

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – November 14, 2018

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Wayne Spires, Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Heather Gillis, Justin Tinker, Richard Malone, Lory-Ann MacAskill

Regrets: Larry Boudreau; Gerry Mabey

ASD-S Staff:

Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He welcomed new member Lory-Ann MacAskill, Sub-district 11, to the meeting and she was formally sworn-in by a Commissioner of Oaths.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fowler asked if there were no questions or concerns with the Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. O'Connor spoke of the new crosswalk at Loch Lomond School. It was a PSSC initiative and it should help improve safety. He noted that there was good attendance at the Halloween night event and there are 41 children registered for kindergarten. At Forest Hills there is a parent committee who is working to revitalize the soccer field. At Simonds High School the washroom renovations have been done and all are very happy with the upgrades. It Takes A Village committee has set December 6th for a session on social media (Consent & Risky Behaviours) and the police will be presenting. April 5, 2019 has been set as a tentative date for another session with Dr. Chorney on social media and anxiety. He noted the fundraisers taking place at Seaside and at Belleisle Regional High where approximately \$28K was raised at the Harvest Festival.

Ms. Sherbo attended Norton Elementary PSSC and toured the school. She commented that it was a wonderful, sweet place with 124 students and 20 registered for kindergarten. She noted that it had previously gone through a Policy 409 process where closing the school was considered. She advised that test scores are up, parents are behind the school and that it gave her a different perspective. She suggested that for future Policy 409 reviews that Council should go and see the schools. She noted that she attended a PSSC meeting at Beaconsfield and they were well prepped – Mr. Mabey had done an excellent job keeping them informed. She commented that one of Canada's Smartest Kid contestants is from Harry Miller Middle School.

Mr. Fowler commented that the stats were different when Norton was originally reviewed and noted that the process worked the way it is supposed to – Council listened to the community and we did not close their school.

Mr. Tinker commented that small community schools are the hub of their communities and noted that ASD-W has a policy encouraging the community use of schools – he suggested ASD-S might want to consider something similar. Council referred this suggestion to the Policy Review Committee to review and report back.

Ms. Gillis commented on parent engagement at Champlain Heights and how they are very hands on. She advised that two elementary school PSSC Chairs advised that they are interested in developing something similar to It Takes A Village. She attended the Jervis Bay Memorial event on November 11th and ASD-S was well represented.

Mr. Spires advised that grades 1-5 from Milltown Elementary performed the National Anthem at the Garcelon Civic Centre on Remembrance Day and did a fantastic job. Students from St. Stephen High also performed at the Cenotaph and were amazing.

4. Presentations

4.1 Compass Education Support Centre

Mr. Paul Smith introduced Rob Mather from Compass Support Centre and noted that he and Mr. Mather would update Council on the new program (formerly Woodlawn Learning Centre).

Mr. Smith and Mr. Mather reviewed the highlights from a presentation that had been posted with Council's meeting materials for tonight and forms part of these Minutes.

Following the presentation questions included: where funds had come from to complete the renovations to the building; how the ISD teams worked within the Centre; and if students could stay in the program to finish high school; all of which were addressed by Mr. Smith, Mr. Mather and Mr. MacDonald.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 PSSC Orientation Subcommittee Follow Up

Ms. Sherbo and Ms. Gillis asked that this agenda item be postponed until next meeting as the committee had not yet had an opportunity to meet and review the feedback received from the sessions.

5.2 DEC Vacancy Update

Mr. Fowler advised that Council would use a consistent approach going forward to fill vacancies as they arise.

5.3 Policy Review Committee Update

Mr. Nesbitt, Vice Chair reminded Council of the tabled motion from the September meeting of Policy 4.4 - Council Committee Principles and Structure (formerly GP #5) - and the reason it had been tabled. He noted that the information missing at that time, has now been received and moved that the motion be moved from tabled to the floor. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt then moved that Policy GP #5 be rescinded and replaced with 4.4. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Discussion then arose with regard to concerns over the policy as it is written. Following discussion, the motion was carried. Mr. O'Connor and Ms. Sherbo opposed the motion.

Mr. Nesbitt then moved to rescind GP #8 and replace with 4.6 – Effective Communication. He noted that the policy had been reviewed in depth a year ago and advised that changes were mainly in format. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Discussion followed with regard to concern over wording within the policy and the suggestion that this policy, and Policy 3.2 – Treatment of Staff, need to be returned to the Policy Review Committee. Ms. Sherbo then

moved to table both policies. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried. Mr. Regenbogen opposed the motion.

6. New Business

6.1 Superintendent Evaluation

Ms. Sherbo suggested that a committee should review the new policy document for Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. Fowler advised that he would Chair the committee and asked for those interested in participating in the review. Ms. Sherbo and Mr. Spires offered. Mr. Fowler advised that Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, would act as a reference for the committee.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Fowler advised that Mrs. Watson's report was posted with Council's meeting materials and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Smith then asked for a moment of silence for Saint Joh High School student Wael Maatouk who passed away in October.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler advised Council that the Minister's Forum and Minister's Excellence in Education were to take place this coming weekend. There will be an opportunity to meet the new Minister of Education, Dominic Cardy. DEC Chairs will push their agenda and advise what they need, and what they want to accomplish.

We have three winners of Minister's Excellence which will be awarded on Saturday evening at an awards dinner.

7.3 Correspondence

None; all correspondence was posted on the portal for Council's information.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. He noted that it will be a short meeting after which we will adjourn to Britt's Rockwood for a Christmas get-together for members and a guest. Please RSVP by November 30th.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary