



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB
Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 10, 2021**

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Adams – SD 01 • Andy Saunders – SD 02 • Heather Hogan – SD 03 (virtual) • Miriam Grant – SD 04 • 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>	<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 • Catherine Blaney, Director of Education Support Services (<i>On-line</i>) • Wayne Annis – Director of Schools - FEC • Jennifer Read, Director of Communications • Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration • Jon Hoyt-Hallet, Subject Coordinator, Science, Co Op & Experiential Learning <p>Vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant – Sub-district 7 <p>Guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media (1)
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Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:30 PM**. Members of the public and media were welcomed to the meeting. Chairperson Douglass recognized that this meeting was held on the unceded and unsundered Wabanaki territory of the Wolastoqi people. The Chairperson recognized the recent finding of 215 unmarked Indigenous graves of children who had attended a former residential school in Western Canada. Chairperson Douglass reflected on the recent teachings of Councillor David Perley that has enriched our lives and taught us so much about the Indigenous culture. A recent hate crime in Southern Ontario, that had taken the lives of a Muslim family, was also acknowledged.
- David McTimoney, Superintendent, provided staff introduction of those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of the Minutes – May 20, 2021:

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

Business Arising from the Minutes:

COVID-19 Update

- The Superintendent informed the Council that work continues to be needed as two ASD-W schools remain impacted with positive COVID-19 test results. Nackawic High School has transitioned to online learning and Leo Hayes High School remains open to learning but also had reported a recent positive COVID-19 case. Priestman Street Elementary School was recently closed but now open.
- This week also brought a heat wave that resulted in an early closure for 64 ASD-W schools. Five schools remained open as they have a cooling system installed in the facility.

- The Superintendent informed the Council that an approximate cost of \$700,000.00, per school, would be needed to install an added cooling system feature to the remaining 64 schools.
- Councillor Saunders recognized the Superintendent and his team for their dedication and continuous hard work. Councillor Saunders went on to say that the Superintendent and district staff are most likely not acknowledged for the many additional hours of work needed for a large organization to run smoothly, especially during a pandemic.

DEC Appointments

- In May 2021, School Administrators were made aware of their sub-district not being represented by a DEC Councillor. A request was made for a school circulation of potential interests, feedback was collected and reviewed by the Council. A motion was passed by the Council to submit a list of names to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development of those interested in serving as a District Education Councillor in the vacant sub-districts. A letter had been received by the Council from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that directed the new Council to submit this information after the new DEC was established. Concerns were noted amongst the current Council of the new Council not having enough Councillors for a quorum; therefore, they would be unable to designate a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Further communication was received from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development addressing this concern.

MOTION:

.... to rescind the previous motion to send a list of names to the Minister and allow the new Council to submit the list of names interested in serving as a DEC Councillor.

MOVED: Jane Buckley

SECONDED: Sean Winslow

MOTION CARRIED

- Councillor Geburt and Councillor Carr will be remaining as District Education Councillors in Sub-district 12 and Sub-district 13, respectively.

New Business:

- As this is the final meeting for the 2020-21 school year, there was no new business to discuss.

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: Science, Co-op, and Experiential Learning

- The Curriculum and Program presentation was provided by Jon Hoyt-Hallett. An Experiential Learning Newsletter and Essential Skills Newsletter was shared with the Council and posted publicly on the ASD-W website.

Circle of Understanding:

- *Stereotypes and Misconceptions* is the title of Councillor Perley's presentation tonight. Councillor Perley thanked the many compassionate and caring people that had reached out to him with their kind words and prayers during the recent tragedy learned in Western Canada. Councillor Perley also thanked the Council for approving a Wabanaki policy and to the Superintendent for implementing this policy and supporting the Indigenous students in ASD-W. The Stereotype and Misconception teaching was enjoyed by everyone. This presentation is saved on the DEC portal and posted for the public to view on the ASD-W website.
- Chairperson Douglass informed the Council that the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development had not requested to delay the appointment of a First Nations Councillor, therefore, when Councillor Perley informed her that he would be interested in serving as the First Nations Councillor for an additional term, a formal letter was prepared and forwarded to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. Chairperson Douglass thanked Councillor Perley for his teachings through the Circle of Understanding.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

- Letter to the Minister – Hubbard Avenue Elementary School - Transfer and Surplus Letter. Following the May 2021 DEC meeting, a formal letter had been forwarded to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development declaring the Hubbard Avenue Elementary School as surplus with the transfer of staff and students to the new location on Drummond Drive in Oromocto, NB.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting/Forecasting (Expenditure Plan)* 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.
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration identified a **(\$1,787,977.00 M)** shortfall in Education & Support Services (Educational Assistants) that needed to be covered by other revenue sources and efficiencies. The Superintendent added that ASD-W is not funded for the requested 1171 Educational Assistants that were requested in the individual school assessments for the new school year. The District Educational Support Services Team (ESS) were asked to examine each request carefully and to follow their established rubric formula. This process originally landed on 738 Educational Assistants, but ASD-W is only funded for 589 Educational Assistants resulting in a difference of 149 support staff positions to a cost of \$5.71M.
- Historically ASD-W has had to find efficiencies with global budgets to bridge the gap between funding and need. School districts cannot run financial deficits, and to date ASD-W has been successful in finding efficiencies. However, this gap is too large. As such, the Superintendent asked the District ESS Team to re-assess the number of Educational Assistants that can be assigned to schools and the Finance Team to closely review the global budget line by line to create an expenditure plan that could be passed by Council. This second review resulted in some budget categories needing to be adjusted to ensure the needs are met in Education Support Services.
- Although EECD has advised that there is no additional funding available, the Superintendent maintains communication with them, and they understand the extent of our situation. The Superintendent expressed his concerns about this financial shortfall; however, he is committed to working with the ESS and Financial Team to maintain a healthy and safe learning environment for students in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Councillor Geburt, Councillor Buckley, Councillor Carr, Councillor Hogan, Councillor O'Brien, and Councillor Kennedy expressed their concerns of an annual financial shortfall. This forced reduction in support staff adds to the capacity of the classroom teacher and disruption in classes. It was noted that the Green Paper, Inclusion Policy and 10-Year Education Plan support students in schools but the funding does not. Councillor Carr stated that he would not support a motion to approve the expenditure plan, however, it was noted that if the expenditure plan were not approved, budgets could not be released to schools. Councillors expressed their frustration with approving an insufficient budget but stated that their hands were tied. Without their approval the organization would be greatly affected.

MOTION:

..... to approve the expenditure plan as presented.

MOVED: Jane Buckley

SECONDED: Tanya Adams

MOTON CARRIED

- Included in the *ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting/Forecasting Monitoring Report*, the Director of Finance and Administration 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.

Committee Reports:

Student Voice

- Councillor Carr provided a Student Voice update from the May 4, 2021, meeting. Several school topics of interest were discussed amongst committee members and the recruitment of a student representative was discussed for the District Education Council. Students provided great ideas on how their voice could be included with the District Education Council. As well, several students expressed an interest in participating in meetings using a virtual platform.
- Wayne Annis, Director of Schools (FEC) expressed his gratitude to the Council for including the student voice input.
- Councillor Hogan acknowledged ongoing student concerns, as noted in meeting minutes, of the lack of Guidance Counsellors assigned to schools to support students. The Superintendent concurred that the ratio used for Guidance Counsellors needed to be increased.

Final Meeting of Current DEC – Closing Thoughts

- Chairperson Douglass expressed her gratitude to fellow Councillors for their support and dedication to the District Education Council. Councillor Douglass has served 9 years as a Councillor with Anglophone West School District and she recognized the work of the current Council for developing an approved Indigenous Policy and LGBTQS+ Policy, which she is very proud. Councillor Buckley thanked the Chairperson for her work and dedication to the Council.

Public Comments:

- There were no public comments.

In-camera Meeting to Review DRAFT June 10th Minutes:

- The minutes were reviewed by Council and approved following the addition of “gratitude to the Superintendent and team” made by Councillor Saunders. The approval of the June 10th minutes was moved by Councillor Saunders and Seconded by Councillor Corey. This motion was carried.

Closing Comments:

- The Chairperson thanked those in attendance tonight and she wished everyone a wonderful summer holiday.

Date of Next Public Meeting: TBD

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM by Councillor Buckley.

Kimberley Douglass

June 10, 2021

Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, DEC

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

June 10, 2021

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

Date