



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

**Thursday, December 12, 2019
Office of the Superintendent**

Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – SD 01
- 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 (Conf. Call)

Council Member Regrets:

- Andy Saunders – SD 02
- David Perley – First Nations

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Gina Dunnett, Director of Schools - OEC
- Colleen Dyer-Wiley, Literacy Subject Coordinator - WEC
- Jill Davidson, Literacy Subject Coordinator – FEC/OEC
- Signe Williams, Literacy Subject Coordinator – FEC/OEC
- Susan Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor
- Judy Cole, Director of Communications
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

Guests:

- Media (1)
- Public (2)

Vacancies:

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

Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at **6:38 p.m.** At that time, she welcomed everyone to the public meeting that was being held in Fredericton. The Chairperson recognized that this meeting was held on unceded and unsundered Wolastoqui Territory and she went on to ask, “*and so what...*”. The Chairperson stated to those in attendance that when we hear that we are meeting on the territory of the Wolastoqi people, we should be asking the question, “what are we going to do about this, where are we going, and how do we go further with this statement?” The Chairperson acknowledged the work of the District Education Council and ASD-W beginning with recognizing and addressing urgent needs of all Indigenous students by creating an Indigenous DEC policy. ASD-W supports the teaching of the Indigenous language, history and culture for all Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students. So, we are moving and working towards doing our part in fulfilling this statement.

Approval of the Agenda – December 12, 2019:

- The agenda was reviewed by Council and a request was made to add an update on a recent Town Hall Transportation meeting and the State of Education. Both new agenda items were added under New Business. With these additions, the agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of the Minutes – November 21, 2019:

- The November 21st minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **Carleton North Area Sustainability Studies Update** - The Chairperson informed those in attendance that the first meetings for all four schools in the Carleton North area have been completed. The Superintendent acknowledged that we continue to work on building reports and updates are provided on our ASD-W website. In January 2020, the second meetings will be held for all four schools beginning with Florenceville Middle School and Florenceville Elementary School on **Saturday, January 18th**, followed by Bath Community School and Bristol Elementary School on **Saturday, January 25th**. A clarification was given on a report that had been provided concerning a timeline and financial statement for the Bath Middle School and has been posted to the ASD-W Website. The staff and public are not allowed to visit the Bath Middle School but, with the proper safety equipment, a member of the facilities department has toured the Bath Middle School to take footage for the Council to review. The Superintendent referred to a recent media statement that stated the continuation of the Bath Middle School project as not being an option. This statement is inaccurate as that project that has been placed on hold could be a consideration of the Council which would fall under option 2- to invest in the current structure. The Province would need to approve this recommendation.

- The Chairperson thanked the ASD-W staff for attending and the Superintendent introduced each staff member to the Council and members of the public.

New Business:

- **The State of the Province Education System** – Councilor Hogan spoke of a comment made by Dominic Cardy, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, about the negative state of our education system in the Province of New Brunswick. Councilor Hogan expressed concern with the negative press as a result of Mr. Cardy’s continued statements about poor test scores in our Province and that his reflection does not tell the whole picture as tests scores are not showing a clear view of the actual work being done in our schools. Councilor Hogan went on the say that all employees in education work hard to serve students of this Province and she went on to ask the Council to support the education staff and promote the report card results and not the PISA results that are being shown in the media. Councilor Buckley and Councilor Carr agreed with Councilor Hogan as they have seen report card data that shows our ASD-W schools doing considerably well.
- As a result of this conversation, an ADHOC committee was established that will include; Councilor Hogan, Councilor Carr and Councilor Douglass. Councilor Hogan requested that their findings be shared with other Councilors at the upcoming working meeting and shared with the media and members of the public on January 16, 2020.

Town Hall Meeting on Transportation Update:

- The Superintendent informed the Council and those in attendance of ASD-W’s first of three town hall meetings that was held on Nov. 27th at Nashwaaksis Middle School. A report of approximately 60-70 people were in attendance, which included, members of the public, district and school staff, Councilor Carr and two MLA’s. A presentation was provided, and questions were answered by the Superintendent. Five round table discussion stations were made available with topics, such as; finances, technology, catchment areas, policies and procedures and storm days. The biggest feedback given was on storm days where it was suggested that buses be taken off the roads, but schools remain open on weather days. Catchment area with 2.4 KMs being the longest walking distance was discussed. In legislation, the Superintendent can reduce this distance, if the budget permits, but at this time we are approximately \$200,000.00 in the red, making it not feasible. However, transportation is going to research further to see if any adjustments can be made.
- A staff debriefing meeting was held, and a decision was made to hold a “repeat” meeting at Carleton North High School with a live feed to John Caldwell School and Oromocto High School. These schools will have a staff member in attendance at each school.
- Councilor Hogan asked why the public would want schools to remain open during storm days. The reasons given by parent/guardian(s) was childcare and the loss of instructional time. Two collective agreements (CUPE 2745 and 1253) were discussed. It was noted that Educational Assistants, Clerical and Custodial that have the provisions to not report to work if they feel the roads are unsafe for travel. The Superintendent acknowledged that school closures due to weather was a fair topic to be discussed as the decision to have schools remain open on weather days was different across the country. The Superintendent will be speaking with the other Superintendents and he will make them aware of the feedback shared at the Transportation Town Hall Meeting.
- Councilor Carr asked if a later start to the school day could be made possible. Councilor Hogan reflected on the Province of New Brunswick’s Inclusive Education System, which would result in some students not being able to attend school without an Educational Assistant.

City of Fredericton Meeting Update:

- The Superintendent and District Education Council Chairperson attended a meeting hosted by the City of Fredericton Strategic Community Relations Committee to discuss schools within the boundaries of the City of Fredericton. These was good discussion, and a request was made for Anglophone West School District and the District Education Council to keep communications open with the City of Fredericton when decisions are made concerning city schools and when the building of new schools is being considered. Chairperson Douglass recommended that the new District Education Council be made aware of this meeting.

Nashwaaksis Field House Announcement:

- The Chairperson informed the Committee that she had attended a celebration at the Nashwaaksis Field House where a new floor had been installed. Funds of approximately \$870,000.00 were allocated to support this renovation and the facility is beautiful with lots of activities ongoing. The Chairperson encouraged other Councilors to visit this facility where staff are very proud to share with all members of the public.

Curricular and Program Presentation - Literacy:

- Literacy Subject Coordinators Signe Williams, Jill Davidson and Colleen Dyer-Wiley provided an interactive presentation, called “Critical Literacy Conversation Station”. Everyone in attendance was encouraged to participate in

an interactive activity where picture books were shown for all age groups from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Participants were asked to look at the pictures displayed at their stations and share what you think it says to you. This practice is used with students in a safe environment where they feel comfortable to discuss the content given.

Correspondence:

- There was no correspondence to report.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

- **ASD-W ER11 – Wabanaki Education** – The Superintendent presented a report called ASD-W ER11 – Wabanaki *Education* 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 explained that this policy calls for good partnerships with our First Nation Communities, First Nation staff and The Department of Education and early Childhood Development. Enhanced learning is promoted for all students across our district, which includes New Brunswick Indigenous history and present-day culture.
- The Superintendent went on to say that schools' welcome parents and community leaders into their schools as parental engagement is encouraged and an important part in learning of their culture. Section 7 of the Education Act, Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (Sections 62 to 65), the New Brunswick Enhanced First Nations Education Programs and Services Agreement, The Provincial 10-year Plan called "Everyone at their Bests", are all considered when planning for the teaching of our students. In addition, First Nations culture is included in our District and School Improvement Plans.
- Enhanced Service Committees are established to govern the investments provided to us by the Province of New Brunswick. Formal reports specific to each First Nation community are shared with that community, a district level First Nations Enhancement report and a Provincial level Enhancement First Nations report are also developed.
- Two First Nation Subject Coordinators are employed in ASD-W who work closely with our 6 Indigenous communities. Frequent "NEAT" meetings and Professional learnings opportunities are made available to staff. First Nations education organizational groups (TNEGI, FNEII) are in place to support School Districts. Recognition ceremonies are held such as the Blanket Exercise, Lunch and Learn, Orange Shirt Day, Spirit Bear, and Legacy Project.
- Councilors had an opportunity to ask questions about the Wabanaki Policy and this document which included data reports and links to supporting documents, was saved to the DEC Portal and on the ASD-W website. Chairperson Douglass requested Councilors to go online to compete their Superintendent Report in CLEVR.

Committee Reports:

- **DHAC Committee** had nothing to report at this time as a meeting has not been held since Councilor Adams joined in November.
- **Policy Committee** was to review the ASD-W Code of Conduct Policy but prior to doing this, Councilor Winslow reported that their intention was to review ASD-E Code of Conduct. The District Manager, Stacey Brown, had been contacted and she had recommended that we should seek legal consultation for this policy.
- **Wabanaki Committee** developed a Wabanaki policy which had included; Councilor Hogan, Acting Superintendent Catherine Blaney, and Councilor Perley. At the last meeting a decision was made that as we move forward and changes are needed to be made to this policy, Councilor Hogan, Councilor Perley and Superintendent David McTimoney will be able to do the work needed.
- **Student Voice Committee** reported eight high schools that had participated in a conference call that lasted about 1 hour. Two additional conference calls were scheduled for February and May 2020. Students voiced their concerns about how sports affect studies and mental health concerns. The rise of anxiety and depression amongst students were discussed and the need to have additional Guidance Counsellors in place as student to counselor ratio is too high. Students were informed that they can also seek assistance from the School Principal and Vice Principal but struggling students may not feel comfortable in seeking an Administrators assistance. Mental Health professionals do visit schools to help students with coping techniques and not knowing how to deal with their feelings. Report of stigma around mental health remains but getting better. The LBGTQ+ community would like to have additional support as they learn to identify with themselves. Time management, addictions, and course selections are areas of stresses identified by students. An invitation to an upcoming DEC meeting is planned for February and will be discussed at the upcoming January public meeting. Zoom is the media program used to connect with students. Canterbury School cannot get a high school student and are asking if a middle school level student to participate.
- Councilor Hogan spoke of a curriculum meeting that she had attended and correspondence from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development was circulated and added to the DEC Portal. Councilor Hogan informed the Council that a Grade 12 student can now apply for a Bachelor of Science program through UNB with a credit being earned towards their high school graduation. Councilor Hogan encouraged Councilors to look at this information on the DEC portal.

Public Comments:

- Public Comments – two members of Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School Parent School Support Committee were in attendance and spoke of their concerns with the overcrowding at their school. They informed the Council that their school has several portable mobiles and talk of an another additional portable possibly being added next year. Their recommendation to the District Education Council was for an additional wing be added to the school.

Closing Comments:

- The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of Next Public Meeting:

- The next public meeting will be held on **January 16, 2020 at the Office of the Superintendent.**

MOTION:

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

MOVED BY: Sean Winslow

MOTION CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at **7:57PM.**

Kimberley Douglass

Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, DEC

January 16, 2020

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant, DEC

January 17, 2020

Date