBTA Branch 20 will be held on October 20 & 27th.

Kindergarten registration will take place over four days next week. There will be welcome meetings and kick off events taking place throughout the winter months.

Yesterday, ASD-S Wellness Champions met and many of these people are also our Celebrate Champions for their school. This group focuses on teacher wellness.

Last week and over this past weekend Saint John High School hosted the National Seminar in Debate – 70 top young student debaters and their chaperones were in Saint John from Thursday till Sunday. The action began on Thursday morning with the official opening at City Hall at which Mrs. Watson welcomed everyone. Congratulations are extended to Sherry Nolan and her committee for making this opportunity possible for students and for hosting in ASD-S.

Mrs. Watson shared with Council that Kennebecasis Valley High School, during their “We Care” Week - where they focus each day of the week on a different charity and students learn about the charity and wear the color of that charity - raised a total of \$2,500 to share with the local charities.

She also advised Council that “a Mental Health Matters” Expo is planned for November 6th at Kennebecasis Valley High School. This will be an opportunity to experience an educational evening with guest speakers, resources and interactive activities. There will be a reception, kiosks, speakers and presentations. All are welcome and no registration is required.

Mrs. Watson informed Council that The Big Rothesay Read Committee picked an awesome book for students to read this year – INDIAN HORSE by Richard Wagamese, an Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in northwestern Ontario. He will visit students and host an evening presentation open to the public later this month.

Mrs. Watson spoke about a recently established Cafeteria Committee that is scheduled to meet quarterly and keep the lines of communication open between our schools that operate cafeterias (24 schools) and Chartwells (our food services provider).

She also advised of the Integrated Services Delivery Expansion Committee, (including Directors of Schools, Director of Education Support Services, Director of Early Childhood Services), being led by Maryann Mackay, who are all meeting in St. George today. The project is a multi-partner, multi-department initiative with an end goal of enhanced access to services for children with additional needs to be available in all of ASD-S schools by September 2015.

6.2 Chairperson’s Report & Updates

Mr. Fowler advised Council that he had spoken with the new Minister briefly this morning and that a meeting of the DEC Chairs was scheduled for November.

6.3 Correspondence

None

6.4 Members Notebook

Mr. Mabey mentioned that with regard to the students from St. Patrick's being moved to Havelock/Seawood, he heard that all is going well with teachers and parents. Mr. Fowler confirmed that he is getting the same message.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce advised that all of her schools are aware of the PSSC event on October 18. She mentioned the Charity Run in memory of Caroline Lorette saw 700+ people participate and that it has led to increased talk of allergy awareness. She also mentioned that she had been informed by the Principal in one of her schools that there would be 'no more food in the schools' – ie no treats, cake walks, candy bags, etc. which are often used as prizes. She asked if this was a District decision for all schools. Mrs. Watson advised that she would circle back to the Principal for more information on the comment.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary