



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB

Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1
- Jessica Martin – Sub-district 3
- 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

Council Member Regrets:

- None

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance & Administration
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Gina Dunnett, Director of Schools - OEC
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communication
- Karen Morton, Director of Human Resources
- Susan Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor
- Beth Christie, Fine Arts, Social Studies & Enrichment Subject Coordinator
- Nick Kitchen, IT Specialists
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-District 2

Guest:

- Media (1)
- Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, EECD
- Josh Nowlan, Infrastructure Program Manager, EECD
- Pascal Landry, Senior Project Manager, EECD

Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:35 PM**.

Welcome & Comments by the Chairperson:

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

Introductions:

- Councillors provided introductions and the sub-districts that they serve followed by Superintendent McTimoney's introduction of 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 from Montgomery Street School Parent School Support Committee. Also, under New Business, the addition of the new Northeast School. The order of presentations will also be reversed to begin with the Curriculum presentation followed by Major Capital Construction and Capital Improvement Presentation. With these additions and revisions, the agenda was approved by consensus.

MOTION:

..... to approve the agenda with the mentioned additions and revisions.

MOVED BY: Tanya Adams

SECONDED BY: Tanya Cloutier

MOTION CARRIED

Review of Action Items from Previous Public Meeting – October 21, 2021:

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

Approval of the Minutes – October 21, 2021:

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

MOTION:

..... to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented.

MOVED BY: Mike Mazerolle

SECONDED BY: Paul MacIntosh

MOTION CARRIED

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: Fine Arts, Social Studies & Enrichment

- Beth Christie, Fine Arts, Social Studies & Enrichment Subject Coordinator, informed the Council of the Social Studies portfolio changing. Beth provided the Council with an activity that required groups to focus, examine and discuss historical events followed by a determination of which scenario made the greatest impact on evolution today. Beth concluded that students practice learned skills that equips them with the knowledge needed for critical thinking and assessment.

Major Capital Construction and Capital Improvement Presentation

- Josh Nowlan, Infrastructure Program Manager and Pascal Landry, Senior Project Manager presented a report called Multi-Year Capital Planning for Schools. This report included information on the current state of school infrastructure in ASD-W, the Capital Planning strategy and budget process, Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) tool, and a Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priority (SDIP). ASD-W currently has 69 schools that average an age of 49.6 years old, the second oldest in the province following ASD-S. Two new schools are planned for ASD-W, the new Hanwell School (K-8) and the Northeast School (K-5).
- Challenges identified are the increase in demographics, increase in construction costs and capital budget pressures. The timeline begins with the District Education Council submitting a Capital request to EECD in May. The QBL evaluation occurs over the summer months followed by a presentation by Josh and his team to EECD and the Finance and Treasury Board (FTB) in the fall. If approved the project is added to the Capital Budget Submission in November.
- The QBL is a tool used to help assess potential projects against a common set of criteria with a weighted scoring system. This tool was developed in 2014 with a tiering process added in 2019-2020 to capture significant space deficiencies. If 15% of space deficiencies are identified, as Fredericton city schools reported from an increase in Hanwell students, this justifies a new school in Hanwell. The SDIP supports long-term infrastructure planning where projects remain on the list unless there is significant change identified by the DEC or until the project is completed. There is no given timeline but an expectation of the project being addressed is within a 5 to 7 year timeframe. The new Northeast Elementary School will be crossed off this list, as this project has been approved and new projects will be added in January 2022.
- A reminder was given to the Council to begin planning for the fiscal year 2027-2028 and beyond. Councillor Carr asked if a change could be made to the SDIP lists, and if a study was done on OHS again and significant changes were identified, could it be added to the list again. Josh replied that the Council may want to recommend that this project be added back to the Capital Priority lists and yes, this could be done.
- Councillor Martin asked how long a mid-life upgrade would sustain a school. Josh responded that the timeframe is expected to be approximately 30 years. He went on to say that capital funding is provided for institutional buildings, but that these funds have not been seen for a while. However, we are heading in the right direction with more schools expected to be built but it is difficult to know which infrastructure (school, hospitals, court houses) projects will be the focus of the provincial government. In recent years 1-2 projects were approved and before this, approximately 5-6 projects were approved annually.
- Councillor Mazerolle asked why schools are built too small like Gibson Neill Memorial Elem. School.
- Josh replied that at the time Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School was being built, the department knew that the northside area was growing. A decision needed to be made to build a larger school or consider building a second school to keep enrollment to approximately 500 students. It was noted that Devon Middle School will need a

replacement school at some point, and at that time, consideration will be given to the demographics and a decision made on a school size of 500 students or more.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Report on Casual Educational Assistants and Supply Teachers:

- Karen Morton, Director of Human Resources, presented a report to the Council called Recruitment Process for Supply Teachers, Local Permits and Casuals. This report identified the qualifications needed to be recruited. Karen introduced “*Apply to Education*” as the applicant recruitment software and “*AESOP*” as the absence management system software that dispatches an absence to the approved casuals.
- A local permit license expires in 1 year and the process to secure a supply teacher is from the supply teacher list followed by a retired teacher and then a person that holds a local permit license.
- ASD-W CUPE groups include bus drivers, custodians, educational assistants, student attendants, school intervention workers, administrative assistants, and librarians. Karen responded to Councillor Perley’s inquiry of how many Indigenous people are employed in ASD-W, with an approximate 20-30 Indigenous employees in various job classifications.

Montgomery Street School Parking Lot and Sensory Room:

- This agenda item had been discussed at the previous public DEC meeting. Since then, a letter had been written by the Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) to the Council concerning the parking lot. The Chairperson has responded to the PSSC acknowledging that the ASD-W Facilities Department had checked into their concerns and the parking lot was identified to be in fair condition. Parking lots are rated as Tier 3 in the QBL presentation given tonight by Mr. Nowlan.
- The addition of a sensory room is a good news story. **ACTION:** David will connect with Shawn Tracey to ensure next steps are in order.

New Business:

COVID-19 Update:

- The Superintendent informed the Council of schools in the province now reporting positive cases of COVID since school has re-opened in November.
- All government servants were directed to be vaccinated by November 19th or at the end of the day, be placed on *Leave Without Pay*. ASD-W has approximately 30 permanent employees, from all job classifications, that have not shown their proof of vaccination. As well, 93 casual employees, who have worked at least once this school year, did not provide proof of vaccination, and have since been deactivated from our system. 164 casual employees, that have not worked a day this school year have also been deactivated.
- A reminder was given to employees to understand the guidelines and pay adjustments are now being processed by our payroll staff for employees that are now on leave without pay.
- ASD-W is currently seeking casual bus drivers due to a labour shortage and if Councillors knew of anyone that may be interested to encourage them to apply.

Parcel of Land in Boiestown – Declaration as Surplus

- The Superintendent showed a map, with a small parcel of land situated at the Upper Miramichi Elementary School, that is located next to Central New Brunswick Nursing Home. A request has been made by the nursing home to acquire this piece of land for a parking area gazabo. The ASD-W Facilities Department assessed the area and the school concurred that this parcel of land could be declared as surplus.

MOTION:

..... I would move that this mentioned parcel of land be declared as surplus for the Central New Brunswick Nursing Home.

MOVED BY: Serena Bradford

SECONDED BY: Paul MacIntosh

MOTION CARRIED

Hanwell Naming Committee

- It was noted that as per policy 409, Section 6.3.5, a naming committee will consist of 3 individuals (Councillor, district official, and a local community representative) but the DEC may establish a separate policy describing which additional members can participate if they wish to have a larger naming committee. A discussion was had, and the following motion was carried.

MOTION:

..... I would move that the Hanwell Naming Committee consist of 2 District Education Councillors, 2 district office representatives and 2 members from the community.

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr SECONDED BY: Tanya Cloutier MOTION CARRIED

MOTION:

..... I would move that the two members from the District Education Council appointed to the Hanwell Naming Committee will consist of Paul MacIntosh as the Chairperson and Michael Mazerolle.

MOVED BY: Tanya Adams SECONDED BY: Jessica Martin MOTION CARRIED

The Superintendent identified Wayne Annis, Director of Schools (FEC) and Susan Young, Data and Accountability be appointed as committee members from Anglophone West School District

ACTION: Councillor MacIntosh acknowledged that he will liaise with the Hanwell Community Council to identify two individuals from the Hanwell community to bring names to the DEC for consideration to appoint to the Hanwell Naming Committee.

Indigenous Honour Song

- The Superintendent reported that on September 30, 2021, the honour song was played in 67 ASD-W schools in recognition of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. Almost all schools have responded that they plan to continue with activities such as this throughout the school year. The New Brunswick Regulation 97-150, under the Education Act, section 29.1.(1-3) the District Education Council has the autonomy to grant an exemption to subsection 1.

MOTION:

..... I will make a motion for the playing of the Indigenous Honour Song to be played once a week in all ASD-W schools.

MOVED BY: Jim Mills SECONDED: MOTION NOT CARRIED

MOTION:

..... I would ask the Superintendent to request Principal's to play the Indigenous Honour Song as opposed to the National Anthem once per week in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

MOVED BY: Michael Mazerolle SECONDED BY: Serena Bradford MOTION CARRIED

Northeast Elementary School

- Chairperson Geburt announced the New Northeast School will be located off Cuffman Street which is close to the new Francophone School.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

- Letter from Minister - Appointment to Provincial Curriculum & Evaluation Advisory Committee. This letter identified Councillor Mills for a two-year appointment to this committee.
- Letter from Minister - Appointment to the District Education Council for Sub-district 10. This letter identified Councillor Chris Harquail to a four-year appointment to the Council.
- Letter from Minister - Appointment to the District Education Council for the First Nations Representation. This letter identified Councillor David Perley to a four-year appointment to the Council.
- Letter from Montgomery Street School PSSC regarding their parking lot concerns

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- The Superintendent and Director of Finance and Administration presented a report called *ASD-W-EL4: Budget/Forecasting (2nd Quarter Report)* as per the annual Planning Cycle. This report was postponed from the

October 21st public meeting due to time constraints. ASD-W-EL4 is presented four times per year and will be posted publicly on the ASD-W website and DEC Portal. It was asked by Chairperson Geburt if the savings from recent CUPE strike activity would be added to the budget. Shawn confirmed that this revenue would be seen in the future 3rd quarter report. The Superintendent confirmed that this financial report included actual expenses up to August 31st with projections identified. The budget will be supplemented to cover the retro-active pay and increases from the new CUPE collective agreements.

- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) have allowed districts to keep surplus revenue from the previous school year budget. A request has been made by EECD for a report to be prepared that can show them where savings from the recent strike action is most needed. Shawn confirmed that the Enhancement funds are reported under Department 19 funds. This detailed report is provided to the Council annually in December.
- The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-EL8: Communications to Council* as per the annual Planning Cycle. This report was postponed from the October 21st public meeting due to time constraints. This report is presented once per year and will be posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal. Councillor Mills asked if Administrators were asked not to go into their schools during the strike. The Superintendent responded that administrators and teachers were allowed to go into their schools but without cleaning staff, it was recommended that they limit their time due to cleaning. Staff from sixteen city schools were able to work in their schools as they have contracted custodial staff assigned to their schools.
- The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-ER2.1: Academic Excellence* as per the annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented once per year and will be posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal. The Superintendent shared the Provincial Assessment results were made public yesterday and that he would like to provide a greater in-depth report in January or February on the assessment results. The new District Education Plan will be a three-year plan from 2022–2025. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will bring a report back to the Council in January or February 2022.

Committee Reports:

- There were no committee reports.

Public Comments:

- Darren McKenzie, Councillor of Hanwell asked when the New Hanwell School Administrator position closed. It was confirmed that the closing of this competition was today, November 25, 2021, and the hiring process will occur over the next two weeks. This announcement will occur to the public prior to the Christmas break.

Closing Comments:

- Chairperson Geburt commented on the recent events reported at local high schools in ASD-W and he went on to say that the Council is very concerned. The behaviour exhibited is not acceptable within the school environment or indeed in Canadian society. We strongly condemn those who feel that violence is the way to solve disputes and ask that all students seek other methods to resolve differences. We feel that social media perpetuates the situation and only incites greater anxiety and thus it's use should be minimized. The school administrations are there to assist those of you who have problems, and we ask that you seek their support and assistance to resolve matters going forward.
- The Superintendent added that he remains committed along with his staff to maintain safety in schools. The Administration team work hard and intervene in a responsive way when needed to maintain a positive and safe working environment. The chairperson thanked those for attending the public DEC meeting in Fredericton.

Date of Next Public Meeting: December 9, 2021, at the Fredericton Inn in Fredericton, NB

Adjournment:

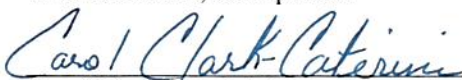
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM by Councillor Adams and Seconded by Councillor Carr.



Thomas Geburt, Chairperson

9 December 2021

Date



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

December 9, 2021

Date

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