



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting Public Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 25, 2021

Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – SD 01
- Andy Saunders – SD 02
- Heather Hogan – SD 03
- 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
- Wallace Carr – SD 12
- Thomas Geburt – SD 13
- David Perley - First Nations

Council Member Regrets:

- Faith Kennedy – SD 11

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC
- Karen Morton, Director of Human Resources
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Gina Dunnett – Director of Schools - OEC
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communications
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration
- Beth Christie, Fine Arts, Social St. & Enrichment Subject Coordinator

Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-district 7

Guests

- Tony Weber, Director of Educational Facilities and Transportation, EECD
- David Coon, MLA
- Bill Hogan, MLA
- Media (1)

Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:33 PM**. Members of the public and media were welcomed to the online virtual meeting. Chairperson Douglass recognized that this meeting was held on the unceded and unsundered Wabanaki territory.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of the Minutes – February 18, 2021:

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

Special Guest – Tony Weber, Director of Educational Facilities and Pupil Transportation for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development:

- Mr. Weber provided a presentation called EECD Capital Program. Included in this report was an outlined process, the types of projects (Major Capital that exceeds \$1M and Capital Improvement that is less than \$1M), and responsibilities of the District Education Council (DEC) and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) with the Province of NB Treasury Board's final approval of the project. The presentation outlined timelines with May 31st being the deadline for districts to submit their Major Capital and Capital Improvement priorities to EECD.
- Prior to the implementation of a Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL), the prioritisation process was faced with a challenge of how to prioritise different types of projects in a defensible manner. The QBL system is data

driven, follows the Education Act, supports pedagogical requirements, and is responsive to GNB priorities with a Provincial perspective.

- Mr. Weber informed the Council that \$1M is held in a reserve for emergencies and is used on approved projects prior to the fiscal year-end from the Capital Improvement budget. The QBL is a living document that includes a tiering comparison with Tier 1 (teaching platform deficiencies based on demographic projections) being the top priority for funding and approvals.
- Councillor Carr asked why the Oromocto High School mid-life upgrade, that was publicly announced as a priority project, has since dropped to project #31 on the Major Capital lists and is this the case for all mid-life projects to now be deferred to a later date. Mr. Weber explained that not all mid-life projects were delayed to a later date as the work may have already begun or is included in the projects for when finances allow for them to begin the work on the most needed schools.
- Councillor Geburt asked if using the Capital Improvement funds was the only way to move ahead with completing projects on the Major Capital Improvement lists. Councillor Geburt asked this question as four ASD-W schools were scored higher on the priority lists provided by the Council but shown with a lower score on the EECD report. Mr. Weber responded that when funding is not available to move forward but new projects continue to be identified, such as the new Hanwell School, that would be a resolution for related schools that were previously prioritized. Projects that are not approved are recalculated with the approved projects which changes the priority list of projects.
- This report is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Update on Hubbard Avenue Elementary School (HAES)

- The Superintendent informed the Council that the Hubbard Avenue Elementary School staff are in the process of moving to their new temporary location on Drummond Drive in the Town of Oromocto, NB. The previously known school École Arc-en-ciel, will now be called Hubbard Elementary School until staff and students are able to return to their facility. The Superintendent had communicated to all families of HAES in a four-page letter that clearly outlined the transition process to a new location. March 29th and 30th will be used for staff to unpack their supplies and prepare for the return of students on Wednesday, March 31st. Future discussions will continue to occur regarding the Hubbard Avenue Elementary School, but at this time, the projected return to the Hubbard Avenue location is January 2022.
- Councillor Geburt informed the Superintendent that he has learned from a HAES Parent School Support Committee meeting that parents would prefer to remain in the temporary location until the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Councillor Carr supported a return to the Hubbard Avenue location in June 2022 based on his previous experience with Geary Elementary Community School and their transition to another location during a new school build.
- Mr. Weber informed the Council that the temporary facility on Drummond Drive will be available as long as it is needed for the Hubbard Elementary School staff and students.

Update on Schools Without an Integral Ventilation System / Forest Hill Elementary School

- The Superintendent shared with Council that a summary was prepared from the information collected from a Principal survey and is saved on their DEC Portal. Included in this report, ASD-W currently has 24 schools without an integral ventilation system. ASD-W policies includes Policy 450-2 Indoor Air Quality for Schools and a referral form for testing to be completed can be found in Policy 450-2A. All Administrators are aware of strategies to circulate air within their facility, but six of the twenty-four schools reported that they were unable to open some windows for better air flow. This information has been shared with the Facilities Department and a work order has been created to repair these windows so that they can be opened.
- Councillor Geburt raised a concern of insufficient funding available to support sixty schools across the Province of NB that are reported to be without an integral ventilation system. Mr. Weber informed the Council that funding is available for various tests to be conducted on the air quality and mechanical analysis with improvements to be seen at the schools most in need, which would include ASD-W schools.

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation: Fine Arts

- The Curriculum and Program presentation was deferred to another meeting due to time constraints.

Circle of Understanding

- Councillor Perley provided a power point presentation called Culturally Based Education (CBE) which reflects, validates, and promotes values, world views, and language(s) of the Indigenous community's culture. The intent of CBE is to honour all forms of knowledge, ways of knowing and world views equally. The CBE goal is to support all students through affirmation of their culture which builds a sense of pride and self-esteem. This presentation is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal for further review.

New Business:

Capital Improvement Projects and Major Capital Construction Projects – Discussions

- This agenda item was placed on the meeting schedule as a reminder for the Council to begin thinking about ASD-W Capital Improvement and Major Capital Construction recommendation of priority, and the Councils approval at the upcoming public meeting in May 2021.

Fredericton North East Elementary School; Education Specification Document Approval

- The DEC has a responsibility to give their approval of a new school educational specifications as per Policy 409, Appendix B. ASD-W has been granted a new North East Elementary School in the City of Fredericton that is projected to be built in the Fall of 2023. Some differences in this school building compared to other new builds are the ceramic and carpet tile in some spaces, overhead garage style door in some classrooms to combine two classrooms, sliding and folding whiteboards, an early childhood room, 26 classrooms, project work and break-out rooms (2 classrooms), 2 gymnasiums, art & music rooms, multifunction classrooms, a learning stair, library/media area, cafeteria, staff room, administration offices, and custodial rooms. This new 7671 sq meter building will be a two or three-story building that will include elevators and the most current technology resources. The City of Fredericton has offered to invest a contribution for the purchase of bleachers, and it was noted that a community storage area has been included in the educational specifications as with other new builds.

MOTION:

.....to approve the Educational Specifications for the new Fredericton North East Elementary School.

MOVED BY: Jane Buckley

SECONDED BY: Heather Hogan

MOTION CARRIED

Bath Middle School

Declaration of Building as Surplus

- The Superintendent reviewed the Council's recommendation to build a new school in the Carleton North Area following a Policy 409 study (Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning) that was conducted during the 2019-2020 school year. The Council's recommendation to build a new school to consolidate four Carleton North area schools (Bath Community School, Bristol Elementary School, Florenceville Elementary School and Florenceville Middle School) was approved by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- Students and staff from the community of Bath remain at the previously known Bath Elementary School due to a decision to no longer continue the refurbishment project at the previously known Bath Middle School. At this time, the former Bath Middle School remains vacant and is surplus property as outlined in Policy 403: Disposal of School Buildings.
- It is now the responsibility of the District Education Council to declare the previously known Bath Middle School as surplus prior to the fiscal deadline of March 31st.
- **ACTION:** Shawn was asked by Councillor Geburt to apprise EECDC of the Council's earlier approved motion to declare the former Bath Elementary School as surplus but now the Bath Community School is housed at this facility until a new school is built in the Carleton North area. Councillor Geburt asked if there is an expectation of the Council to now remove the Bath Elementary School declaration of surplus as this school is now the official location of the Bath Community School.

MOTION

.....to declare the former Bath Middle School as surplus.

MOVED BY: Thomas Geburt

SECONDED BY: Heather Hogan

MOTION CARRIED

Update on Grade Configuration Review

- The Superintendent informed the Council of a Principal being reassigned to conduct a Grade Configuration Review at the Bath Community School. A tremendous amount of work has been completed by Ms. T. Whitney and a report will be provided to the Superintendent upon the completion of her work. At the upcoming public DEC meeting in April, the Superintendent will inform the Council of the report findings and provide them with his recommendation on the current grade configuration of Grades K-8 at the Bath Community School.

Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee (PCEAC)

- Chairperson Douglass informed the Council that this is the last year for Councillor Hogan to serve on the PCEAC committee. Councillor Hogan has served for the past four years and she was recognized for her dedication and contribution to this Provincial committee. Chairperson Douglass informed the Council that Councillor Hogan's replacement will need to be declared at a fall public meeting with the newly established District Education Council.

District Educational Plan for 2021-2022

- The Superintendent recognized that this past school year has evolved on a 1-year District Educational Plan rather than the 3-year District Education Plan as outlined in the Education Act 36.9, sections 1-3. The Council had approved a 1-year plan for the current school year and with the ongoing pandemic and upcoming new Council, the Superintendent has requested consideration be given to continue with a 1-year District Education Plan for the new 2021-2022 school year.
- Councillor Hogan and Chairperson Douglass both concurred that they liked the concept of another 1-year District Education Plan and the merging of the Positive Learning Environment Plan with the District Improvement Plan.
- The Council agreed that an additional 1-year District Education Plan would be in the best interest of the district for the 2021-2022 school year. The new Council can then be involved in the establishment of the next District Education Plan.

COVID-19 Update

- The Superintendent provided an update to Council on COVID-19 and the impact this has had on ASD-W schools within Public Health Zone 4. The most recent announcement is that St. Mary's Academy, located in Edmundston, will be returning to the RED Alert Recovery Phase. This will include active daily screening of staff upon their arrival to work, parents are expected to screen their child prior to sending them to school, and should a case be reported in the school, the school will be closed for a minimum of three days for cleaning and testing. Masks are to be worn, at all times, unless eating, and extra-curricular activities are not permitted.
- High School Blended Learning will come to an end on April 12th and approximately 4500 High School setting staff members across the Province have been given their first vaccination dose. ASD-W continues to watch for the remaining Part II staff vaccinations.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

- There was no correspondence to discuss.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-EL2: Staff Treatment* 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. Recognition was given to the Director of Human Resources, Karen Morton, for her contribution to this report and for her dedication to ASD-W.
- The Superintendent presented a report called *ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting/Forecasting (4th Quarter Report)* 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. Recognition was given to the Director of Finance and Administration, Shawn Tracey, for his contribution to this report and dedication to ASD-W.
- Councillor Perley asked which budget line included the First Nations Education Global Budget. Shawn responded that the 2020-2021 Global First Nations Educational Budget was \$386,000.00 and this amount is included in Total Instruction and School Services budget line.
- **ACTION:** Shawn was asked to provide a detailed report of the First Nations Global Budget to the Council in June 2021, which will allow time for all year-end expenses to be processed.
- Shawn reported that any unspent global money would fall to the bottom-line balance to offset any deficits or add to the remaining balance.

Committee Reports:

Student Voice:

- A report will be shared with the Council at the next working meeting by Councillor Carr.

Public Comments:

- There were no public comments.

Closing Comments:

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

Date of Next Public Meeting: Thursday, April 22, 2021 – Virtual Meeting Platform

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM by Councillor Buckley.

Kimberley Douglass

April 22/2021

Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, DEC

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

April 22/2021

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

Date