

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – May 14, 2014**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at Quispamsis Middle School, Quispamsis, NB. The following council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Regrets:** Sherman Ross, Joanne Gunter, Bob McDevitt

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Senior Education Officer Hampton; Kate McLellan, Director of Education Support Services and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

Media was 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 those unable to attend this meeting.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes**

Mr. Fowler reviewed the Agenda with Council and asked if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Agenda, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Cullinan moved that the Agenda be approved and Mr. Crossman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the April 9, 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. Spires seconded the motion. Mr. Boudreau asked to make a clarification on the Minutes whereby his comment referring to the costs of projects under the section Capital Projects/Summer Improvements 2015-16 be removed as it

was not his main concern; it was the process. This clarification will be reflected in the final Minutes. Motion carried with clarification.

## **2.2 Public Comment**

None

## **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **3.1 Spring Symposium**

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the Spring Symposium was being held May 23-25 in Miramichi. He noted that there would be a guest speaker from Lester B. Pearson School Board in Quebec, numerous breakout sessions, and the Minister would be attending the Sunday morning Q & A session. The Deputy Minister would be attending on Friday night.

Mr. Fowler advised that if there were any other PSSC members who wanted to attend, to please get their names in to him.

## **4. Presentations**

None

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 DEC Policies for Annual Review (Ends Policy #4)**

Mrs. Watson reminded Council that ASD-S Ends Policies were identified during our District Education Council Retreat in January 2013 and have been developed over time by ASD-S staff. Ends Policy #4 focuses on providing opportunities for staff to learn about mental health issues and to promote school and district initiatives that promote mental fitness. Mrs. Watson then went on to introduce the team of Pam Miller, Bronwyn Tanner, Alberta Stanton, Thelma Messer, Joyce Walker-Haley and Dan Vallis who all have various roles to play in moving this policy forward within the District.

Ends Policy #4: “to provide opportunities for staff to learn about mental health issues and to promote school and district initiatives that promote mental fitness.”

The main strategies under this policy include:

- Provide opportunities for all school and district educational staff to learn about mental health issues in children and youth.
- Provide opportunities for all school and district staff to learn about and promote mental fitness in the workplace and for children and youth.
- Promote and facilitate mental fitness activities for the school community.

Bronwyn Tanner, Positive Learning Environment/Behaviour Coordinator for ASD-S spoke briefly on the cooperation and team work of all those presenting tonight to ensure that this Ends Policy continues to move forward and evolve.

Pam Miller, Guidance and Positive Learning Environment Coordinator for ASD-S spoke about a 2 day Mental Health First Aid training course which saw approximately 40 staff participate. She also advised that there would be three more courses offered this summer, one per Centre. She went on to advise that there had been 2 ASIST (suicide prevention) workshops and one refresher course involving 60 participants. She spoke about the LINK program and how it has developed; collateral materials being developed to get important contact numbers and information out to all students; the quick response code that allows all students access to the website link where information is available and depending upon the problem, where they can access help. There was discussion around suicide awareness (SAFE TALK) and what to do when someone needs help with this issue; and “Gatekeepers” training for teachers to help them keep kids safe.

Dan Vallis, Subject Coordinator for Skilled Trades, Health and Physical Education spoke about opportunities for school and district staff to learn about and promote mental fitness. He mentioned that the ASD-S newsletter Southern Exposure provides mental fitness and coping skills information; Carmen Meehan, provincial Wellness Coordinator assists the District with wellness tips as well as resource links for the newsletter.

He spoke about NBTA School Based Wellness program whereby a school wellness representative has been identified in every school and their responsibility to help promote all aspects of student and staff wellness; nutrition, mental health, physical health, etc. The District supports this initiative by providing our wellness representatives release time to attend meetings.

Alberta Stanton, Thelma Messer, and Joyce Walker-Hayley (Healthy Learners Nurses for Saint John, Hampton and St. Stephen respectively) were all in attendance to provide information on how they are assisting in moving this strategy forward.

Alberta Stanton spoke briefly on the District Health Advisory Committee (DHAC) and how their amalgamation came about in January 2013 and the group’s responsibility for promoting mental health and mental fitness. She noted that weekly tidbits from DHAC are promoted in our Southern Exposure newsletter; Saint John Education Centre parents would be receiving information from DHAC during their May Kindergarten Orientation sessions; Fun Friends program implementation into a select group of kindergarten and preschools next year; Stress Lesson Tool Kit in grades 4-7 in Eastern Charlotte; the IWK grant to provide training for kindergarten teachers, guidance and nurses. She also talked about the FACE program which deliberately embeds mental fitness in children in their program. Also, On the Right Track – A Guide to Mental Fitness and Resilience will be implemented into 23 schools this fall across ASD-S.

Joyce Walker-Hayley spoke about mental fitness and the sharing of information with families. A subcommittee of the DHAC works on media messaging and how to engage the community in mental fitness. She advised that Sylvie Poulin, Healthy and Inclusive Communities provides expertise to this committee.

Thelma Messer spoke to Council about “Celebrate What’s Right with the World” and increasing student mental fitness. She noted that the Celebrate program is expanding and developing to include St. Stephen with assistance from Tracy Friars; Pay It Forward initiatives, the monthly PLEP newsletter and Southern Exposure are all vehicles which are being used to get this information out.

Mr. Vallis spoke briefly on the Portal Site which is currently being re-vamped to be more user friendly. They will work to create a mental fitness area for resources going forward.

Thelma Messer addressed the Provincial Policy 711 (Nutrition) and advised that all schools would be visited by the Healthy Learners Nurses to identify current practices and to offer support for improvements. This process is just beginning and visits will hopefully happen by the end of June.

Discussion also focused on the UNB Nursing Students who did their community experience with ASD-S. They chose mental health fitness as their topic and held focus groups with children and youth. This focused around competence, autonomy and relatedness. This information will be culled and reviewed and from it, positive mental health media messages will be developed.

Mrs. Watson addressed the final strategy on “Superintendent Information Exchange”. She plans to bring 10-12 staff together to discuss “what’s going well, and what could be improved”.

The presenters fielded numerous questions from Council after which Mr. Fowler thanked the group for their informative presentation.

## **5.2 Executive Limitations Policies #4-9 for Review**

Mrs. Watson advised that she had completed Monitoring Reports on policies EL-10 and EL-11 and had posted the documents to the portal for Council to review. She was confident that she was in compliance with all. Mr. Fowler reviewed for Council what constitutes ‘compliance’ and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Mr. Boudreau then moved that the Monitoring Reports for EL-10 and EL-11 be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

## **5.3 Superintendent’s Evaluation**

Mr. Nesbitt agreed to Chair this subcommittee, and Mr. Mabey and Mr. Spires agreed to assist. If anyone else is interested, please advise Mr. Nesbitt. Mr. Nesbitt advised that he would meet with the Superintendent to review the process.

#### **5.4 Minister's Excellence in Teaching Award Nominations**

Mr. Fowler advised that the deadline for applications would be extended for a few days to ensure everyone has time to get their nominations in.

Mrs. Watson advised that ASD-S is eligible to nominate three candidates. A subcommittee will be required to review the nominations if more than three are received. She advised Council that she had sent a follow up reminder to all PSSC Chairs advising them on the extended deadline.

Mr. Fowler agreed to Chair the subcommittee, and Mr. Crossman, Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Mabey agreed to assist.

#### **5.5 Naming of new Quispamsis Elementary School**

Mrs. Watson advised Council of the May 6, 2014 Open House at Quispamsis Middle School which she, Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Paul Smith (Senior Education Officer, Hampton) and Mr. John MacDonald (Director of Finance & Administration) attended. There were concerns raised by members of the community with regard to the amount of trees that would be cut down bordering on their properties. She advised that due to the first part of the project being a new soccer field, trees would be cut. She went on to advise that for now the one road into the school would remain; however, the Department, in conversation with some property owners near the driveway, were in discussion about a possible second driveway.

On May 12 & 13 there were Open House meetings held at Fairvale Elementary and Lakefield Elementary. Their questions centered around what the new building would look like, the timeline and when the new school would be ready to open. The poster boards that were up in the Council meeting room were used to give a concise visual picture to those in attendance.

There were also discussions with regard to boundary changes which were being re-drawn by Jamie Tait, Transportation Manager.

A meeting is scheduled for the last week of May at Quispamsis Elementary School to bring those families up to date. Information from these sessions will be available on the ASD-S website.

Naming of the new school will follow the process outlined in Policy 409 – Section 6.3 where the steps are clearly laid out. Mrs. Watson advised that a committee would be required to address this task consisting of a DEC member, a local community member, a school district official (which will be named by Mrs. Watson) and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development would also appoint a representative to sit on the committee. Mr. Fowler suggested that Mr. Nesbitt sit as the DEC representative and that he recommend a local community member. Mr. Nesbitt agreed to sit as the representative, and would get back to the Chair with a recommendation for a local community member.

## **6. Information Items**

### **6.1 Short Conference Updates**

Mr. Crossman attended the CEA conference in Fredericton on April 25<sup>th</sup>. He advised that there were approximately 75/80 people in attendance, with a strong representation by ASD-S.

In an attempt to answer the question “what’s standing in the way of education”, roadblocks identified included:

- Training students for jobs we don’t know about for tomorrow
- Lack of trades courses
- Course selections
- Staffing – doesn’t always fit your needs
- Lack of technical equipment
- Access to internet for all
- Being a Principal and a teacher is difficult
- Lack of resources

Mr. Spires attended the Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law and Education conference in Charlottetown, PEI on April 27-29 along with Mrs. Watson, Debbie Thomas (Senior Education Officer, Saint John) and Stacey Brown, DEC Manager.

He advised that the conference was based on Ontario and British Columbia directions and events and that mental health was stressed strongly throughout the sessions. There was also a discussion on Inclusion.

Sessions included the reporting of self-injurious behaviours, a school closures session that was very informative and many more. One person could not attend all, so the three attendees split up to attend a variety and then have an opportunity to share information.

Mr. Spires thanked Council for allowing him to attend. He recommended that we try and get this conference held in New Brunswick sometime in the future.

Mr. Fowler thanked both Mr. Crossman and Mr. Spires and reminded Council that Professional Development for DEC members is critical and that if any member has a request to attend an event, to please let him know.

### **6.2 Superintendent’s Report & Updates**

Mrs. Watson reported new signage has been developed and produced for schools, District Office and Education Centres highlighting “Scent Free” and “Peanut Free” facilities. Samples were on hand for Council to see.

Mrs. Watson advised that drama is alive and well in the District! She reported that ASD-S had many schools represented at the provincial Drama Fest in Fredericton last weekend. Bayside Middle School had their presentation of “Annie Jr” in their newly refurbished theatre

and “The Sound of Music” opened May 13 at Belleisle Regional High School. She reminded Council that it takes many volunteers to make these initiatives happen for our students, and they learn so much from the experience. She encouraged all to attend as many as possible; to date this spring she has attended 10.

On May 13 Mrs. Watson visited the Regional Heritage Fair for the St. Stephen Centre at Blacks Harbour School – students from Sir James Dunn, St. George Elementary, St. Stephen Middle School, Campobello, and Blacks Harbour participated. She noted that the quality of the projects improve each year, and the students’ abilities and comfort level with discussing their projects is also strong.

Mr. Mabey advised that he had attended the Heritage Fair at Market Square last week and all went well. He was a judge for the event. Mr. Crossman advised that he had participated as a judge at the fair at the QPlex.

Mrs. Watson advised that Allan Davis has been appointed Principal (5 year term) at Hampton High School – Allan has been in the position this year in an acting capacity. As well, Charlene Carroll has been appointed Principal (5 year term) at Rothesay Elementary School – Charlene has been the Science Coordinator for ASD-S and Principal Blair Thompson at RES is retiring. She advised that there will be more leadership interviews this month. The website will be updated with any additional positions in schools and the District, and that we do run small ads in the Telegraph on Saturday.

Mrs. Watson reminded Council that retirement celebrations would soon begin and that the District provides a gift to each retiree (a pewter clock from Aitken’s Pewter), a years of service pin, and the Province provides a certificate. She will attend as many of these events as her schedule allows. She will also attend the NBTA AGMs.

Mrs. Watson was happy to report that five elementary schools in St. Stephen Centre are participating in the “Books for Bikes” program; a partnership with the Masons from St. George, Lodge #12. For each book read, the students receive a ballot and there will be draws for 6 bikes plus 6 helmets per school.

Mrs. Watson offered her congratulations to the organizers of the Combined Council Day in Moncton on Friday, May 2, 2014. It was a great experience to hear speakers of the caliber of Andy Hargreaves and Dylan Wiliam! Mr. Wiliam aligned very well with the work ASD-S is doing with Sandra Herbst and Assessment for Learning.

Mrs. Watson advised that the last two school reviews are now done for this year. These were St. Martins and Belleisle Elementary.

Mrs. Watson was pleased that ASD-S will be having three Turnaround Achievement Awards Ceremonies this month – one in each Centre. This initiative supports the District Education Plan goal of creating a positive, safe and inclusive learning environment. On Tuesday, May 20, ASD-S will CELEBRATE ten students at a ceremony at St. Stephen High School. Mrs. Watson acknowledged sponsors St. George Pharmacy, The Work Room, Dr. Marie McKnight and Dr. Maggie McKnight-Whitford and Coordinator Bronwyn

Tanner and her committee who have made this happen in the Centre. Please advise if you are planning to attend any or all of these events

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

Mr. Fowler advised that he had received an invitation to the Branch 20 Retired Teachers event on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Lily Lake and that he would be attending. He also reminded Council of the Spring Symposium coming up next weekend in the Miramichi.

## **6.3 Correspondence**

Mr. Fowler noted that three pieces of correspondence had been posted on the Portal for Council's information. He also advised that ASD-S District staff would be participating in the development of a scoring matrix to facilitate and standardize project prioritization with Department staff.

## **6.4 Members Notebook**

Request was made that Council receive documents that are required by the Department in time to review them more thoroughly. A list of dates when requirements are due to the Department would be helpful.

## **7. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at Blacks Harbour School, Blacks Harbour, on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary