

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – December 14, 2016**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, December 14, 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, Rob Alexander, Larry Boudreau

**Regrets:** Richard Malone

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Suzanne LeBlanc Healey, Director Curriculum & Instruction; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Jenny MacDougall, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; Kate McLellan, Director Education Support Services; 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 7:05 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. Nesbitt moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Regenbogen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the November 9, 2016 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Mabey moved that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## 2.3 Public Comment

None

## 3. Presentation

Mrs. Watson introduced Nick Munn, Supervisor Data & Accountability who recently took over for Marc Godin, who is now working in a new ASD-S role supporting the Ten Year Plan. She also introduced the subject coordinators who were in attendance including; Glen Spurrell, Numeracy; Nicole MacNeil, Literacy; Ryan Price, Literacy; and Jillian Ingalls Garey, FSL.

Mr. Munn began by reviewing the 2015-16 assessment schedule and identified the grade levels writing each assessment. He went on to review the results of each assessment:

Provincial Literacy - Grade 2: Over the last three years there has been a downward trend provincially (3.1% drop) and within ASD-S (3.2% drop) of students achieving in the appropriate or above levels. This past year, ASD-S saw 23.4% with a strong achievement result and 52.5% with an appropriate result. 24.1% were below appropriate achievement.

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) - Grade 9 Reading – this is an assessment that all students must pass in order to graduate. If they are unsuccessful on the first try, there are opportunities to re-write in grade 11 and 12. Again, ASD-S (79.8%) is trending fairly consistent with the province (80.4%) with students achieving at the appropriate or above level. It was noted that the trend for the percentage of students at appropriate or above by program on the ELPA at Grade 9 Reading level, over several years, indicates that early and late French Immersion students consistently outperform English Prime students. The Grade 9 Literacy Assessment assesses all students in English.

Grade 12 French Second Language Oral Proficiency – Early French Immersion – It was explained that the target for the early French immersion program is for 85% of Grade 12 students to attain Advanced Oral Proficiency level. It was noted that in order to achieve a certain level on the FI oral interview, the student has to achieve that level in all categories that he/she is evaluated on. In 2015-16, of the 451 Grade 12 early immersion students assessed, 41.7% met or exceeded the Advanced Proficiency level compared to 41.6% in 2014-15.

Grade 12 French Second Language Oral Proficiency – Late French Immersion – The goal of this program is for 85% of Grade 12 students to attain an Intermediate Plus or above Oral Proficiency level. In 2015-16, of the 214 Grade 12 late immersion students assessed, 52.3% met or exceeded the Intermediate Plus Oral Proficiency level, compared to 56.2% in 2014-15.

Grade 12 French Second Language Oral Proficiency – Post Intensive French – The goal is for 85% of Grade 12 students to attain Intermediate or above Oral Proficiency level. In 2015-16, of the 183 Grade 12 post intensive French students assessed, 32.8% met or exceeded the Intermediate Proficiency level.

Grade 6 Reading Results – provincially 54% met or exceeded the appropriate achievement level in reading. In ASD-S, 55.2% met or exceeded the appropriate level.

Grade 6 Results in Science – Provincially 25.7% met or exceeded appropriate achievement levels in science. In ASD-S, 24.6% met or exceeded the appropriate level. It was noted that this was an international assessment (PISA) which is on a 3 year cycle, with a different focus each year. Students must integrate information to solve multiple step questions.

Grade 6 Results in Mathematics – Provincially 20.2% met or exceeded the appropriate achievement level. In ASD-S, 22.4% met or exceeded the appropriate achievement level. It was noted that in the Grade 6 provincial assessment the style of question asked of the students is a PISA style question, which requires multistep reasoning to answer. Some examples were shown for context. It was clarified that students who are exempted from writing this assessment are counted as unsuccessful (exemption rate would typically be very low for ASD-S at 2-3%).

Following the presentation Council had many questions for staff on the assessment process, how results are scored, the low achievement scores in some areas, and the effectiveness of the strategies being used by teachers in the classroom. Suzanne LeBlanc Healey noted that the new assessments this year align better with the Canadian and International assessments and were quite a shift for students. She suggested that we need to get students used to these types of questions – different levels and more complex problems.

Mrs. Watson thanked staff for their presentation.

#### **4. Business Arising**

##### **4.1 Minister's Excellence in Education Award**

Mrs. Watson introduced the ASD-S winners of the Minister's Excellence in Education Award for Council including: Olivia Donovan, SPR at Hampton High School; Heather Hamilton (owner of an early childhood daycare in west Saint John); and Patricia Gallagher, Music teacher at Saint John High School (not in attendance).

Mr. Fowler noted that the ceremony was held in late November in Fredericton and is the highlight of his year. Vignettes that were created for the ceremonies were then played.

Mrs. Watson thanked the winners for attending.

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

Mr. Mabey advised Council that over 400 submissions have been received to date and that all entries must be submitted prior to the Christmas Break. The committee will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> to begin reviewing the selections. Three names will be chosen and presented to DEC in the new year. Following that, they will be submitted to the Minister for a final decision on the new name.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 & 5.2 Governance Policies # 8 – 10 & Council-Staff Relationships #1 - 3**

Mr. Fowler called for a motion with regard to the Governance policies #8 – 10 and Council Staff Relationship policies #1 - 3 that had been posted with tonight's meeting materials for Council to review. Mr. Spires moved that the policies be accepted as written. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Mr. O'Connor questioned Governance Policy #8 and suggested that it was out of date and should be reviewed. Mr. Fowler then asked to amend the motion to exclude that specific policy. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Amended motion carried.

Mr. Fowler asked Mr. O'Connor to form a subcommittee to review the policy and report back to Council. Mr. Boudreau and Ms. Gillis volunteered to sit on the subcommittee.

### **5.3 Budget Update**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the financial report that was posted with Council's meeting materials for tonight. He is forecasting a break-even year. He noted that we do not get sufficient funds to cover replacement salaries and therefore, would likely run a deficit in salaries for custodians, bus drivers and school administrative support staff. There could also be a deficit in operations, again due to replacement costs as well as minor repairs.

It was noted that our approved budget had been increased by approximately \$20M – this was due to the pay equity and contract retroactive payments that were made to CUPE staff and were covered by the Department.

Mr. Fowler then called for a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Mr. Spires motioned that Council accept the financial report as presented. Mr. Regenbogen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Spires and Mr. Fowler then each asked for a moment of silence in memory of Shirley Dysart and Mrs. Watson's father, Ron Watson, who recently passed away.

## 6. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary School on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary