

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – October 12, 2016**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Rob Fowler, Roger Nesbitt, Wayne Spires, Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Heather Gillis, Justin Tinker, Gerry Mabey and Rob Alexander

**Regrets:** Richard Malone and Larry Boudreau

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Suzanne LeBlanc Healey, Director Curriculum & Instruction; Kate McLellan, Director of Education Support Services; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Fowler asked that if there were no questions or concerns with the Agenda, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Gillis moved that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Regenbogen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

None

### **3. Presentation**

Mrs. Watson introduced Chris Sherwood to the meeting. Mr. Sherwood is the PowerSchool Coordinator responsible for overseeing the implementation of the new web-based system which will replace WinSchool across the District.

Mr. Sherwood outlined the reasons why it was necessary to replace the current WinSchool system explaining that it is an aging and unsupported system that allows no web-based access and requires a growing number of work arounds. In contrast, PowerSchool provides web-based access for administrators, teachers, parents and students and is the #1 leading education technology platform for K-12 with 65+ million users in 70 countries.

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the implementation process to date which included the training of different user groups including, administrators, administrative assistants, guidance, resource and District Office staff between March and June of last year. Currently the teachers are being trained. Mr. Sherwood is now working on getting the first parents on line (Harbour View High School is the pilot school). He noted there have been a few hiccups along the way but all is moving along quite well. He spoke about the new PowerTeacher and PowerTeacher Pro site which is being very well received by teachers. He noted that they are now learning about the new gradebook.

Mr. Sherwood commented that online resources would be available anytime through DataConnect and users can log in with their credentials. All training materials will be housed here. Mr. Sherwood then proceeded to give Council members a live demo of the new system.

Feedback from Council was positive. It was noted that all teachers will use PowerSchool and will be able to take attendance. Assessments and reports cards would eventually be tied into the new system. Rothesay High School is slated to be the next test site for the parent portion of the system. Mrs. Watson advised that the six high schools using EdLine would be first to get on the new system. Parents will access the site with a password and have access to a two week snapshot of attendance, comments from teachers, (ie late assignments), marks, etc. for their child.

Questions arose on how much time the new system would require of administrators to enter data. It was explained that administrators already take notes, now they will just do it on line. Administrator have found it to be very user friendly.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Sherwood for his presentation.

### **4. Business Arising**

#### **4.1 PSSC Orientation Session Dates**

Mr. Fowler noted that the first session was held in St. Stephen on October 5<sup>th</sup> with

approximately 38 people attending (including administrators and DEC). The session was well received. Mr. Fowler noted that Stacey Brown, DEC Manager was able to attend and hosted the session on Role of the Chair/Effective Meetings. Mr. Spires spoke on how to engage parents and sharing of information. Mr. Spires, Mr. Tinker, Mr. Fowler along with Mrs. Watson and Jenny MacDougall attended.

The next session will be held at Hampton High School on October 18<sup>th</sup> and in Saint John at the District Office on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4.2 Saint John Inner City Schools Consultations Update**

Mr. Fowler advised Council that he has been attending the PSSC meetings for the 7 schools involved in the consultation process along with Mr. Regenbogen. This is to give these committees a heads up on the process and answer any questions they might have.

He reminded Council that the first public meeting would be held at Millidgeville North School on October 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by Princess Elizabeth on October 26<sup>th</sup> and Prince Charles on October 27<sup>th</sup>. He asked all Council members to be in attendance if they are available. This meeting would be an opportunity to lay out the Policy 409 process and answer any questions on that process. There would be no public feedback gathered at these first meetings.

#### **4.3 Update on New West Side School in Saint John – Naming Subcommittee**

Mr. Mabey advised Council that the government committee member had been named along with the District representative. He noted that he still required a community member to sit on the committee as he had reached out to a potential candidate who could not fulfil the role. He will move ahead to find another member. The committee hopes to hold its first meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **5. New Business**

#### **5.1 Governance Policies #1 - 4**

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

#### **5.2 District Improvement Plan Update 2016-17**

Mrs. Watson commented that each year staff update the District Education Plan and bring it forward to Council asking for a motion to approve the updated version for posting on the ASD-S website. She noted that staff will report on each of these policies/strategies after Christmas.

She recalled that these goals were set by DEC shortly after our fall 2012 amalgamation as prior to that, all three previous districts had their own policies. In January of 2013 Council set the first four goals and late last year, added a fifth. Staff worked to develop the strategies to feed into these broad goals established by DEC. Schools look to these goals when developing their own School Improvement Plans. She noted that this will be the last year of the plan and suggested that once the review of the seven Saint John schools has been completed, DEC will look to possibly developing new goals.

This year there have been only minor tweaks and additions over last year. Highlights of the review included:

ENDS Policy #1 – It was noted that formative assessments directly related to student achievement were once again the focus this year. As well, there is much work going into PowerSchool reporting and in preparation for the 2017-18 provincial report cards.

ENDS Policy #2 – The ISD expansion into the Hampton and Saint John Education Centres has been a focus under this policy as well as more work on Positive Behaviour Intervention and Supports. Mrs. Watson stated that we would be able to make good use of the behavior data now being recorded in PowerSchool. She also noted that the District will be paying for 50% of the cost of School Connects so that it will be available for the District to use in the case of any emergency and the need for timely communication.

ENDS Policy #3 – Work continues as the District strives to strengthen engagement of families and foster community partnerships. An exciting new component this year will be the implementation of the PowerSchool parent portal.

ENDS Policy # 4 – Mrs. Watson noted that this goal has seen much growth since 2013. Again, the expansion of ISD into Hampton and Saint John Education Centres has been a big focus as well as PD for staff and receiving \$100K from the Bell Aliant Charity Golf Tournament.

ENDS Policy # 5 – The most recent policy addition with the goal that all members of the school community will be welcomed, respected, accepted and supported and to address heterosexism and discrimination. We continue to work to build awareness of this goal.

Discussion following the update centered around inclusion; the impact it has on the classroom with regard to teacher's time, the effect on gifted children who may be losing out and the need for the return of vocational programs.

Following the discussion, Mr. Fowler asked for a motion. Mr. Spires moved that the updated plan be accepted and posted on the ASD-S website. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **5.3 2016 NBSLA Conference**

Mrs. Watson advised Council of the upcoming Student Leadership Conference in Fredericton on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Delta Hotel. She invited all who could attend to join

student leaders from our District to hear what they have to say. It is always a very enlightening session. She will confirm the time closer to the event.

## **6. Information Items**

### **6.1 Superintendent's Report and Updates**

Mrs. Watson reported on Professional Learning Days held Thursday and Friday, October 6 & 7. Many professional learning sessions were offered for staff on a wide range of topics. EAs began their on-line self-directed modules on autism, custodians met at Bayside Middle School, and there was a half-day session for all administrative assistants. For teachers, many sessions were organized by the Department; some were on-line, others were face to face. Friday was a District based day but at the school level – there was an opportunity to review materials on assessment in preparation for the new report card for fall 2017, and for large high schools an opportunity to look at the Parent Portal of Power School. Each Principal had materials on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities to share with staff in a 60-90 minute block of time, this supports the goal of our DEC on respecting diversity. On Friday there was also a 60-90 minute presentation from the Department on the Ten Year Education Plan and a follow up survey to offer feedback to the Department on next steps with the plan.

This week is Kindergarten Registration Week across the District for 2017-18.

Next Monday and Tuesday, all Principals of schools not housing K-2 will be attending a provincial meeting in Moncton to discuss and learn more about our Ten Year Education Plan. The focus now is on K-2 literacy and numeracy, and the work of the Respect and Diversity Leads and our new Guidance Leads (one per centre). On October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25, Principals housing K-2 will meet in Moncton.

Mrs. Watson noted she recently attended a Recognition Ceremony at Portage Atlantic. This group is closely affiliated with the District and reside in the Hampton Education Centre. We have three teachers who work there.

She advised that the District is promoting immunization programs for middle and high school students between September and December. Staff are working hard to get the participation level as high as possible.

The Saint John Office hosted the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Brian Kenny, who did a tour of the District office today. She reminded Council that the Premier had been in our District on September 20<sup>th</sup> with the ISD announcement.

Congratulations was extended to Subject Coordinator (Literacy/Social Studies) Greg Paterson on completing his doctoral studies through Walden University. Greg recently presented his research to Mrs. Watson, Suzanne LeBlanc Healey and Sandra MacKinnon from the Department. His research focused on adolescent readers in ASD-S and used results of the grade 6 provincial reading assessment and the grade 9 ELPA. The purpose

of the study was to compare grade 6 results with the same students' grade 9 results to determine if the grade 6 scores are an indicator of success on the ELPA.

Mrs. Watson advised Council of the recent change to the roles of the Sexual Health Nurses in the District. These nurses used to be in our schools; however, Public Health has since moved to a model that sees them working with New Brunswickers through the course of life, not just in high school. There is an opportunity to possibly house Nurse Practitioners in our high schools.

## **6.2 Chair Report and Updates**

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the District Health Advisory Committee was looking for a member to sit on their committee. Previously Don Cullinan represented Council. He asked if anyone was interested. Ms. Sherbo offered to sit on this committee.

Mr. Fowler noted that he would be attending a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Summit on "How to Best Educate Students in New Brunswick". He also reminded Council about the Policy Governance session in Fredericton on October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Stacey Brown if you plan to attend.

## **6.3 Correspondence**

None, all correspondence posted on the portal for Council's information.

## **6.4 Members' Notebook**

Question was raised as to where Council could get a copy of the 10 Year Education Plan. Mrs. Watson advised it is on the EECD website.

Mr. O'Connor advised that the four high schools' mental health night went very well with approximately 150 people attending. Plans are underway for a second session. He also reported that last Tuesday Simonds High students were at Tim Hortons giving away toonies for a free coffee. This was sponsored by of the school's "Spirit Committee".

Mr. Mabey advised that the west side elementary and middle schools plan to get together to develop a plan for mental health sessions for parents.

Council members continue to attend PSSC meetings in their subdistricts.

Mr. Alexander noted that he had received a complaint that a school had booked a field trip to a location that was not accessible.

## 7. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary