

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

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 490 Woodward Avenue Saint John, NB. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Regrets:** Sherman Ross, Kerry Olinskie and Gerry Mabey.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jenny MacDougall, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Suzanne LeBlanc Healey, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Fowler passed on regrets for Mr. Olinskie, Mr. Ross and Mr. Mabey.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Fowler asked that we move item (5.4) under New Business, Grand Bay Westfield Study, to item (3.2) under Presentations. There being no questions or concerns with the amendment to the Agenda, he asked 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 September 9, 2015 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.3 Public Comment**

Angela Rogerson, PSSC Chair at Deer Island Community School addressed Council. She was attending the meeting along with three other PSSC members. They wanted to personally invite Council members to attend the reconfiguration meeting being held at the school on October 15<sup>th</sup>. She advised that the PSSC were preparing a presentation to outline why they are opposed to a reconfiguration of their school. She suggested that members might like to come early and have a tour of the school prior to the meeting. She also wanted to present Council with a petition signed by residents of Deer Island who do not want to see the changes implemented.

Mr. Fowler thanked Ms. Rogerson and the members of the PSSC for taking the time to travel to Saint John and present to Council.

## **3. Presentations**

### **3.1 Saint John High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme**

Tracy Lutz, AP/ IB Coordinator and Principal Celinda Van Horne from Saint John High School addressed Council to provide an overview of the IB Programme and its importance at their school.

The IB programme was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. Saint John High School began the programme in 1985 with its first IB exams written in 1986. They are the only English public school in New Brunswick to offer the programme and are a member of Atlantic Canada's Association of IB World Schools.

At Saint John High, 46% of the teaching staff, teach IB subjects. 225 students participate from grades 10-12 and 31% of all grades 10-12 students participate. Approximately 100 students (grades 11 & 12) write external exams annually. There is a Diploma (full IB) or Certificate (partial IB) programme available to students. In the Diploma programme, students receive an IB Diploma in addition to a Saint John High School Diploma. Certificate students receive an IB mark in addition to their school marks which can sometimes be used for advanced university credit.

Benefits of IB to students include preparation for post-secondary education where they receive a strong academic background in a breadth of subjects, international-mindedness, critical thinking skills, ability to use risk and experimentation strategies, ownership over learning, experience in high-pressure exam taking and time management skills to name a few. Enrichment (challenging and stimulating courses) university entrance (100% of Diploma candidates enroll in post-secondary institutions) and scholarship offers are also major benefits to IB students.

Benefits of the IB programme to the city of Saint John include the draw of international students, families choosing Saint John specifically for IB and it also draws students from other districts and the private sector.

One Saint John High School IB student addressed Council and provided details of a typical day for her which starts at 6:30 in the morning with athletics followed by a busy day of classes, athletics again at the end of the day and more classes in the evening. Her father, Bob Manning, then spoke about the IB programme from his perspective as a parent and a community leader. He advised that this programme challenges students, prepares them for post-secondary education, provides them with opportunities for scholarships and a focus on community awareness. As a community leader, he advised that these are the students that the city/businesses want to attract and many graduates stay in here in Saint John. His recommendation to Council was to make the IB programme available to all students within the district. Questions arose from Council with regard to the cost of the programme to the district and to individual students. It was explained that students pay \$192 to register and \$132 for each IB exam they write. The district pays \$14,000 annually. It was noted that the Saint John High School Alumni are very supportive of the IB programme.

Mr. Fowler thanked Ms. Lutz and Ms. Van Horne for their informative presentation.

### **3.2 Grand Bay/Westfield Study:**

Mrs. Watson introduced the team from Ernst & Young who were to address Council with regard to the study conducted on the Grand Bay-Westfield schools; Mr. Kevin Doucette and Mr. Claude Francour.

Mr. Doucette spoke to Council on how they arrived at the recommendations being presented tonight and the factors taken into consideration such as the teachers' contract; adhering to the planning guidelines from EECD for new sites; size limits and guidelines for the district; logistics for busing; consideration of future needs (ie early French Immersion to grade 1); and fiscal responsibility.

He then moved on to outline and explain the recommendations that were looked at, and why they were, or were not, considered feasible.

Scenario 1:

- Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood & Morna Heights schools are closed
- Brown's Flat Elementary school is included within the scope
- Westfield Elementary receives the students from the closed schools
- Morna Heights school boundary is to be reviewed with the students being moved to: Westfield Elementary, Saint Rose School and Island View School
- Scenario 1 was not considered feasible due to the difficulty dividing Morna Heights boundary and Westfield capacity would be exceeded

Scenario 2: Same as Scenario 1, except the following:

- Morna Heights school boundary is to be reviewed with students being moved to Westfield Elementary and River Valley Middle (with a grade re-configuration from 6-8 to K-8)
- Scenario 2 was not considered feasible due to students being bused passed their nearest school and Westfield capacity being exceeded

Scenario 3: New school with the following school closures:

- Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood School and Morna Heights School
- Scenario 3 is considered feasible

Scenario 4.1: Repurpose Inglewood School for French Immersion (FI) only, including the following:

- Grand Bay Primary School is closed
- Brown's Flat Elementary School is included in the scope
- All Grand Bay-Westfield FI moved to Inglewood School
- All non FI moved to Westfield Elementary
- Note: Morna Heights School remains open and could be included in future study with Saint Rose and Island View School, if deemed necessary)
- Scenario 4.1 is considered feasible, however, there are currently no French Immersion only schools in New Brunswick. This is not standard.

Scenario 4.2: Modification to Scenario 4.1

- Inglewood becomes a K-5 school with an extension added to accommodate Grand Bay Primary, with FI program remaining at Westfield Elementary
- Scenario 4.2 is considered feasible; however, students would have to be relocated for a year.

Discussions centered on the pros and cons of different scenarios presented with many questions being asked by Council and addressed by Ernst & Young. These questions ranged from renovation costs versus new, safety concerns, structural reviews that might be required to the size of schools. It was noted that Morna Heights needs significant work (water/air quality issues) and will be a trigger school soon. It was also noted that a building assessment study is recommended for Inglewood and Westfield schools to determine the suitability for additions if Scenario 4.1 or 4.2 are preferred.

Ernst & Young recommended that Council review Scenarios 3, 4.1 and 4.2 and select which would be the preferred solution. He suggested they consider the following when making their decision:

- Whether it is a major priority to include Morna Heights within this project
- Whether a French Immersion only school would be acceptable
- Whether it is of greater importance to have two existing schools with upgrades in Westfield and Grand Bay or one new school as centrally as possible that would include Morna Heights

Mr. Fowler then thanked Ernst & Young for their presentation and expressed ASD-S's appreciation to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for their support in making this study possible.

Council then discussed the options available moving forward and the decisions that needed to be made by Council, including the time frame and consultation process required. The pros and cons of proceeding now, or later, were also discussed.

Following discussions, motion was made by Mr. Spires that the Superintendent advise the Minister that we intend to study School Sustainability at Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood School and Morna Heights and move ahead looking primarily at Scenario #3 and/or Scenario 4.2 as back up and any other options that we may learn about through the consultation process. Motion was seconded by Mrs. McGill-Pierce. Motion carried. Mr. Boudreau and Mrs. Gunter voted against the motion.

#### **4. Business Arising from Minutes**

##### **4.1 PSSC Training/Chair Orientation Sub Committee Update**

Mr. Fowler advised that we had approximately 65 people at the Hampton Education Centre session on October 13<sup>th</sup> and he felt it went very well. Feedback forms indicate a positive response from attendees. He reminded Council that the St. Stephen session was scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> and the Saint John session would be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

##### **4.2 10 Year Education Plan – Sessions for Partners/Stakeholders**

Mr. Fowler advised that all three sessions had been completed and went well. There were 10 folks who attended in St. Stephen, and approximately 20 in both the Hampton and Saint John sessions. Notes taken during the meetings will be assembled and submitted to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Mr. Fowler also noted that the Department held two Open Houses for the general public to provide input. Unfortunately, turn-out was very low at both events. Council members commented that they believed the low turn-out was due to poor advertising of the event and suggested a letter be sent to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development with this feedback.

##### **4.3 Provincial Leadership Conference**

Mrs. Watson reminded Council that the Provincial Leadership Conference was being held at the Delta Hotel in Fredericton on November 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:30 am. Students will meet with the DEC before lunch and again after lunch. Lunch will be provided with the students.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5.1 Adoption of Motion from September 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference Call**

Mr. Fowler reminded Council of the conference call held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss Back Bay Elementary School and the need to ratify the Minutes of the call in open session of Council. This is required as any decisions made by Council during the call need to be approved in open session in order to be valid. Minutes of the call were posted with Council's materials for tonight's session. Motion was then made by Mr. Spires that we approve the Minutes of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> conference call and request

an exemption on the Sustainability Study for Back Bay Elementary as agreed to by Council during the call. Motion was seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

## **5.2 Governance Policies #1 - 4**

Mr. Fowler asked that Council agree to move this item to the November meeting in light of the late hour. All were in agreement.

## **5.3 District Education Plan Update**

Mr. Fowler asked that Council agree to move this item to the November meeting in light of the late hour. All were in agreement.

# **6. Information Items**

## **6.1 Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Watson expressed her thanks to all of those who helped to organize and facilitate the many professional development sessions for ASD-S staff on Thursday and Friday last week. Professional development sessions were available to our Custodians, Facilities staff, EAs and SIWs, Administrative Assistants, teachers, administrators, Community School Coordinators, Career Work Room Coordinators and International Student Mentors. Many groups had an opportunity to learn more about our new employee assistance provider, "In Confidence" and the provincial employee initiative, "Every Day Counts."

Congratulations were sent to Hampton High and the boys' football team for being outfitted in new jerseys and cleats through a Nissan initiative.

As well, congratulations to St. Malachy's High School for three positive pieces of news: teacher Amy Marshall was awarded \$4,000 to use toward the purchase of books for her classroom - these funds were awarded from the "For the Love of Books" foundation in New Hampshire; the staff, students and members of the alumni raised over \$12,000 for cancer research as 400 participated in a "Run for Ray," in memory of teacher Ray O'Donnell who died in late August after a battle with cancer; and on October 7<sup>th</sup>, St. Malachy's received \$15,000 (US) from Moore's - they were randomly selected in July as the winner of the Moore's 2015 Cash for School Sweepstakes.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that Chris Sherwood would be working in ASD-S as the new Power School Coordinator and that 2 more staff would be joining after Christmas. He will take the lead over the next two years implementing the new system – the timeline for implementation will be determined this fall in consultation with the Department staff.

This is kindergarten registration week for September 2016. Registration is taking place at the neighbourhood schools and there is information on the ASD-S website.

Mrs. Watson advised that the parent/family survey on our ASD-S site and on each school website to collect feedback on communication has been going well and we have received 1,100 surveys to date. The survey is designed to determine how families prefer to receive information from the school, teachers and the District. There is also a PDF available for Principals to use as not all families have access to the websites.

Attendance Matters posters will soon be displayed on local buses in the Saint John Education Centre in an effort to get the word out that attendance and being on time for school matters. Mrs. Watson noted that there will be parent focus group sessions held on Attendance Matters and she is working on getting names of those interested in participating.

Mrs. Watson recently attended a session given by NBTA Wellness facilitator Carmen Meehan and 72 school wellness representatives. She also attended a provincial ISD meeting with other staff members who are working to spread the word and knowledge to other areas of New Brunswick.

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

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that our next meeting would be on November 18<sup>th</sup> (as Nov 11<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day) and will be held at the new Chris Saunders Memorial School in Quispamsis.

He advised that the Minister's Forum will be held November 13/14 and that on Friday evening there would be a meeting with the NBTA, Superintendents and DEC Chairs and on Saturday morning, a meeting with the Minister and that evening, the Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Tomorrow there will be the official announcement of the location of the elementary school for the west side. It will be at 10:00 am at Havelock School and Minister Rousselle will be in attendance.

## **6.3 Correspondence**

None

## **6.4 Members Notebook**

Mr. Boudreau asked if we could discuss the use of technology in the classroom. He stated that many students have their own devices (ipads, iphones, etc.) and some need technology to help with their school work. As well, parents are willing to buy them for their children; however, the District doesn't allow them to bring it in. Mrs. Watson advised that there is a cost associated with providing wifi and infrastructure updates to accommodate additional technology in the classrooms. She advised that the District does not have the financial resources to provide any more equipment and schools are fundraising to purchase technology. She said a refresh plan is required to replace aging infrastructure. Mr. Fowler suggested that possibly Louise Connell, Director of Information Technology for Anglophone School Districts could speak to

Council and provide an update on the provincial roadmap for technology – where it stands and where we are going.

**7. 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, 187 Pettingill Road, Quispamsis on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary