



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Centre
Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 24, 2022**

Council Members Present:

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

Council Member Regrets:

- Luke Rousselle – Sub-district 2
- Jessica Martin – Sub-district 3

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Jay Colpitts, Director of Schools - WEC
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communication (online)
- Jill Davidson, Literacy Subject Coordinator
- Signe Williams, Literacy Subject Coordinator

Guest:

- D. Coon, MLA for Fredericton South
- D. MacKenzie, Hanwell Community Councillor
- P. Plourde, Principal of Hanwell School
- Media (1)
- Member of the Public (1)

Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:40 PM.**

Welcome & Comments by the Chairperson:

- Chairperson Geburt, on behalf of the Council, acknowledged that the land on which all of the ASD-West schools, with the exception of one, are located on the traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory of Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet). This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Wolastoqey (Maliseet), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Introductions:

- Councillor Geburt welcomed Councillors, guests and those participating by an online platform. Superintendent McTimoney introduced the district office staff in attendance.

Consent Items:

Approval of the Agenda

- The agenda was previously reviewed by the Council. The Chairperson moved the Hanwell School Naming Committee report to the beginning of the agenda and following consent items.

MOTION:

..... to approve the agenda with the reporting order change.

MOVED BY: Mike Mazerolle SECONDED BY: Paul MacIntosh MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes – February 24, 2022:

- The minutes were previously reviewed by the Council and approved by consensus.

MOTION:

..... to approve the minutes as presented.

MOVED BY: Tanya Cloutier SECONDED BY: Mike Mazerolle MOTION CARRIED

Hanwell Naming Committee

- Councillor Paul MacIntosh reviewed the process followed, as outlined in Provincial Policy 409, by the Hanwell Naming Committee. As well, the names of community members and district staff selected to serve on this committee was shared. The committee participated in weekly online meetings for 6 weeks during a state of lockdown due to the COVID pandemic. A survey was circulated to the community that asked, “what name would you suggest for the new Hanwell School and “what is your reason for choosing this name”? As well, this survey was made available online from January 24, 2022, until February 28, 2022, for input from the public. The committee worked for an additional two weeks to sort the 356 submissions and a second survey was created for the Hanwell Naming Committee for their top three choices with a deadline of March 15, 2022.
- Councillors learned and discussed the top three names chosen by the Hanwell Naming Committee. The Minister had given permission to proceed with announcing the name publicly through approval of the motion.

MOTION:

..... to name the new school in the community of Hanwell, Hanwell Park Academy.

MOVED BY: Paul MacIntosh SECONDED BY: Serena Bradford MOTION CARRIED

- Recognition was given to Councillor MacIntosh and to the Hanwell Naming Committee by Councillor Carr for their hard work in sorting 356 submissions and for providing their top three recommendations to the Council.

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: Literacy

- Literacy Subject Coordinators Jill Davidson and Signe Williams shared with Councillors a 30-day writing habit for 2022 activity. Signe read a children’s book called *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho and illustrated by Dung Ho. The Council were asked to pay attention to powerful sentences in their readings and to record them in a notebook to inspire their own writing or to incorporate into mini-lessons for their children.
- Councillors did not have any questions for the Literacy Leads.

Circle of Understanding – Treaty-Making Period, Protecting Our Rights

- Councillor Perley informed the Council that the Treaty Making Period was during 1674 and 1794. Treaties were established to protect Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal titles, inherent rights and treaty rights. Councillor Perley identified Wolastoqiyik, Mi’kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot societies to be sovereign nations which is defined as a “stable, historically developed community of people with a territory, economic life, distinctive culture, and language in common; people of a territory united under a single government”. Councillor Perley stated that his ancestors had formed the requirements of a nation.
- Treaty Rights to land, hunting, fishing and fowling, harvesting, self-government, economic development, religious freedom and social support were recognized by the Crown during this time. Since then, various court cases were referenced that upheld these Aboriginal rights. In closing Councillor Perley encouraged the Council to promote in all of NB that we are all treaty people, which means we need to establish a treaty relationship by getting to know one another.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Technology Update (January 27, 2022)

- The Superintendent informed the Council that upon their request, \$30,000.00 from the DEC budget was reallocated to two middle schools to purchase technology for students. Meduxnekeag Consolidated School (K–8) and McAdam High School (6-12) were the schools chosen to receive Dell Laptops that will be shared in a 2:1 ratio.
- The Superintendent also reported that the savings from a CUPE strike (approximately \$2.5 million) was used for technology purchases that included school security systems, projectors, laptops, I-pads and cases, headsets, tech tubs and solid-state drives.
- Councillor Sparkes commented that the purchase of technology for schools were greatly needed and appreciated.

Superintendent Report ASD-W-ER2.3 – Healthy Living Update (February 24, 2022)

- The Superintendent provided an additional review of the Superintendent Report ASD-W-ER 2.3- Healthy Living that was reported at the February 24th public meeting. A mental health contact resource for students, families and staff was shown and saved on the DEC Portal and ASD-W Website. A focus on social emotional learning was discussed and various mental health campaigns were referenced.
- Councillor Mills inquired about the ISD model. The Superintendent responded that the ISD model includes Health, Public Safety, Social Development, and child psychologists who all work together with ASD-W teams (9) to address the needs of students in a collaborative approach, supporting kids and families.
- Additional support has been allotted for the hiring of 7 resource and specialists teachers to focus on academic assessments.

New Business:

Capital Improvement Projects and Major Capital Construction Projects - Discussion

- A reminder was given that a motion will be needed in May 2022 to approve the Capital Improvement Projects list. Projects are reviewed annually, and the projects that were approved last year in the amount of \$3.4 million was reported to be completed.
- The Major Capital Construction Projects that were approved by the previous Council included the new Hanwell Park Academy and two elementary schools on the northside of Fredericton. These schools will open in 2022, 2023 and 2025. Additional ASD-W schools will include the Carleton North area, George Street Middle School, Devon Middle School, a replacement school for Liverpool Street Elementary and Forest Hill Elementary Schools.
- Confirmation was given that an air-cooling system is not included in new school design. The Superintendent identified the month of June and September as being warmer months and during the past two years fans were not allowed to be used in classrooms due to the COVID pandemic. During this time, students were sent home early when temperatures reach certain number. Four ASD-W schools have a cooling system and could be an example when a new school is being designed.

Educational Specifications for McAdam Avenue and Nashwaaksis Memorial Elementary School

- An Educational Specification summary for the new Fredericton North School was presented by Shawn Tracey. This exciting vision included break-out rooms, learning and sharing stairs, a slide from the 2nd floor to the main floor, carpet tiles, garage doors for open classrooms, cafeteria, library, community kitchen, two gymnasiums, and classrooms equipped with a number of electrical outlets for technology devices. Storage areas will be included in the twenty-seven classrooms. Five of these classrooms will also include washrooms with sinks for kindergarten students. An Early Childhood Development space, music room with sound components and bleachers will be included along with two gymnasiums (one larger than the other and both with hardwood floors and storage). Two large multi function rooms, seven resource rooms and one special care room, with guidance area and calming room for students. A Library with an activity room, cafeteria with stage and administration area will complete the 7865 sq meter facility. Included in this area is 2622 sq. meters assigned to electrical, ventilation and heating with the potential for a natural gas and bio mas boiler system.
- Councillor McLaughlin asked if the outdoor space is determined when they look at the site and is this area included in the larger specification document. Shawn Tracey responded that this school is based on 528 students that is determined from a variety of resources and a software system that is used by the ASD-W called Baragar that provides data on the development in the area.
- Chairperson Geburt referenced the Educational Specifications that was approved for the Northside East school that included 36 classrooms and approximately 500 students that will be attending in 2024.
- Shawn Tracey added that this new school for the McAdam Avenue and Nashwaaksis Memorial area is projected to be a two or possibly three-story building that will include elevators to make it completely accessible.

MOTION:

..... to approve the Education Specifications for the new McAdam Avenue Elementary and Nashwaaksis Memorial Elementary School.

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr

SECONDED BY: Tanya Cloutier

MOTION CARRIED

COVID-19 Update:

- The Superintendent informed the Council that on March 14th the Province of NB eliminated all COVID restrictions. Staff and students are no longer required to wear a mask or continue with isolation practices. It is expected that when you are sick you do not visit your school. If a student tests positive, they can return to school one-day following the break of a fever and 2 days following symptoms such as diarrhea and vomiting.
- Unvaccinated public servants, who have been on leave without pay (LWOP) since November 19, 2021, may return to their workplace on March 28, 2022. School districts have been challenged to find replacement staff for unfilled vacancies, so ASD-W has secured 84 supply teachers that are reporting to an assigned school every day. In addition, ASD-W has secured 60 casual educational assistants to support these unfilled ESS vacancies. AESOP is the absence management system used to secure replacement staff.
- Between January 31st to March Break, Subject Coordinators and district Leads were redeployed to a school for support. As well, educators from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) also contributed to this initiative.
- Councillor Mazerolle inquired on who makes the decision for students and staff to no longer be required to wear a mask or the isolation time when they test positive with COVID. The Superintendent responded that he oversees the operational requirements of the organization and is advised of the COVID mandate by the Province of NB through EECD. Therefore, if a parent/guardian wishes to challenge the COVID mandate decisions, they would need to reach out to EECD.
- Councillor McLaughlin asked if the bus driver shortage could be addressed. The Superintendent responded that today was the first day that an extra bus driver was available for routes in ASD-W. The Transportation team have worked diligently to find replacement bus drivers and the situation is expected to improve when employees are able to return to work from the lifting of the vaccination mandate. In addition, without the lengthy isolation period, it is expected employees will return to work when symptoms are over.

Correspondence:

- There was no correspondence to discuss.

Superintendent Reports:

Superintendent Report (1 of 1) – ASD-W-EL2: Staff Treatment

- The Superintendent presented the report *ASD-W-EL2: Staff Treatment*, as per the Annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented one time per year and is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal.
- Councillor Carr asked how many grievances were submitted over the past two year related to COVID regulations. The Superintendent responded that grievances related to testing and the government mandate will follow in next year's report and that they have not been settled. ASD-W is following the mandate of the province.
- Chairperson Geburt noted that on top of page 4, reflects a provincial look and the other two charts are data for ASD-W. Councillor Carr noted that more activity was seen over the last 2 years and the Superintendent added that during the 2019-2020 school year, approximately 30-40% of the year, employees were at home.
- It was asked why some schools have contracted custodial employees and some have unionized employees. Shawn Tracey responded that this is a historical arrangement, but any new schools will be unionized.

Superintendent Report (3 of 4) – ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting/Forecasting (4th Quarter)

- The Superintendent presented the report *ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting/Forecasting*, as per the Annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented four times per year and is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal.
- Councillor Perley inquired about the First Nation Enhancement funds. The Superintendent responded that these funds, that have been allotted for each First Nation Community, are from the return of half the tuition paid by communities to the province and are continued to be spent on the projects for Indigenous students attending public schools. In addition to these funds, a budget of \$392,000.00 was assigned to school global budgets that does not carry forward. Sarah Francis, First Nations Subject Coordinator and team determine the best place where these funds can be spent. It was noted that there is a potential surplus that may be seen this year as we were challenged to spend these funds due to school closures and projects being cancelled. Now the Province allows districts to carry forward \$500,000.00 and this budget will be forecasted as a zero balance. It was noted that the budget is now

balanced but a small surplus is expected and will be known at the end of April 2022. Councillor Carr commented on the great job done by district staff.

Committee Reports:

Hanwell School Naming Committee

- Councillor MacIntosh informed the Council that the new name of the school, Hanwell Park Academy, has been shared on social media and he is now seeing the public responses to the new school name.

New Northside West School Naming Committee:

- Councillor Dean had no updates to share with the Council at this time.

Student Voice Committee:

- Councillor Sparkes reported student concerns included discrimination against sex, race, religion in schools, and the way students dress. Support for newcomers was reviewed and deferred topics for next month include; raising more awareness for students who may be struggling at home with no food, internet, computer or who may not feel safe. Extra-curricular activities, sports, and discuss how a culture that promotes a professional learning and working environment, that is not perceived to target can be created are topics for the future. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2022.
- Councillor Cloutier asked if the Student Voice Committee had always been a part of the District Education Council. Chairperson Geburt referenced the Education Act requirement to include a student representative on the Council. In the past, students from various high schools participated in an online monthly meeting. Chairperson Geburt asked Councillor Sparkes what he would recommend the Council do with the findings from his report. Councillor Sparkes responded that we should learn from this information. Chairperson Geburt noted that some of these concerns lie outside the mandate of the Council, therefore, he would recommend that the Superintendent share this information with school administrators at his next administrators meeting. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will add this request to the upcoming Administrators meeting agenda.
- Chairperson Geburt asked Councillor Carr to ensure an invitation is sent to him for the next scheduled Student Voice meeting.

Public Comments:

- There were no public comments.

Closing Comments:

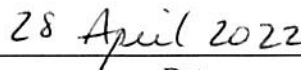
- Chairperson Geburt thanked those that had attended tonight's public DEC meeting.

Date of Next Public Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 2022 – Fredericton Inn, 1315 Regent Street, Fredericton, NB

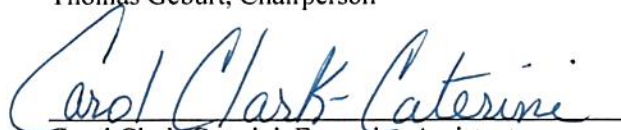
Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.



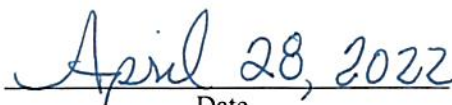
Thomas Geburt, Chairperson



Date



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



Date