



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Woodstock Education Centre, Woodstock, NB
Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 21, 2021**

Council Members Present:

- Jessica Martin – SD 03
- Miriam McLaughlin – SD 07
- Janet Dean – SD 08
- Michael Mazerolle – SD 09
- Jim Mills – SD 11
- Wallace Carr – SD 12, Vice Chairperson
- Thomas Geburt – SD 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
- Jay Colpitts, Acting Director of Schools for Covid-19 Response
- Jason Smith, Acting Director of Schools (WEC)
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communication – (Virtual Platform)
- Jon Hoyt-Hallett, Science, Coop & Experiential Learning Subject Coordinator
- Sarah Francis, First Nations Education Subject Coordinator (K-12)
- Molly Brown, First Nations Education Lead (K-12)
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-District 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, First Nation and Student Representative

Guest:

- Media (1) - (Virtual Platform),
- Guest - (Virtual Platform)
- Hanwell Rural Community Councillor – D. MacKenzie

Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **7:01 PM**. The start of the public meeting was delayed due to the additional time needed in the private pre-meeting.

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. During the land acknowledgement statement, Councillor McLaughlin chose to leave the meeting room and asked that this action be recorded in the meeting minutes.
- Chairperson Geburt welcomed members of the public and media to the public District Education Council meeting.

Introductions:

- Chairperson Geburt introduced sub-district Councillors followed by Superintendent McTimoney with staff introductions of those in attendance and on-line.

Approval of the Agenda:

- The agenda was previously reviewed by the Council and a request was made by Councillor Mills to add Local Permits under New Business. Councillor McLaughlin requested to include Montgomery Street School parking lot under New Business. With these additions, the agenda was approved by consensus.

MOTION:

..... I move to approve this agenda with these additions.

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr SECONDED BY: Miriam McLaughlin MOTION CARRIED

Review of Action Items from Previous Public Meeting – September 23, 2021:

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

Approval of the Minutes – September 23, 2021:

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

MOTION:

..... I move to approve the September 23rd meeting minutes as presented.

MOVED BY: Mike Mazerolle SECONDED BY: Jessica Martin MOTION CARRIED

Curriculum & Program Presentation: Science

- Jon Hoyt-Hallett, Science, Co-op & Experiential Learning Subject Coordinator, informed Councillors of a new Science curriculum that will be fully implemented in 2022-2023. Currently, Science documents are available on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and ASD-W websites for educators to access. Professional learning will be provided for all four Anglophone School District Science Coordinators and Science Coordinators are working collaboratively across the Province of NB.
- Jon informed the Council of an electronic platform that is being developed, called D2L, which is a self-paced, asynchronous, professional learning platform that provides high yield instruction and assessment practices.
- A “Starburst” lab activity was performed amongst members of the Council, where an unwrapped candy needed to be opened using only 1 hand. Following this exercise, Councillors were asked what they observed, wondered, anticipated, or predicted would happen. Experimental Design and Perform Charts were used to record the various reasons for difficulty in unwrapping the candy and problem-solving discussions occurred.
- Students in Grades 3 to 10, at an expanding level of difficulty, are given the same kinds of experiments and variables are reported. Students in Grades 11 and 12 follow a subject curriculum, such as Biology and Chemistry.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

CLEVR Training

- Chairperson Geburt reported a recent training session that was provided by Susan Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor, to the current Councillors on the CLEVR Program. Councillor Geburt has requested for Susan to return on Thursday, November 4th to train new Councillors. Current Councillors were asked to apply what they have learned during this training session. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will arrange for this training session to occur on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at the working DEC meeting.

Sub-Committee Commitments

- Chairperson Geburt reported that Councillor James Mills had been selected to participate on a Provincial Curriculum Evaluation Advisory Committee with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Councillor Mills has submitted his interests and resume to K. Bauer, EECD, who will then send along to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for approval.
- Chairperson Geburt has inquired on the term of his participation on a Provincial Appeals Board. It was learned that he was appointed to the board in 2020, and that the length of the term is for three years.

New Business:

COVID-19 Update:

- The Superintendent informed the Council of an Acting Director of COVID Response in the Anglophone West School District. Appointed to this position is Jay Colpitts, Director of Schools in the WEC. Jason Smith has been appointed to the Acting Director of Schools for the WEC. Jason Smith is the Principal at Carleton North High School.

- The Superintendent reported 96% of permanent staff to be fully vaccinated. In addition, 68% or 737 casual staff are fully vaccinated. The casual vaccination data may seem low; however, 211 casual staff have not worked since the beginning of the year. These numbers are important as November 19th is the deadline for all government employees to be double vaccinated. In ASD-W, 4% of 3254 permanent employees, will need to decide on whether to be vaccinated or not.
- The Superintendent reported close contact exposures, such as a single classroom, are required to move to home learning for the day. The remainder of the school stays open. Rapid test kits are given to unvaccinated students and staff that have come in close contact of an exposure are asked to bring in their negative tests results for 14 days.
- 1500 test kits have been distributed amongst 9 schools in ASD-W and parent feedback has been positive.
- Councillor McLaughlin asked what happens to the positions of staff not vaccinated. The Superintendent reviewed the various roles that will be affected by non-vaccinated employees, and he informed the Council that these vacancies are being assessed now.
- The Superintendent went on to say that ASD-W has 135 permanent employees that have not shown proof of their vaccination records. If staff have symptoms, they do not report to work and are given a point of care test, that has been provided by the Province of NB.
- Since the beginning of this school year, there have been 240 positive cases reported in ASD-W schools. The Superintendent acknowledged the dedication and hard work of School Administrators and Directors who have worked many long hours.
- Councillor Carr asked if funding had been provided by the Province of NB, like last year, for extra cleaning and COVID support in schools. The Superintendent replied that the Provincial government comes through when there is a need, such as covering the Director of COVID Response salaries.

District Plan:

- The Superintendent informed the Council of the 2nd 1-year district plan, developed by the Director team. A 1-year district plan was approved by the previous Council due to current COVID pandemic and the previous Chairperson, Kimberley Douglass, was involved in the development of the district plan. Traditionally the district plan is a 3-year established plan.
- The 1-year district plan outlines two priorities which aligns with the DEC priorities.

Priority # 1- Teaching & Learning

2021-22 Goal: District Leadership will support teacher growth in assessment and instruction practices to meet students' learning needs.

Priority # 2 – Social Emotional Learning & Well-Being

2021-22 Goal: Senior Administration, Coordinators and Managers will collaborate with School Administrators and District Staff to implement the Positive Workplace Framework to build an environment that supports well-being.

MOTION:

..... to support the district plan as presented tonight.

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr

SECONDED BY: Mike Mazerolle

MOTION CARRIED

- Councillor Carr commented on the good work of those involved in creating the district plan that aligns with school plans and now the DEC plans.

Indigenous Day of Reflection – September 30th

- The Superintendent reported that on September 30, 2021, the first ever National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, to be reflected in ASD-W. A report of 67 schools played the Indigenous honour song. Of these 67 schools, 53 schools played the Indigenous honour song in place of the national anthem. Approximately half of the schools reported to have acknowledged a moment of silence. 62 schools participated in a recognition observance as a school and all 69 schools recognized this day in some way in the classroom setting. Almost all schools responded that they plan to continue with this recognition every year. The Superintendent informed the Council that he has a detailed report of how schools recognized this day that he is willing to share with the Council if so chosen.
- Chairperson Geburt acknowledged that prior to the public meeting, Sarah Francis, read a letter, that she had written to the Council. Chairperson Geburt thanked Sarah for sharing this letter with the Council.

Educational Assistants:

- The Superintendent continues to project a balanced budget for this school year, as funds will be used from other budget lines to cover the additional salaries of Educational Assistant (EA).
- Schools had requested 738 Educational Assistants for the 2021-22 school year. After a close review, 662 EAs were in place at the beginning of the year and so far, so good. This number has since changed with 15 schools not needing the same number of supports as previously projected (25 EA's), but 22 schools needed an increase of 40 EAs, for a total of 677 EAs currently in place in ASD-W. The Superintendent reminded the Council that ASD-W was originally funded for 589 EAs.
- EECD has allowed districts to carry-over last year's surplus. ASD-W surplus last year was \$378,270.00. This exciting news was just learned yesterday, therefore, it has not been reflected in the 2nd quarter report.
- Councillor Mills commented on the difficulty rural area schools have securing replacement EAs. The Superintendent agreed that these positions were difficult to fill, the same as it is to replace teachers.
- The Superintendent reported to have 504 Supply Teachers on the casual lists; 342 are certified teachers, 115 retired teachers and 47 with local permits (not having a teaching degree).
- ASD-W is working hard and attending job fairs to address the shortfall of supply teachers.
- A competition for casual EAs remains open for a period of time, followed by Human Resource staff processing resumes and the hiring of staff.
- Councillor Mills asked the Superintendent what order needs to be followed when securing supply teachers. The Superintendent responded that schools need to contact a certified teacher, followed by a retired teacher, then a local permit.
- The Superintendent reported to have 340 EAs on the casual lists and many more at the interview phase. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will provide another update at the next public meeting.
- Councillor Mazerolle asked the Superintendent the status of the pending strike. The Superintendent responded that he was not authorized to speak on this topic as many bargaining groups are a part of education and other provincial departments. The Superintendent responded that a contingency plan was in place, should a strike occur, and appropriate communication with families will occur.

Local permits:

- **ACTION:** Local permits discussion will be added to the next public meeting agenda.

Montgomery Street School:

- Councillor McLaughlin informed the Council that at a recent Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) meeting that she had attended, there was a discussion about the parking lot being an uneven surface and unsafe. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will ask the Facilities Department to closely check the parking lot for uneven surfaces and report their findings back to him.
- Councillor Carr added that in the past PSSC's have written a letter for support to the DEC. **ACTION:** Councillor McLaughlin will ask the PSSC to provide a letter with their concerns to the DEC.
- Councillor McLaughlin also reported a generous donation by a company to the school for an indoor sensory room. **ACTION:** Further updates will be given by Councillor McLaughlin.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

- Letter to Minister - Council recommendations on Sub-district 2 vacancy was forwarded on October 7, 2021.
- Letter to Minister - Council recommendations on Student Representative vacancy was forwarded on October 7, 2021.
- Letter from Minister - Hubbard Elementary School name change was approved on September 28, 2021. This letter has been sent to the school so that it may be announced at an upcoming PSSC meeting.
- Letter to Minister - Council recommendations on First Nations Representative was forwarded on October 20, 2021. The Chairperson added that this was the same letter that was written by the previous Council on June 3rd letter to the Minister.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- The Superintendent began to present a report called *ASD-W-EL4: Budget/Forecasting (2nd Quarter Report)* as per the annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented four times per year and will be posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal. A balanced expenditure plan was passed by the previous Council. The report presentation will be concluded at the November 25th public meeting. The postponement was required due to an internet outage.

- **ACTION:** The Superintendent Monitoring Report called *ASD-W-EL8: Communication to Council* has been moved to the November public meeting due to a temporary internet outage at this meeting.

Committee Reports:

- There were no committee reports.

Public Comments:

- Mr. McKenzie asked what the catchment area will look like for the new Hanwell school. He was concerned that a couple of streets in a subdivision did not fall in this catchment. The Superintendent responded that he will be confirming catchment areas next week.
- The Superintendent confirmed that the selection of a new School Principal will not occur in November, however, this position will be advertised then. The Administrator will be announced in late December as this role will commence January 1st. The DEC does not participate in the hiring of a School Administrator, but they will establish a naming committee for the naming of the new Hanwell School. Public input is welcomed and will hopefully be completed in February 2022.
- Mr. McKenzie asked what he should do with his recommendation letter that had been written for the earlier competition that was later cancelled. Mr. McKenzie was advised to provide the individual with the letter and hopeful he/she will reapply.

Closing Comments:

- The Superintendent reports and Local Permit discussion will be added to the next public meeting agenda.
- The Chairperson thanked those for attending the public DEC meeting in Woodstock.

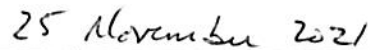
Date of Next Public Meeting: November 25, 2021, at the Fredericton Inn in Fredericton, NB

Adjournment:

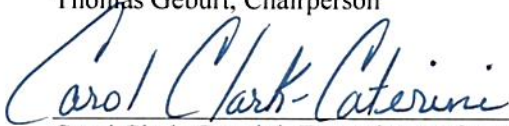
- The meeting was adjourned at **8:38 PM** by Councillor McLaughlin and Seconded by Councillor Mills.



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 unsurrendered Wabanaki territory.***