



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB Public Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 9, 2021

Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1
- Jessica Martin – Sub-district 3 (*Virtual Meeting Platform*)
- Tanya Cloutier – Sub-district 4
- Serena Bradford – Sub-district 5
- Paul MacIntosh – Sub-district 6
- Miriam McLaughlin – Sub-district 7
- Janet Dean – Sub-district 8
- Michael Mazerolle – Sub-district 9
- Chris Harquail, Sub-district 10
- Jim Mills – Sub-district 11
- Wallace Carr – Sub-district 12, Vice Chairperson
- Thomas Geburt – Sub-district 13, Chairperson
- David Perley – First Nations Councillor
- Hayden Sparkes – Student Representative Councillor

Council Member Regrets:

- None

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Wayne Annis, Director of Schools - WEC
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communication
- Sarah Francis, First Nations Subject Coordinator
- Molly Brown, First Nations Lead
- Nick Kitchen, IT Specialists

Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-District 2

Guest:

- Media (1)

Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:32 PM.**

Welcome & Comments by the Chairperson:

- Chairperson Geburt, on behalf of the Council, acknowledged that this meeting is held on the unceded and unsundered Wabanaki territory.
- Chairperson Geburt welcomed everyone to the public District Education Council meeting

Introductions:

- Councillor Geburt acknowledged the Councillors in attendance, and he welcomed Councillor Martin who had joined the meeting using a virtual meeting platform. Superintendent McTimoney introduced the district office staff in attendance.

Consent Items:**Approval of the Agenda:**

- The agenda was previously reviewed by the Council and a request was made by Chairperson Geburt to add under correspondence, a letter he had written to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding an application and Council recommendation to fill sub-district 2 vacancy. With this addition, the agenda was approved by consensus.

MOTION:

..... to approve the agenda with the mentioned addition.

MOVED BY: Tanya Adams SECONDED BY: Miriam McLaughlin MOTION CARRIED

Review of Action Items from Previous Public Meeting – November 25, 2021:

- Action items from the previous minutes were reviewed and reported as being completed.

Approval of the Minutes – November 25, 2021:

- The minutes were previously reviewed by the Council. It was noted by Councillor Carr that the previous motion made by Councillor Mills, for Administrators to play the Indigenous Honour Song was not carried, therefore, the motion that followed by Councillor Mazerolle to “amend” the previous motion was not needed. The minutes will be revised to remove the word amended in Councillor Mazerolle’s motion

MOTION:

..... to approve the minutes as amended.

MOVED BY: Serena Bradford

SECONDED BY: Chris Harquail

MOTION CARRIED

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: First Nations

- Sarah Francis, First Nations Education Coordinator, informed the Council of the work being done by the Literacy and First Nations education team. This ASD-W initiative will see First Nations history, language, culture, and worldviews embedded in the English Language Arts curriculum, learning experiences and activities. Components of the FN/ELA initiative will include the framework, resources, sample lesson plans and a learning activity template for high school educators to use when teaching students. All high school students (Grades 9 – 12), will learn about First Nations history as it will be embedded in the English curriculum. At the end of a student’s 4-year high school program, every student will have received a minimum of 4 weeks (each school year) to experience meaningful learning that will provide a foundation for greater understanding of how we knowingly and unknowingly uphold systems that oppress First Nations people. Sarah informed the Council that this framework is about empowering and celebrating First Nations people. Students will learn that prior to colonization, First Nations people had their own way of doing things and now this will be shared within the English Language Arts curriculum.
- Sarah Francis and Molly Brown, First Nations Education Lead, introduced a special Spirit Bear to the Council. They informed the Council that this Spirit Bear was without a name, and they continued to share the story of how the Spirit Bear came about following the death of a young First Nations boy named, *Jordan River Anderson*, from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. When Jordan was born on October 22, 1999, he was diagnosed with a serious medical condition. As he was a First Nations child with ongoing medical care cost, the Provincial and Federal government were at odds as to who should pay for Jordan’s medical expenses when he was able to leave the hospital setting to live in a home with a nurturing loving family. When Jordan turned 2, doctors decided that he was well enough to leave the hospital to go to a family home, providing he had medicine and care to keep him healthy. On February 2, 2005, *Jordan River Anderson* passed away in the hospital with both levels of government still at odds about the financial responsibility. Jordan was 5 years old, and he lived the entirety of his short life in a sterile hospital setting. A Human Rights Complaint was filed by The Caring Society and Assembly of First Nations on February 23, 2007. The creation of Spirit Bear soon followed on May 10, 2007, when Spirit Bear attended every tribunal hearing until a decision was released on January 26, 2016, for First Nations children to receive proper funding for the help they need! Cindy Blackstock wrote a book called *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*. This book is based on the true story of *Jordan River Anderson*, as well as other First Nations children representing the 165,000 First Nation children in foster care.
- Sarah provided each person with the Spirit Bear and Children Make History book, and she requested that a photo be shared with her when this book is being shared with a child.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Hanwell School Update:

- The Superintendent reported exciting news about the 70th ASD-W school to open in September 2022. The new Hanwell School (unofficial name) is located on a 34-acre property in Hanwell and this new 3 storey facility will house students in Grades K-8.
- The catchment area has been established, and families of children who live in this catchment area received a letter from the Superintendent informing them of their new zoned school in the fall of 2022.
- The Superintendent informed the Council that a Principal has been hired for the new Hanwell School. Just a few hours ago, Pierre Plourde from George Street Middle School (GSMS) assumed this leadership role and he will begin his responsibilities in January 2022. GSMS staff was informed and approximately one hour ago, a job posting for the Principal position at George Street Middle School Principal was advertised with a closing date of 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 23, 2021.

Hanwell Naming Committee:

- Councillor MacIntosh, Chairperson of the New Hanwell School Naming Committee previously informed the Council of the names that were recommended from the Hanwell community to serve on the Hanwell School Naming Committee. Two names were selected, and Councillor MacIntosh moved the following motion.

MOTION

..... I will make a motion to add two Hanwell community members, Darren MacKenzie and Rosalind Petley, to the new Hanwell School Naming Committee.

MOVED BY: Paul MacIntosh

SECONDED BY: Serena Bradford

MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

COVID-19 Update:

- The Superintendent informed the Council of the impact COVID has made on the school system. Since the beginning of this school year, 182 positive COVID cases have impacted 32 schools. In the past 9 days of December, 61 positive COVID cases have impacted schools. If you are a close contact to a person that has tested positive, Public Health will be in contact with you and request that you are to self-isolate. The name of the individual who has tested positive, will not be shared due to privacy regulations.
- On November 19, 2021, the Provincial mandate was for all civil servants to be fully vaccinated. If an individual refused to get vaccinated and/or show proof of vaccinations were placed on leave without pay. ASD-W employs approximately 3200 employees with very few employees that have not adhered to this mandate. Casual employees have the same parameters, with a report of 159 casual employees that have not shown their proof of vaccinations and were removed from our replacement calling system. It was noted that not all casual employees had been actively working as a casual in ASD-W.
- The Superintendent reported to be in direct communication with Public Health, and he participates in weekly, and as needed, online calls with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- The Superintendent acknowledged the dedication of Jay Colpitts - Director of COVID-19 Response, Jennifer Read - Director of Communications and Daniel Wishart - Transportation Manager, who have worked tirelessly when a COVID-19 case is reported in an ASD-W school.
- It was noted that when an ASD-W bus is reported to not be operating or reported to be running late, the reason is now provided. ASD-W buses travel over 35,000 kilometres a day and are currently in need of replacement bus drivers.
- The Superintendent reported Park Street Elementary School and Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School have moved to "At Home Learning" due to the number of reported COVID cases. The Superintendent informed the Council that when schools are closed, and it is called an "Operational Day" it is because ASD-W was notified late in the evening of a positive COVID case, and it is too late to prepare staff for an "At Home Learning Day".

Correspondence

- Chairperson Geburt informed the Council of his recent correspondence to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development on December 6th. On behalf of the Council, a recommendation was made to appoint an applicant to the vacant sub-district 2 position.

Superintendent Reports

- The Superintendent stated that report ASD-W-ER11: Wabanaki Education, was report 1 of 1, unlike what was reflected in the agenda as 1 of 4 reports. **ACTION:** Carol will make this revision to the agenda.
- The Superintendent presented the *ASD-W-ER11: Wabanaki Education* as per the Annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented once per year and is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal.
- The Superintendent shared that student learning data is available to show the achievement levels of all students including Indigenous students.
- A report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (number 62 to 65) is an important source of guidance for all.
- The Superintendent recognized Sarah Francis as a wonderful leader in ASD-W. Sarah supports all 69 schools with her team of two First Nations Leads. Eventually, the FN/ELA project will embed Indigenous history in all English curriculum programs. These teachings are factual and embedded in the NB First Nations communities.
- ASD-W recognize important days, such as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. Also, at the public DEC meeting in November, the Wolastoq Honour Song was approved by the Council to be played in all ASD-W schools weekly.
- The Enhancement agreement report from 2016–2021 will be posted publicly. This report speaks of activities that are ongoing between ASD-W schools and First Nations communities. The Superintendent clarified for the Council that on page 11 of this report, 4 of 6 schools were reported to offer the EYE-DA program in their school. This

voluntarily assessment if offered to the parent/guardian for their child prior to beginning school. Two schools had a very small number of participants, so to protect their privacy, these schools were not listed.

- Councillor Mills asked the Superintendent to identify the six First Nation communities in ASD-W. The Superintendent began with Madawaska First Nations in Edmundston, Tobique First Nations, Woodstock First Nations, Kingsclear First Nations, Saint Mary's First Nations and Oromocto First Nations.
- Councillor Mills asked for information regarding tuition. The Superintendent responded that students in the public school system are a Provincial responsibility. First Nation students are a Federal responsibility. The Federal government provide funding to the First Nation communities for their children to attend a public school. Enhancement Service Agreements have been established, which pays 50% to the Enhancement Committee to enhance services to support Indigenous students. A nominal role is registered with September 30th and February 28th data from each year.
- Councillor Mills pointed out the expected graduation for 2021, is 79% which appears to be low. The Superintendent added that he would like to see this number higher and has increased but not reported one year due to the COVID pandemic.
- Councillor Carr noted unexplained absences appear to be high and especially during 2021. He asked if this was due to the COVID pandemic. The Superintendent responded that absences over the past couple of years would have been impacted by COVID, but we need to continue to encourage students to attend school. It was noted that in elementary schools, a safe arrival program is followed. However, all other grades are the expectation of the homeroom teacher to record attendance and follow-up with all unexplained absences.
- Councillor Perley shared that he was pleased that actions taken by the Province to include Wabanaki education in the whole education progress. Councillor Perley shared his ongoing concerns of drop-out, graduation and suspensions rates. Councillor Perley stated that we need to know why students are absent, what are their perception of their school experiences, some would say that no one cares, or a teacher is giving them a rough time.

Committee Reports:

- Student Voice Committee, Wallace reported speaking with Hayden and Wayne to plan a meeting in January 2022.

Public Comments:

- Darren McKenzie, Councillor of Hanwell thanked the District Education Council for inviting him to participate in the Hanwell School Naming Committee and for making the excellent decision to hire Pierre Plourde as the Principal of the new Hanwell school.


Closing Comments:

- Chairperson Geburt thanked those for attending tonight and those that had joined the meeting online.

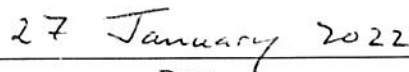
Date of Next Public Meeting: January 27, 2022, at the Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB

Adjournment:

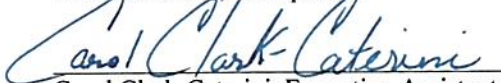
- The meeting was adjourned at **7:38 PM** by Councillor Mazerolle and Seconded by Councillor MacIntosh.



Thomas Geburt, Chairperson



Date



Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent & DEC



Date

***The District Education Council acknowledges that this meeting is held
on the unceded and unsundered Wabanaki territory.***