

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – January 14, 2015

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 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, Bob McDevitt, Joanne Gunter, Charlotte McGill-Pierce, Gerry Mabey, Stephen Campbell and Kerry Olinskie.

Regrets: Larry Boudreau, Sherman Ross

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools (Saint John Education Centre); John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration, Paul Smith, Director of Schools (Hampton Education Centre); and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

PSSC Chair Jason Gaudet (St. George Elementary) and Tim Martin, PSSC (Campobello) and 5 parents from St. Stephen Education Centre.

Media was also in attendance.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

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

Mr. Fowler passed on regrets for Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Ross.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes

Mr. Fowler requested that the Agenda be revised to reverse Items 3 and 4, with the Presentation moving ahead on the Agenda. There being no questions or concerns regarding the amended Agenda, he asked that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the amended Agenda be approved. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the December 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. Mabey moved that the Minutes be approved and Mr. Olinskie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Public Comment

None

3. Presentation

3.1 ENDS Policy #1 – (Literacy, Numeracy & Science)

Mrs. Suzanne Leblanc Healey, Director of Curriculum and Instruction introduced her team which included Ryan Price, Literacy Coordinator; Glen Spurrell, Numeracy Coordinator; Johanne Austin, FSL and Darren White, Science Coordinator. She explained that tonight they would update Council on the highlights/changes in this policy since the last presentation to Council.

Assessment has been a major focus with a lot of work done to help teachers identify where students are in their learning. In July there was a District summer learning session where teachers and administrators shared assessment practices. In August of 2014, Sandra Herbst was invited by the local NBTA chapters and presented to all teachers in the Saint John and St. Stephen Education Centres. Also in 2014, “Look Fors” were developed and all schools now have the Balanced Assessment and Formative Assessment Provincial documents.

Universal Design for Learning lesson plan documents and checklists have been posted for teachers and in November 2014, 200 teachers, leads, administrators and subject coordinators attended a Universal Design for Learning Conference in Fredericton featuring Jennifer Katz.

Recent initiatives include the “ELF” (Elementary Literacy Friends) program in 32 schools; a guided math workshop for 53 teachers in grades 3-8; a provincial literacy initiative for grade 2 teachers to improve their literacy skills in their schools; french immersion teachers’ workshops for grades 6, 7 and 8 teachers on new curriculum outcomes.

Professional development on co-teaching happened in all three education centres in 2014. Administrators received the same training.

On-going literacy initiatives saw the continuation of a program with the Learning Partnership/Turning Points (4th year); a partnership with public libraries; and early childhood educators partnering with Kindergarten teachers.

Science, technology and numeracy initiatives saw 10 middle schools participate in The Learning Partnership’s “I Cubed” program focused inventing and innovating, and 35 ASD-S schools participated in the “Hour of Coding” program aimed at de-mystifying computer

science. ASD-S is very excited to participate in the upcoming National Science Fair scheduled for May of 2015 in Fredericton.

In the fall of 2014, workshops were held for teachers of French Immersion, Intensive French and Post Intensive French (grades 3 – 10) with the assistance of federal and provincial funding.

Mrs. LeBlanc Healey advised Council that she and the Subject Coordinators would work with Administrators to ensure that schools meet the instructional time guidelines per subject area as set out by the Province.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. LeBlanc Healey and her team for their informative presentation.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Projected Numbers for New West Side School

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the forecast for the new school for 2015-218. He advised that it is likely a worst case scenario – and a very conservative estimate. Mr. Nesbitt commented that the school would not be ready until at least 2017.

Mrs. Gunter commented that there does not seem to be a lot of room for growth. Mr. MacDonald noted that the next step would be a 500 student school and we would then have to look for a new site. Mrs. Watson advised that there are a number of multifunction spaces built into the specifications that could be repurposed into classrooms if student numbers were to increase. Question arose on whether or not there would be enough parking, and Mr. MacDonald assured that there would be.

4.2 Policy 409 & Grade Reconfiguration Meeting Updates

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the second round of Policy 409 sustainability meetings are complete for all schools under review. He commented that there were a number of very good presentations heard at the meetings. The next step is to digest all information received and conclude with a recommendation to the Minister.

Mrs. Watson updated Council on the reconfiguration meetings being held at five schools in Eastern Charlotte. A letter was sent home outlining dates for meetings in their area. Mr. Charlie Norman attended the meeting at St. George Elementary School and spoke about his study on the middle school concept. Many good points were raised including the need to have maximum separation between middle and high school students and the importance of middle level students having their identity. Concrete ideas were provided. The name of the school has also been discussed.

Two more meetings are scheduled for next week; Pennfield January 19th and Blacks Harbour on January 20. January 27 there is a meeting scheduled for Fundy High School parents and following the meeting, tours will be available and an opportunity to speak with members of their PSSC committee.

Mrs. Watson advised that a final decision on the reconfiguration of grades will be made after reviewing all the information received from the community meetings. It is possible that changes could happen in September 2015 or could be delayed. Mrs. Watson will keep the Council informed.

4.3 Policy 409 Summary of West Side Saint John Consultation Process

Mr. Fowler reviewed the Summary document that was posted with Council's meeting materials and advised that we would need a motion to approve a new school for the west side. He reminded Council that St. Patrick's closed due to structural defects with an estimated cost of \$6-7million dollars to repair. As a result, our students moved last fall and are happy and adjusting well. Public meetings were held to look at the options for the west side, looking at closing three schools (St. Patrick's, Havelock & Seawood) and building one new one. Funding was recently announced with \$2.6 million allotted for structural design.

Mr. Fowler then called for a motion to close Seawood, Havelock and St. Patrick's schools and build a new 450 elementary K-5 school centrally located on the west side. Motion was moved by Gerry Mabey and seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried. This motion will allow the Department to move forward with the process.

Mrs. Watson thanked Council members for their time and support at the ten public meetings held from November through January.

5. New Business

5.1 Review of Council-Staff Relationship Policies #4-6

Mr. Fowler then asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to Council-Staff Relationship Policies #4-6 which had been posted with tonight's meeting materials for Council to review. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Fowler asked for a motion to approve policies #4-6. Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Mr. Olinskie. Motion carried.

5.2 School Construction and Improvement Projects 2015-16 Update

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the document posted for Council's review and stated that we were very pleased as it included all that we requested for summer 2015 projects. The summer 2014 projects were also reviewed with figures for estimates and actual costs. Mr. Fowler noted that our actual vs cost numbers were very close. Mr. MacDonald commented that budget figures are provided by Fredericton and they have done a lot of work to tighten

up the tendering process. He also noted that roofing has been taken off our hands and will be handled by the Department.

5.3 Surplus Land St. Stephen High School

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Brief that was posted with Council's meeting materials with regard to a request to declare a small portion of land surplus at St. Stephen High School. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Fowler then asked for a motion to declare the land as identified in the brief, surplus. Mr. Spires moved that the land behind and to the side of St. Stephen High School as per the attached the brief, as surplus. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

6. Information Items

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson advised that the naming ceremony for the new school in Quispamsis would take place on Friday, January 30th at 9:00 am at Quispamsis Middle School. The Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development, Serge Rousselle is scheduled to unveil the new name. Local dignitaries, MLAs, PSSC Chairs, Principals, staff and students (who will attend the new school) have been invited to attend. Newly named Principal Mike Wilson who starts his new position after March Break will be at the ceremony. Council members are also welcome to attend.

This week is the official re-launch of the "CELEBRATE" initiative across ASD-S! The ASD-S website features a wonderful photo story (www.asd-s.nbed.nb.ca) – it can be found on the top of the website, and then click "Celebrate". There is also a calendar of quick ideas for staff members to use. This initiative is directly related to our District Education Council goal of promoting school and District initiatives to support positive mental fitness! There is also a media interview scheduled with the TJ.

From all reports the Professional Development Day on January 5th went well. It focused on School Improvement Plans by either updating, reviewing strategies or having professional learning directly related to the plan. The SIP is the roadmap for each school, and it is what gets done. Our next PD Day is Friday, February 13, 2015 and will be curriculum focused.

Last week saw 67 ASD-S Vice Principals hear from Sandra MacKinnon on PISA, PCAP and provincial assessment. The afternoon focused on case studies on behavioural challenges.

Program Information nights for grades 2 and 5 have been scheduled for the end of January and into February. They are posted on the main page of the website.

Provincial school reviews have started again, most recently at Fairvale Elementary. January 27th they will be at Brown's Flat.

Mrs. McGill Pierce commented that it would be nice for the parents to be able to “Celebrate” what’s right with their school.

Mr. Spires enquired about where parents could find information about what the characteristics of a middle school would include. Mrs. LeBlanc Healey said she has some information she can send to Mr. Spires.

6.2 Chairperson’s Report & Updates

Mr. Fowler advised Council that he and Mrs. Watson would be meeting with the Minister on Thursday regarding the Budget/409s in Fredericton.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council of the Minister’s Forum the weekend of February 20th in Bathurst and that he and the Superintendent would be attending.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the capital budget announced funding for a review of Grand Bay area options with a look at reorganization/rationalization.

6.3 Correspondence

Mr. Fowler advised Council that correspondence received was posted for their information. This included a letter from the Minister regarding Mr. Olinskie’s appointment to Council and a letter from ASD-E requesting participation for DEC Chairs on the 10 year education plan committee.

6.4 Members Notebook

Mr. Mabey asked if there could be a presentation at a future Council meeting providing an update on trades education within ASD-S

Charlotte McGill Pierce noted that land had been declared surplus at Rothesay Elementary in order to allow the developer an opportunity to fix the angle of the exit. Nothing has happened to date. Mr. MacDonald will call DTI and see where this stands.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce also enquired about the re-drawing of boundaries of the three schools (Kennebecasis Park, Harry Miller Middle School and Rothesay Park. Mrs. Watson advised that it will be looked at.

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, February 11, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary