



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Virtual Meeting
Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2021**

<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 – Vice 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 • Gina Dunnett, Director of Schools – OEC • Wayne Annis – Director of Schools - FEC • Jennifer Read, Director of Communications • Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration • Susan Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor • Matt McGuire, Subject Coordinator, Digital Learning & Skilled Trades <p>Vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant – Sub-district 7 <p>Guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media (1)
---	--

Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:33 PM**. Councillor Douglass acknowledged that this meeting was held on the unceded and unsurrendered Wabanaki territory of the Wolastoqi people.
- The Superintendent introduced district office staff in attendance, and he acknowledged our neighboring Superintendent, Zoë Watson from Anglophone South School District.

Approval of the Agenda – January 21, 2021:

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

Approval of the Minutes – December 10, 2020:

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

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- The Chairperson announced that the Provincial Assessments & Wabanaki Education Comparison report is a work in progress and will not be reported at tonight’s meeting.
- The Superintendent requested clarification on the Council’s data expectations in future Superintendent Reports. **ACTION:** At the February DEC Working Session the Council will begin the review process on Superintendent Monitoring Reports.
- Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic that has added additional stress on ASD-W families and employees, a decision has been made by Council to cancel the previously discussed Parent Survey. The Superintendent had informed School Administrators that a survey would be circulated amongst

approximately 22,500 student families to learn how the 2020-2021 school year, has evolved for their family and student during the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions, and transitions. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will inform School Administrators that this parent survey has now been cancelled.

New Business:

- Shawn reported that the Northeast School Education Specification Document Committee will hold their first meeting on January 22, 2021. The expectation is for the new Northeast School to relieve enrolment pressures at Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School. The location of the new school build is currently unknown; therefore, this school will be referred to as the Northeast School until a formal name is determined.
- The new school on the Hanwell Road has been referred to as the Hanwell School and will continue as such until a formal name is determined.
- The process for naming a new school begins with a District Education Council Naming Committee and public consultation. The Naming Committee reviews public submissions, and a recommendation is made to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. **ACTION:** The hiring of a School Administrator for the Hanwell School will occur in May/June 2021 during ASD-W staffing process due to the planning that will need to occur prior to the projected opening in 2022. The District Education Council Naming Committee will be established in the fall of 2021 following the municipal elections and a new Council.
- The Capital Improvement Projects for the Province of New Brunswick is estimated to be 72.66M (subject to approval by the Legislature Assembly) and within this projection, 2.9M is allocated for Anglophone West School District schools, not including the two new school builds. The Capital Improvement work will be completed during the 2021-2022 school year.
- A PSSC Budget Policy update was provided by the Chairperson. Manager Stacey Brown had attended a Council Working Session to discuss the finances of the Council and the Parent School Support Committee's (PSSC). A reminder was given that budgets allocated for both committees are taxpayer dollars and can only be used for the committee mandates. Councillor Geburt asked what happens to the remaining unused budgets. Shawn Tracey, DFA, confirmed that surplus dollars are returned to the general operating budget of the school district.
- COVID-19 Red Recovery Phase updates were given by the Superintendent. The current transition to Red in Public Health Zones 2, 3, and 4 includes all 69 ASD-W schools. The Provincial Red Alert Level document has been revised to now reflect schools are to remain open for the continuation of learning, the practice of ongoing active screening, the continuation of mask uses indoor/outdoor, the cancellation of all field trips, the response protocol for positive cases, the cancellation of extra curricular activities, and the continuation of music and physical education/sport activities. Administrators have been asked to make the necessary arrangements for active screening to occur at their schools and should additional support be needed a request can be made to the district office.
- The Superintendent had been informed by Public Health that thirty-two schools in the Province of NB have had a positive COVID-19 case reported. Three of the thirty-two schools have had two separate outbreaks. Schools have been impacted with twenty-five staff cases and twenty-nine student cases. Four schools have been reported with in-school transmission (5 transmissions noted total) out of thirty-two schools with a case. None of these cases were student to student transmission, one student to staff transmission, two staff transmissions to students and two staff to staff transmission were reported. There are 294 public schools in the Province of New Brunswick. As this is public data, a request was made by Councillor Geburt to share this information with ASD-W schools. The Superintendent added that this data does not include the number of staff and students that needed to self-isolate 14 days. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will share this data with all ASD-W schools.
- Should a positive case be reported in a Red Zone area, a three-day school closure will occur to allow public health to complete the process of contact tracing. Should a school remain closed longer, it may not be due to the COVID outbreak but due to the shortage of replacement staff and operational circumstances.
- The Superintendent acknowledged the dedicated work of Public Health Staff; Susan Allen and Paula Baker and their team of nurses who have been a great support to ASD-W. As well, our dedicated teachers who have worked hard preparing for an at home learning setting. Teachers will use the operational day prior to the at home setting to organize for a transition, if needed.

- Councillor Kennedy asked the Superintendent how long the decision to keep schools open was known by Superintendents. The Superintendent informed the Council that very short notice was given to Superintendents due to the work taking place at a higher level of government.
- Councillor Buckley asked if consideration been given to the COVID police visiting schools and their ability to close a facility? The Superintendent responded that safety officials are welcome in all ASD-W schools. Staff and students are aware that a safety official could fine individuals that are not following the COVID guidelines.
- The Superintendent reminded all parents and guardians to actively screen their child prior to sending them to school each day. If a student arrives at their school with one symptom, they will be sent home. Councillor Buckley requested that everyone needs to do their part and stand-up to this pandemic so that we can all move on.

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: Digital Learning (BYOD)

- Matt McGuire, Digital Learning and Skilled Trades Subject Coordinator, informed the Council that all schools will soon have the capacity to “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) to schools. A BYOD committee was established for ASD-W where an implementation and consideration document were established. The completion date for all schools to have their infrastructure updated is July 2021.
- The need for technology has increased in schools for everyone. Every employee has access to Microsoft 365 tools and 9 digital learning leads have reached out to schools to offer further training. With 136 release days, 218 teachers have been supported and are building capacity to train others in 61 ASD-W schools. Coming soon is a Teacher Professional Learning Grant that will support teachers who are interested in further digital learning. This presentation has been saved on the ASD-W website and DEC Portal.

Circle of Understanding – Wabanaki Education: Historical and Contemporary Aspects

- David Perley, First Nations Councillor, informed the Council about Wabanaki Education in Atlantic Canada. A timeline circle from Ancestral Teachings was shared with the Council. Today’s period is described as the *Age of Healing and Revival*, where improvement has been seen in public schools and the opportunity is given to Indigenous students to continue their education by attending universities. The hope is for more students to attend universities and return to their communities to support economic development and growth. Sacred Spaces and sweat lodges would be a welcomed asset located close to schools where Indigenous students could learn and participate in culture education. Prior to today’s contemporary setting, the Wabanaki Education Wheel was explained to begin at the Eastern Door known as the *Age of Independence*, where Culturally Based Education (CBE) was taught which met the needs of the Wabanaki Nations. Around the period of 1604, the *Age of Reciprocity* was known where contact was made with other ethnic groups, but Culturally Based Education continued. A dark period later occurred where the Colonial Education of French and English authorities were imposed on Indigenous communities. This period was known as the *Age of Destruction*. The *Age of Destruction* continued during the 1700’s and in 1876 the Indian Act was established, and the Colonial Education was then imposed by the Department of Indian Affairs. Compulsory attendance of Indigenous students at residential schools later occurred where Indigenous language, culture and spiritual teachings were forbidden, and abuse began to occur.
- Councillor Perley made the Council aware of limited Indigenous curriculum and resources to support the Wabanaki content. Councillor Perley is a committee member that works towards improving Indigenous academic resources with hopes of increased materials becoming available in a year.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

- Correspondence requesting an opportunity to create structural and systemic communication between organizations was sent from the Town of Oromocto to the Deputy Minister, George Daley. Anglophone and Francophone District Education Councils and Superintendents were copied in this correspondence but there is no action required of the District Education Council and Superintendents as this correspondence is for information only.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- **ASD-W-EL4: DEC Finance and Budget** – The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-EL4: DEC Finance and Budget* as per the annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented two times per year and is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal. A rise in students who opted Home-School also impacted enrolment.
- **ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting/Forecasting (3rd Quarter)** – The Superintendent presented a report called *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. An Agreement between the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and School Districts represented by District Education Councils was shared where a request was made to return any budgetary surplus to the Province of New Brunswick for the 2020-2021 school year in exchange for all COVID-19 related expenses to be covered by the Province of New Brunswick. The Superintendent made a recommendation to the Council to support this Memorandum of Understanding due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic expenses.

MOTION:

...I move that we sign this document.

MOVED BY: Councillor Buckley SECONDED BY: Councillor Carr MOTION CARRIED

- **ASD-W-EL6: Effective Use of Schools** – The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-EL6: Effective Use of Schools* 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. Susan Young confirmed that all students, including Indigenous students, were included in the enrolment data report. It was noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, a decline in International students' enrolment in ASD-W was seen.

Committee Reports:

- **Student Voice:** Councillor Carr provided an update from a recent Student Voice Committee that was held on December 12, 2020. Student Representation was seen from Cambridge-Narrows Community School, Harvey High School, Nackawic High School, Woodstock High School, McAdam High School, Canterbury High School, Southern Victoria High School and Central New Brunswick Academy. Students discussed their feeling of school connectedness during the pandemic, the specific resources they feel teachers are lacking and how students feel about the use of technology. This discussion supported the District Education Council Goal #2: social emotional learning and well-being of staff and students in ASD-W with accessible mental health tools and resources. DEC Goal #2 will continue to be discussed at an upcoming meeting on February 24, 2021.
- **Code of Conduct:** Councillor Winslow presented the proposed Code of Conduct Policy that included appendices that shorten the length of the document. Consensus was given on the importance of a Code of Conduct policy needed for ASD-W as the Council has been operating without this policy.

MOVED

...to have this document approved as presented by the Council tonight.

MOVED BY: Councillor Winslow SECONDED BY: Councillor Hogan MOTION CARRIED

Public Comments:

- MLA David Coon was in attendance tonight and those representing media were asked to remain on the call to speak with the Superintendent, DEC Chairperson and Director of Communications or contact the office tomorrow.

Closing Comments:

- The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting.

Date of Next Public Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2021 - Virtual Teams Platform until further notice

MOTION:

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

MOVED BY: Councillor Winslow

MOTION CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM

Kimberley Douglass

Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, DEC

February 18, 2021

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant, Superintendent & DEC

February 18, 2021

Date