

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – April 13, 2016**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Regrets:** Bob McDevitt, Kerry Olinskie and Sherman Ross.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Suzanne LeBlanc Healey, Director Curriculum & Instruction; John MacDonald, Director Finance & Administration and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Fowler noted that he had invited all District Education Council candidates to this meeting, and welcomed those in attendance.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Fowler asked that an item be added under New Business: (5.6) 409 Review Update – Grand Bay/Inglewood/Morna Heights. He asked that if there were no questions or concerns with the amended Agenda, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the amended Agenda be approved. Mr. Cullinan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Mabey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.3 Public Comment**

None

## **3. Business Arising**

### **3.1 Report of the Naming Committee – Fundy High School**

Mr. Boudreau reported to Council that the committee had approved 3 names to recommend to the Minister. He advised that the process was communicated to all PSSC groups in Eastern Charlotte as well as the Middle School Committee who has been working on the integration of Grade 6 at Fundy High. A web page was established on school sites in Eastern Charlotte and on the District site. Notification was sent via twitter, letters home and via voicemails advising the public of the process and opportunity to participate in the renaming.

The committee met to review and discuss all 104 names submitted to ensure they would meet the expectations of the communities affected.

Mr. Boudreau then moved that the full report prepared for the Minister of Education, including the 3 recommended names, be approved by Council. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

## **4. Presentation**

### **4.1 ENDS #4 – To provide opportunities for staff to learn about mental health issues in children and youth and to promote school and district wide initiatives that promote mental fitness.**

Mrs. Watson welcomed District staff Pam Miller and Monique Hughes, Positive Learning Environment Coordinators, Dan Vallis, Fine Arts, Health & Physical Education Coordinator; and Thelma Messer, Healthy Learners Nurse, Hampton Education Centre.

Pam Miller & Monique Hughes spoke about the many opportunities provided in the District to learn about mental health issues in children and youth including the Changing Minds program and summer training on Mental Health First Aid. It was noted that Bell Aliant are hosting a golf tournament this June whereby all proceeds raised will come to ASD-S to support Mental Health First Aid training. This is an exciting gift to receive and it is estimated that it will provide approximately \$100,000 in funding.

The LINK program continues in all middle and high schools. This program is undergoing a brand update with new graphics and logo. Teachers, EAs, School Intervention Workers, FACE staff and District ESS staff were provided an opportunity to hear Dr. Bill Morrison speak on mental health in October. The suicide awareness program “SafeTALK” now has 4 trainers across ASD-S. There has also been the introduction of

the Healthy School Planner and Mental Health Toolkit resources. The District continues to develop a menu of presenters and topics for afterschool PD for schools.

Dan Vallis spoke about the ways in which ASD-S continues to support Wellness Champions in each school including fall and spring meetings that are supported by the District and NBTA. Thelma Messer spoke on the District Health Advisory Committee which meets 4 – 6 times per year and partners with various community organizations to promote mental fitness. The committee is in year 3 of a 5 year Strategic Plan with mental fitness as the core priority.

In an effort to promote and facilitate mental fitness activities within the school community, ASD-S schools are provided with information on mental fitness to share with families. Mr. Fowler is facilitating 4 high school PSSCs in their efforts to develop a mental health program for families to be rolled out this fall. It will be based on the LINK program. Mr. Mabey has been involved with his PSSCs hosting parent information meetings in the evenings. Thelma Messer advised that the “Fun Friends” program is being expanded to primary grades, preschools and other community partners. As well, additional funding was secured through Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour for the ‘Friends for Life’ community based Afterschool Programming.

Celebrate What’s Right with the World continues to be promoted across the District and includes initiatives such as “Pay it Forward” which helps increase student mental fitness.

Dan Vallis spoke of the continued use of the SharePoint site where schools share information on mental fitness best practices. Current and relevant information on mental health topics is also available on the site for staff. The District continues to implement the “On the Right Track” program with a refresher to 21 participating schools in September 2015 and a community roll out including posters to libraries, recreation centres, CMHA and on city transit buses.

On-going participation in grades 6-12 provincial Wellness Survey which was developed to examine the health and wellness attitudes and behaviours of students in the areas of healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco free living and mental fitness.

Mr. Fowler thanked staff for their informative presentation.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Executive Limitation Policies #4 - 6**

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to the Executive Limitation policies #7-9 that were posted on the portal for Council to review. The Monitoring Reports submitted by the Superintendent show compliance with these policies. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Nesbitt moved that these policies be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion carried.

## **5.2 Surplus Land Request – Town of St. Stephen**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Briefing Note posted on the portal for Council to review. He advised that the Town of St. Stephen wishes to purchase a piece of property located at 163 King Street (PID# 01307412). Currently the Border Arena building sits on the property at 163 King Street. The Arena was built in 1973 and a 100 year lease agreement was made between the province and the municipality. The Border Arena was decommissioned with the opening of the Garcelon Civic Center in September 2014. Town of St. Stephen plan is to re-purpose the building for the municipal offices and additional recreational uses.

The Town of St. Stephen wishes to purchase the land and have the lease cancelled. The area is approximately 1.17 hectares (2.89 acres) and borders St. Stephen Elementary. The 100 year lease is set at a price of \$1/year and is set to expire in 2074.

He advised that the District does not require this piece of property for St. Stephen Elementary School and noted there is alot of property if any is required in the future. He recommended that the District declare the land surplus. Mrs. McGill-Pierce moved that we declare the property surplus to the needs of the District. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

## **5.3 Capital Projects & Summer Improvement Projects 2017-18**

Mrs. Watson advised that recommended list of Summer Improvement Projects for 2017-18 was posted on the portal for Council to review. She advised that by Council's request, we have presented this information one month in advance and would require an approved list at the May meeting. She noted that she and Mr. MacDonald had met with our Facilities staff to discuss our needs as a District and if there were any questions with regard to the list, to please let us know.

She noted that in 2016 we were approved for \$2.3 million. In 2017 we are requesting \$3,930 million. We do not expect all will be approved.

Mr. Boudreau questioned why there are no bleacher repair/replacements on the list. Mr. MacDonald noted that there doesn't seem to be any support from the Department to approve these requests. He noted that we will be able to fix St. Stephen High School with additional District discretionary funds this year.

Mr. Fowler noted that if improvements are a health and safety issue, they are given priority.

Questions arose from Council with regard to the term "Other" used in the description of projects. Mr. MacDonald advised that most of these would mean a washroom upgrade. He advised that he will review the list and provide more details for those marked as "other" and the list will be reposted.

Questions also arose on what would be involved with "site improvement" for schools on the list and Mr. MacDonald explained those in detail.

## **5.4 Trigger Schools 2016-17**

Mr. Fowler reviewed the letter and attached list of Trigger Schools received from Minister Rousselle that was posted on the portal for Council to review. Of all schools listed, there are only three that DEC must either review or request an exemption.

After some discussion, Mr. Boudreau moved that we request a one year exemption for Apohaqui Elementary School, Fundy Shores School and Back Bay Elementary School due to the upcoming elections and a changing of the DEC. Seconded by Stephen Campbell. Motion carried.

## **5.5 Update – New West Saint John K-5 School**

Mrs. Watson updated Council on the progress of the new school including clearing of the site (and pictures of the cleared space) and the tender process. She extended her appreciation to Havelock School and St. Patrick's (grades 3-5) for dealing with the noise and disruption during this part of the project.

Mrs. Watson noted that the 3 PSSCs from Seawood, Havelock and St. Patrick's had a meeting the night of March DEC, so she was unable to attend. They have sent a number of questions and Mrs. Watson and District staff will meet with them sometime in May to provide information.

## **5.6 Policy 409 Review Update – Grand Bay/Inglewood/Morna Heights**

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the Minister made an announcement in the House that he had approved our recommendation for the closure of Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood and Morna Heights when a new school is announced. He ruled that DEC had followed the process properly. He noted that this capital expenditure will require approval by Cabinet.

# **6. Information Items**

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

Mrs. Watson advised Council of two deaths within the District over the last month. Tyson Taylor, a kindergarten student at Glen Falls School passed away unexpectedly at home last week. Tyson was a sweet boy with many challenges, but he was all smiles and working hard on learning how to handle his wheelchair.

As well, on March 31<sup>st</sup>, we learned of the death of Larry Carney, an Education Assistant at St. Stephen Elementary School. Larry was a permanent employee in the St. Stephen Centre for the last ten years, at St. George Elementary School for about seven years, before moving to St. Stephen Elementary School.

The District provided support and guidance to both schools during this difficult time. Council then observed a minute of silence in their memory.

In recognition of Volunteer Week, ASD-S placed ads on April 5 in the Hampton & Sussex Heralds; on April 12 in The Tides & Valley Viewer and the St. Croix Courier on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The District does not do much advertising; however, we feel that it is important to acknowledge our many volunteers in this small way.

As well, Mrs. Watson advised that she recently spoke at the Rotary Club in Sussex. This group is responsible for the Discovery Park project behind Sussex Elementary School and also the Coats for Kids program which both benefit our students.

A reminder that our 2016 Spring Performances in ASD-S schedule is posted in the Southern Exposure newsletter for your information. We also put this information out on our Twitter feed, and blog. These performances are a lot of work for staff and students and are well worth attending.

A focus group has been held with elementary school Principals from each Centre to review the new DEC Ends #5 policy – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities. Last month staff from middle and high schools met. Information from these sessions has been shared with Mr. Fowler.

Tomorrow there will be a presentation by former Police Chief Bill Reid entitled 360 Stand. This will focus on awareness/knowledge of child abuse. The day will consist of 10 modules from which each person can determine the one that best fits their role. There will be 25 attendees from various departments including administrators, teachers, EAs, custodians, bus drivers, guidance, etc.

Mrs. Watson advised that there are administrator positions currently being advertised due to upcoming retirements. These ads will be on the website and a small ad in the Telegraph Journal.

There were also sixteen positions (8 Guidance and 8 Resource) posted which have now closed for ISD positions. Interviews are currently taking place.

April 22 and 25<sup>th</sup> will be PD days in ASD-S. One will be school based (School Improvement Plan) and one teacher self-directed learning. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, District Office and Education Centre staff will meet for the day and the focus will be on mental health/fitness.

Mrs. Watson advised that she now sits on a new committee through Horizon Health - Saint John Local Community Engagement Committee which met for the first time last week.

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

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the PSSC Chairs of the four Saint John high schools held a planning session last month to develop a seminar focused on mental health issues in the schools. A follow up meeting is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup>. The group is targeting a fall kick off of monthly meetings focused around the LINK program.

Mr. Fowler advised that he was recently at Seawood School to read to the elementary students – he read to four groups – it is a very rewarding experience.

Mr. Fowler advised that the next Minister's Forum will be held in Saint John on May 14<sup>th</sup>. This will include a tour of the Bee Me Kidz program which is fully funded by a former Saint John citizen who now lives in Toronto. Kate McLellan advised that the program has two parts; teachers teach social and emotional learning during the school week and on Saturday, Bee Me Kidz parents are invited to come and see what the children learned during the week. This way, the skills are carried over to the parents and they become more engaged.

Mr. Fowler advised that with the upcoming DEC elections, there will be an Orientation Session on June 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton. There will be an Appreciation Dinner for those leaving the DEC and the Saturday will focus on training for new and returning members. Expenses will be covered.

## **6.3 Correspondence**

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

## **6.4 Members Notebook**

Mr. Spires advised that St. Stephen will be taking in 3 more Syrian families. These families are all so happy to be here and to become a Canadian citizen.

Mr. Mabey noted that he has been attending the Heritage Fairs and commented that they are wonderful! The Saint John Education Centre finals will be held at Market Square on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm – 8 pm.

Council was reminded that the Provincial Skills Competition was being held at Sussex Regional High School on Saturday with 10 trades participating. All are welcome to attend.

Mr. Fowler passed on his best wishes to all Council members in the upcoming DEC elections.

## 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, May 11, 2016 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