



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 16, 2020
Office of the Superintendent**

Council Members Present:

- 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 Chair
- Kimberley Douglas – SD 10 – Chair
- Faith Kennedy – SD 11
- Wallace Carr – SD 12
- Thomas Geburt – SD 13
- David Perley – First Nations

Council Member Regrets:

- Tanya Adams – SD 01

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Derek Grant, Subject Coordinator-Numeracy
- Maryanne Reynolds, Subject Coordinator-Numeracy
- Katrina Paget, Subject Coordinator-Numeracy
- Judy Cole, Director of Communications
- Terri McKellar, Budget & Accounting Manager
- Angus Smith, Facilities Manager
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

Guests:

- Media (1)
- Public (1)

Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-district 7
- Vacant – Student Representative

Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at **6:35 p.m.** Those in attendance were welcomed and Councilor Douglass recognized that this meeting and ASD-W schools were held on unceded and unsundered Wolastoqey territory. Councilor Perley will be educating the Council, district staff and members of the public on the historical timeline of the Wabanaki Nations.

Approval of the Agenda – January 16, 2020:

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

Approval of the Minutes – December 12, 2019:

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

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **State of the Provincial Education System** – Councilor Hogan stated at the December 12th public meeting that she was concerned with the recent media attention that was being given to the negative comments about the Province of NB education system. The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development was reported as saying that our education system is in a disastrous state. A formal District Education Council statement was read by Chairperson Douglass and Councilors were invited to share this document with their Parent School Support Committee's and schools that they represent. This statement has been included in the minutes and can also be found on the ASD-W website.
- **Carleton North Area Sustainability Studies Update** - The Superintendent informed those in attendance that the first meetings for all four schools in the Carleton North area have been completed. On Saturday, January 18, 2020, the second meeting will be held for the Florenceville Middle School and Florenceville Elementary School. On January 25, 2020, the Bath Community School and Bristol Elementary School communities will have an opportunity to present to the Council. A reminder was given of all documents related to these four school studies can be found on the ASD-W website. In addition, public comments can be made, pertaining to these studies, on the website or by reaching out to the Superintendent.
- **Town Hall Meeting #2 on Transportation** – The Superintendent provided an update on the second Town Hall meeting that was held at Carleton North High School and streamed to Oromocto High School and John Caldwell School on January 13, 2020. Attendance was reported to be low, but conversations about storm days and catchment areas were very good. The electronic tool that we use in the system was shared and it was noted that comments were different in the Northern area school than the previous meeting held in November in Fredericton. The third Town Hall meeting will be held in the Spring with a topic to soon follow. Councilor Geburt noted that the audio was not good at the first meeting and asked if this was improved upon in the second meeting. The Superintendent confirmed that a

microphone was used at the second meeting that improved the audio quality. The Superintendent showed where the Town Hall information was located on the ASD-W website. Councilor Hogan expressed her appreciation for holding a second Town Hall meeting with Transportation being the main topic in both areas.

- The Chairperson thanked the ASD-W staff for attending the meeting and the Superintendent provided introductions of those who were in attendance.

New Business:

- **First Nations Education** - Councilor Perley began the *Circle of Understanding* Session with a welcome in his Wolastoqey language. Councilor Perley provided a **Wabanaki Nations – Historical Timeline** chart and explained that the first principle to remember is **RESPECT**. Respect for people and nature. The second principle to remember is **SHARING** and the third is **HARMONEY**. **INTER-DEPENDENCE** is the fourth principle to learn as we are all connected: socially, physical and spiritually. Councilor Perley went on to explain the sections of the sacred Circle of Life chart beginning with Creation, Contact, Confederation and Contemporary stories. The Creation stories has a wealth of knowledge about the Wolastoqui ancestors. The Age of Independence is the time period when Nations established political, education, and justice systems. The Age of Reciprocity occurred in 1604 for 75 years when the Wabanaki people interacted with French speaking people to trade medicines, fur and food supplies. Settlement society began with conflict between French and English people. The English took land and resources that belonged to the Wabanaki people calling this period, the Age of Destruction. Confederation occurred when the Canadian Act Indian Act was established. This treaty was designed to ensure that the Age of Destruction (pre-Confederation) for the Wabanaki ancestors was recognized. The final timeline period is called a Contemporary period that included the Age of Healing and Revival to rebuild cultural foundations, ceremonies and practices. Councilor Perley referenced young Indigenous children wanting to learn their language, participate in sacred ceremonies and use the teachings of their ancestors as a guide. You can see their self-esteem increase and the communities become involved in a healing process. The Age of Healing and Revival period is about Aboriginal rights and a time to be proud of the Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy and Wabanaki heritage.
- Councilor Perley recognized the positive changes that have been made in the public-school system since the time of residential schools. This comes from people being educated about the Indigenous history. Councilor Perley ended his presentation with his dreams for Indigenous students are to graduate High School and go on to become educated so that they can return to their communities and share their experiences.
- **DEC Goals** – Chairperson Douglass recognized that the District Improvement Plan was in the final year of the 2017-2020 cycle. The District Education Council will be involved as part of the process and the Superintendent will notify them when their input is needed.

Curricular and Program Presentation - Numeracy:

- Subject Coordinators for Numeracy provided an interactive presentation that include everyone in attendance. Elementary, Middle and High School Grade Level stations were available to show how students are taught using objects to learn math in a safe environment where they feel comfortable to discuss the content given.

Correspondence:

- The Council received a letter from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development accepting the recommendation to renew the Superintendent for another 5-year period.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- **ASD-W EL4 – Budgeting/Forecasting (3rd Quarter Report)** – 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. Included in this report is the DEC Budget Summary Report with an opening balance of \$50,000.00 and a remaining balance of \$28, 131.04 for the 2019-2020 school year.
- **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. The Superintendent noted that this report included student enrollment, use of schools and programs as components of this report. Councilor Carr asked if the Council would be informed of the quadruple bottom line projects prior to Government announcements of approved projects. The Superintendent recommended that projects be rated by Council to determine if they should be rated high or not.
- Councilor Hogan asked for information on the process for a school to be given a module classroom. The Superintendent responded that the surrounding site, the number of split classrooms, and if classes have high enrollment are reviewed by district staff. The School Principal is also contacted for their input. Additional modular classrooms have been added to Keswick Ridge, Connaught (2), Harvey, Devon and the Woodstock area. When a school's enrollment has declined, modular classrooms are returned when not needed.



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
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January 16, 2020

Over the past few months, our Premier has called our Provincial Education System a “disaster” and our Minister of Education has indicated we are in a crisis. The members of ASD-W District Education Council (DEC) feel it was necessary to address the ongoing negative statements.

At our public meeting in November 2019, the Superintendent presented his report on ASD-W Policy ER2.1 Academic Excellence. The assessment data collected in Literacy, Mathematics and Science, clearly indicates that the system is not a disaster. The data reported by classroom teachers indicates a thorough understanding of students’ progress on a daily basis, a progress that demonstrates consistent gains toward Academic Excellence. The Council understands the value of outside assessments; however, they are only one piece of data, a snapshot, which does not provide the full picture of any student’s knowledge. This year, the ASD-W DEC will develop a goal on Academic excellence that will align our policy with the 10 Year Education Plan.

We understand there are challenges. A world class inclusive education system that lacks the necessary resources, a mental health crisis, socioeconomic issues and delivering an immersion program in unilingual communities are some. But according to the 2018 Auditor General's Report, "New Brunswick's education system suffers from a lack of stability. Frequent changes disrupt the education system." And in response to this we have within the recent Green Paper a multitude of changes, lacking in detail, proposed by the Minister. These as well as his and the Premier’s most recent comments regarding the French Immersion Program not only further complicate a heavily burdened system but negatively impact on the morale of our educators and students.

Panelists at the Education Summit last fall indicated that “if New Brunswick were a country, it would be the 10th best in the world, as far as education goes”. The ASD-W DEC wants to assure parents and students that the system although not perfect, it is certainly not broken and that the dedicated teachers within our schools are doing their utmost with the resources available to ensure all students succeed. We ask that those in charge of the system provide us all with the opportunity to work toward that success and the much-needed stability it deserves.

Anglophone West School District Education Council