



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL Virtual Meeting Public Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 18, 2021

Council Members Present:

- 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 – Vice Chairperson
- Kimberley Douglass – SD 10 – Chairperson
- Wallace Carr – SD 12
- Thomas Geburt – SD 13

Council Member Regrets:

- Miriam Grant – SD 04
- Faith Kennedy – SD 11
- David Perley - First Nations

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Catherine Blaney, Director of Education Support Services
- Wayne Annis – Director of Schools - FEC
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communications
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration
- Joanne Williams, EAL Subject Coordinator

Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-district 7

Guests

- Media (1)

Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:34 PM**. Members of the public and media were welcomed to the online virtual meeting. Chairperson Douglass acknowledged that this meeting was held on the unceded and unsundered Wabanaki territory of the Wolastoqi people and she recognized the many students of Maliseet and Mi’kmaq descent who attend schools in Anglophone West School District (ASD-W).
- David McTimoney, Superintendent, welcomed MLA David Coon and MLA Ryan Cullins to the meeting and introductions of ASD-W staff in attendance was given.

Approval of the Agenda:

- The agenda was reviewed by the Council and approved by consensus. It was noted that earlier in the day and prior to the meeting, the agenda was revised to include the new Northeast School in Fredericton, Forest Hill Elementary School ventilation and Hubbard Avenue Elementary School heating system.

Approval of the Minutes – January 21, 2021:

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

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no new business arising from the minutes.

New Business:

- **Surplus Land in Nackawic** - the Director of Finance and Administration, Shawn Tracey, informed the Council of an abandoned school lot on Highway 105 that is owned by the Province of New Brunswick, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD).

- This parcel of land falls within the boundaries of ASD-W, and a request has been made to purchase the land. The property is assessed at \$6,000.00 and described as 1050 square meters in size. It has no useful purpose for ASD-W and a recommendation was made to the Council to consider declaring this land as surplus, as per the *Education Act, Section 45 – School Property*, so that the Province of NB could sell the property to the potential buyer.

MOTION:

I move to declare this land as surplus in Nackawic.

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr

SECONDED BY: Jane Buckley

MOTION CARRIED

- **New Northeast Elementary School in Fredericton** - the Director of Finance and Administration, Shawn Tracey, reiterated to Council that the *Education Act, section 45 (3) – School Property*, A District Education Council shall determine the general location in which to locate a school established under section 2. Section 45 (2) A District Education Council shall, at all times, have management, care, and control of all school property in the school district for which a District Education Council is established, until such time as the school property is declared surplus by the District Education Council.

MOTION:

I would move to build an elementary school in the Northeast area of Fredericton.

MOVED BY: Jane Buckley

SECONDED BY: Tanya Adams

MOTION CARRIED

Forest Hill Elementary School (FHES) – Ventilation System

- The Superintendent informed the Council that there was no integrated ventilation system at Forest Hill Elementary School, so windows and doors need to be opened to allow for fresh air and air circulation. Sixty of New Brunswick's 294 schools do not have an integrated ventilation system and included in this number is 24 ASD-W schools.
- The Province of New Brunswick has committed to designate 29M to update or invest in an integrated ventilation and heating system at these sixty schools by the end of 2021. Included in this 29M commitment, 6M has been assigned to ASD-W schools.
- ASD-W has an Indoor Air Quality Policy 450-2, that includes an appendix to submit concerns to the Facilities Department that are investigated. Currently there are no formal request for air quality testing to be done at Forest Hill Elementary School. In 2018 an air quality test was requested for possible mold, but this was unfounded. Prior to the amalgamation of ASD-W in 2012, a fire in the cellar had occurred and a smell of burnt wood is sometimes still noticeable in this area of the school. CO2 test have occurred at Forest Hill Elementary School and in the past, there have been slightly elevated levels reported but with the opening of doors and windows, the fresh air corrects this problem.
- Correspondence has been received by the district and DEC Chairperson from FHES Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) Chairperson, Mr. Greenfield. Mr. Greenfield has expressed the PSSC concerns of poor air quality at the school and most needed during the COVID pandemic.
- A Policy 409 – Multi-year School Infrastructure study was completed on FHES during the 2018-2019 school year with an outcome to build a new school and join FHES with Liverpool Street Elementary School (LSES). Since this time, this recommendation has dropped to number eleven on the Major Capital Project lists.
- Increased funding has been provided by the Province of New Brunswick for COVID-19 related expenses, such as, the hiring of additional cleaning staff and cleaning products. Our Facilities Team has monthly preventative maintenance checks on all systems in ASD-W 69 schools. The Energy Monitoring Team (SNB Energy Manager & ASD-W Facilities Team) can also monitor the systems remotely and identify issues so they can be repaired quickly, an interpretation document is being developed to accompany infrastructure reports, and our staff maintains a database of projects that are identified as Capital Improvement Projects.
- A request has not occurred for an air quality test to be completed at FHES in the past 3 years. Chairperson Douglass asked if this test could occur now at FHES. The Superintendent confirmed that a CO2, air quality and mold testing can occur immediately at FHES.

- **ACTION:** Shawn Tracey was asked to make the necessary arrangements to have this series of tests occur immediately at FHES.
- Councillor Geburt asked if other ASD-W schools had requested that this series of tests be conducted and if there were any air quality concerns noted from the 24 schools that do not have an integrove ventilation system. A report of a handful of air quality requests are received per year by the district office from schools.
ACTION: The Superintendent will reach out to the 24 Administrators to see if they have air quality concerns in their schools and those that indicate a concern will have a full series of tests completed.
- **ACTION:** Chairperson Douglass will respond to the FHES PSSC Chairperson and include Mr. Coon in this communication.
- Chairperson Douglass reminded those in attendance that these air quality concerns will continue to be ongoing. The current Council will finish their term in June 2021 and a new Council will begin in July 2021.

Hubbard Avenue Elementary School (HAES)

- The Superintendent updated the Council on the status of HAES heating concerns. The school was built in 1957, leaks have been found in the boiler system, repairs have been done over the years with clamps and patches, however, when leaks are repaired, new leaks spring. An Asbestos check was completed with no asbestos or mold reported to be in the building. The air quality throughout the school was reported to be good, but there were some concerns in the tunnel area, which had included a corner of the gym, has been closed off. Work Safe NB has been engaged and test results align with Health Canada guidelines.
- A long-term plan is needed at HAES with regular classroom teaching but if the leaks cannot be corrected, then it is quite possible students will need to continue with remote learning next week. Teachers are working hard at this Grade 3-5 school and the School Principal has been engaged. Contactors and the Facilities Team are working hard to resolve the heating concerns at HAES.

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: EAL

- Joanne Williams, EAL Subject Coordinator, introduced a 2-minute challenge to connect nine dots with four straight lines, with instructions to not duplicate a line. Councillors participated and Ms. Williams went on to explain that this challenge is similar to the challenges of learning new concepts and cultures. When new language learning students arrive in ASD-W from other countries, they are welcomed at the Newcomer Support Centre. Documentation, data collection and school registration are completed followed by a language assessment. During the language assessment, students can become frustrated when symbols may be the same, but others may appear confusing. The timeframe given is 1-3 years for social language to be learned and 3-5 years for academic language to be learned for a newcomer.
- The top countries of origin are Brazil, China, India, Syria, Egypt, Germany, and the Philippines. Several languages are spoken that include Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, German, Filipino, Somali, Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, Swahili, Hebrew, Persian, Hindi, Punjabi, Ukrainian, Tagalog, French and English. The ASD-W EAL Team work hard to design and deliver professional learning for teachers and support staff so that they may assist the newcomer students learn the English language and strengthen their cultural competency. A power point presentation was saved to the DEC Portal and there were no questions asked by Council for Ms. Williams about the journey of a language learner in ASD-W schools.

Circle of Understanding

- David Perley, First Nations Councillor, was not in attendance tonight. Therefore, this presentation has been postponed until the next Public DEC Meeting in March 2021.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

- A letter was received from the Forest Hill Elementary School PSSC Chairperson regarding no ventilation system at the school that was discussed earlier.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- **ASD-W-ER2.3: Healthy Living** – The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-ER2.3: Healthy Living* 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. There were no questions asked by the Council concerning this report and a reminder was given by the Chairperson to complete the DEC monitoring reports.

Committee Reports:

- **Student Voice:** Councillor Carr provided an update from a recent Student Voice Committee meeting where discussion was had about the social & emotional wellness of students, available resources and support for students suffering from mental health related issues, the home learning day expectation and workload, Semester II changes, student connectedness, and Grade 12 support for post secondary education.
- Wayne Annis, Director of Schools, added technology access and internet connections continues to be a concern for some students. As well, students commented on the 10 minute per day connection with the teacher disrupts their work. Students also expressed a feeling of disconnectedness which will be captured in the student survey results on social, emotional well being.
- Discussion topics were provided to students prior to the meeting to allow time for them to collect information from their peers and a time to reflect on the topics. A meeting will be held again in April with the Student Voice Committee and a request was made that Councillors provide questions for this meeting. The Chairperson thanked everyone for their participation, and she asked Councillors to think about what they want to hear most from the students that attend ASD-W schools. **ACTION:** Councillors were asked to send their questions for the Student Voice Committee to Carol or the Chairperson prior to the upcoming working session on Thursday, April 15th.

Public Comments:

- Mr. David Coon, MLA, commented that he was surprised to learn that a new school to replace the Forest Hill Elementary School and the Liverpool Street Elementary School was dropped to a lower level of importance from the Council’s recommendation of priority #2 to the Province rating of priority #11.
- The Chairperson informed Mr. Coon that a new Major Capital List will be reviewed in March. Councillor Hogan commented that the Council has made progress in the building of some new schools in ASD-W over the past few years.

Closing Comments:

- The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the virtual District Education Council meeting.

Date of Next Public Meeting: Thursday, March 25, 2021 - Virtual Teams Platform

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at **8:00 PM** by Chairperson Douglass.

Kimberley Douglass

March 25, 2021

Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, DEC

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

March 25, 2021

Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to Superintendent & DEC

Date