



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Virtual Meeting
Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 10, 2020**

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Adams – SD 01 • Andy Saunders – SD 02 • Heather Hogan – SD 03 • Andrew Corey – SD 05 • Laura O’Brien – SD 06 • Sean Winslow – SD 08 • Jane Buckley – SD 09 – Acting Chairperson • Kimberley Douglass – SD 10 – Chairperson • Faith Kennedy – SD 11 • Wallace Carr – SD 12 • Thomas Geburt – SD 13 • David Perley - First Nations <p>Council Member Regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miriam Grant – SD 04 	<p>ASD-W District Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David McTimoney, Superintendent • Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC • Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction • Susan Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor • Sarah Francis, Subject Coordinator, First Nations Education <p>Vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant – Sub-district 7 <p>Guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media (3)
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Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:30 PM**. Councillor Douglass thanked Councillor Buckley for her commitment and work as Acting Chairperson when recently called upon. Councillor Douglass acknowledged that this meeting was held on the unceded and unsurrendered Wabanaki territory of the Wolastoqi people. As well, two Anglophone West School District (ASD-W) schools are located on Mi’kmaq territory. Chairperson Douglass expressed her appreciation to the Indigenous students who are attending ASD-W and she acknowledged the Council’s commitment to their academic outcomes.

Approval of the Agenda – December 10, 2020:

- The agenda was reviewed by the Council and approved by consensus.

Approval of the Minutes – November 26, 2020:

- Councillor Hogan questioned a Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) orientation presentation that would be made available to the schools by the District Education Councillor (DEC). Clarification was provided that this was the current practice but that a request would be made to the DEC Manager at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide a video that can be used for PSSC orientations. Further to this, the Superintendent will write to Principals with a reminder about the PSSC Orientation Power Point available to them. With this clarification given, the minutes were approved by consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

New Business:

- During the Council's Strategic Planning meeting in August 2020, a request was made by Council for the Superintendent to provide feedback collected from parent/guardian (s) on how their child (ren's) school year has been during this COVID pandemic. Some high schools in ASD-W have needed to follow a rotation schedule and some students, with a compromised immune system are learning from home. The Superintendent informed the Council that this survey is being developed now that we are nearing the end of the 1st semester and will be circulated again towards the end of the 2nd semester in May 2021. Councillors discussed whether this feedback was still needed. If so, the Council would need to determine the purpose of their request to assist the Superintendent in asking strategic questions that would be reported back to the Council.
- The Superintendent shared that during a Professional Development day on Friday, December 4th, a survey was shared with all ASD-W teachers, to learn how the school year has evolved during this pandemic. It was reported that a Provincial Student Focus Group is currently established where feedback from students is being collected. ASD-W was asked to provide the names of three schools interested in participating in this initiative. A call was made to schools with a response of interest shown from seventeen schools.
- Councillor Geburt informed the Council that during PSSC meetings that he had attended, he has learned from some parent/guardian(s) that they are very pleased with how the current school year has been for their child(ren) and from some that are not pleased with the delivery of instruction by teachers. The Superintendent recommended parent/guardian(s) to contact their child's school and speak with the teacher, administration or their district office contact to further discuss their concerns. **ACTION:** The Council has asked that this survey be placed on hold until after the January working meeting to allow time for the Council to determine what information they would like to gather from school families and students.
- The Superintendent was asked to introduce ASD-W staff in attendance. Staff was introduced along with a warm welcome to Jennifer Read as the new Director of Communications. Jennifer has joined our organization from the West Coast where she had been previously employed by Thompson River University.

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: First Nations

- Sarah Francis, First Nations Subject Coordinator, shared two stories with Council called I Lost My Talk and I'm Finding My Talk by authors Rita Joe and Rebecca Thomas. Both authors were residential school survivors that Sarah can resonate with as an Indigenous person. Sarah's role as First Nations Subject Coordinator has increased from three Indigenous communities to six. These communities include Madawaska First Nations, Tobique First Nations, Woodstock First Nations, Kingsclear First Nations, St. Mary's First Nations and Oromocto First Nations. Sarah informed the Council that she is passionate in teaching others about Indigenous culture and ceremonies in our school system. Sarah works with all schools in ASD-W with a focus on the schools and students connected to these six First Nation Communities. Upon their requests to Carol, Councillors will be provided with a copy of these books and the "21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act" resource. Councillor Perley thanked Sarah for her contribution to tonight's meeting and her chosen selection. Councillor Hogan asked if teachers at every grade level had a copy of these resources. Sarah confirmed that she continues working towards this goal and that other resources have been made available to various grade levels with lesson plans.

Circle of Understanding – Wabanaki Worldviews

- David Perley, First Nations Councillor, was unsuccessful in providing the Wabanaki Worldviews presentation due to technical difficulties. **ACTION:** This presentation will be added to the next working meeting in January 2021.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

- There was no correspondence to report.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- **ASD-W-ER11: Wabanaki Education** – The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-ER11: Wabanaki Education* 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 Hogan acknowledged the significant percentage differences reported in Math 9, Language Arts 9, Science 9, and Math 11 compared to others subjects and grades that had comparable reports. NEAT Meetings were referenced in the Superintendent reports which is an acronym for Native Education Advisory Team meetings. Councillor Hogan requested that the reason for these differences be provided at another DEC meeting. The Superintendent responded to Councillor Hogan's Grade 9 question with the reason for this variance to be a high school comparison to be from the June mark to January mark which included this past year a pandemic but as well, our attention needs to be more focused on this grade level of students.
- Councillor Perley commented that he too had noted the variances in LA, Math and Science. It was asked how these ASD-W assessments would compare with Provincial Assessments. **ACTION:** The Superintendent announced that the Provincial Assessments were just released and that Susan Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor, would be able to report on this comparison at the public meeting in January 2021.
- Councillor Perley questioned why the pie chart showed a 16% First Nations dropout rate between 2015 and 2019 and that the box below reported a 4.6% dropout rate between 2018-2019. The Superintendent responded that this data follows students from Grade 9 to Grade 12 with a recent trend moving upwards. Susan Young was able to further explain the difference to be a different cohort of students. The pie chart is a cohort of 57 students from Grades 9 – 12, where they were at the beginning of Sept. 2019. Some had graduated 60%, some had returned to school (28%), and some moved off-reserve (10%). Councillor Perley asked how the First Nation dropout rate between Sept. 2018 to Sept. 2019 of 4.6% dropout rate, and how this number compares to the Province.
- Councillor Geburt referenced the Exit survey charts, showing increases and decreases and how the district responds to this decrease. The Superintendent responded that a shared responsibility is needed for a greater impact to be made on Indigenous students by leaning on Enhancement Committees, Subject Coordinators like Sarah, and leaders within our districts and at the provincial level. A recommendation was made by the Superintendent for the Enhancement Committees to focus on the data reported.
- Councillor Hogan referenced the interesting comparisons between the exit and wellness survey data. As well, it may be interesting to look at absenteeism in Grades K-8 and the same cohort of students when in Grades 9-12. Would a consistency be seen?
- Councillor Perley asked about the last two categories, where they have an opportunity to learn about Indigenous history in 2018 but then this percentage declined in 2019. The Superintendent acknowledged that he has seen improvements from his earlier years with Enhancement Committees and First Nation Subject Coordinator in place which does not answer the 7.9% decrease. Sarah expanded that we are culturally grounded and although high school graduation is the goal, cultural experiences are important and are seen in most schools and those without is where she is working harder. However, time and the right people are needed for the cultural program and initiatives in schools, and we should not be seeing these high drops out rates. How many students are being suspended from public schools? **ACTION:** This data can be pulled and was requested for Councillor Perley. This data will include students on the On-Reserve nominal role only as this is document.

Committee Reports:

- **Student Voice:** This report will be provided at the January 21st public meeting as Councillor Carr needed to leave the meeting early.
- **Code of Conduct:** Councillor Winslow expected a report to be available at the public meeting in January 2021.

Public Comments:

- There were no public comments. Those representing media were asked to direct their questions to the Director of Communications or remain on the call to speak with the Superintendent and DEC Chairperson.

Closing Comments:

- The Chairperson thanked everyone for their involvement in the meeting and the district office staff that were in attendance.

Date of Next Public Meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2021 - Virtual Teams Platform

MOTION:

.... I move that the District Education Council meeting be adjourned.

MOVED BY: Tanya Adams

MOTION CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at **8:10 PM**

Kimberley Douglass

Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, DEC

January 21, 2021

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant, Superintendent & DEC

January 21, 2021

Date