

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – December 12, 2018

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Wayne Spires, Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Heather Gillis, Justin Tinker, Richard Malone, Lory-Ann MacAskill, Larry Boudreau (via telephone)

Regrets: Rob Fowler, Chair;

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration; Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services; and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and advised that Mr. Boudreau was attending via telephone. He welcomed our Minister's Excellence in Education Award recipients to the meeting.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns with the Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Tinker seconded the motion. Mr. O'Connor asked that Pupil Transportation be added to the agenda as item 6.2 There being no questions or concerns with the amended agenda, the motion was carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Tinker moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Ms. Gillis.

Question on the Minutes was raised with regard to item 6.1 – Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. Nesbitt advised that he could not speak for Mr. Fowler and suggested that this could be clarified at the January meeting. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. O'Connor reported that the It Takes a Village presentation - Consent & Risky Behaviours was well attended with nearly 150 attendees. 50 feedback forms were received. Comments included: thank you to the organizing committee, requests to do encore presentations of topics already discussed, the presentation will provide new dialogue in our household, and requests to have this presentation at middle schools.

Ms. Sherbo updated Council on a recent DHAC (District Health Advisory Committee) meeting which she recently attended. She highlighted the new "Navicare" service for families with complex needs children; the committee's newsletter which she suggested could be shared with DEC; the report on Anaphylaxis; Risky Play program and compassion fatigue.

She commented on an opportunity for the District to partner with Rothesay Netherwood on their Lego Robotics initiative.

Mr. Tinker offered kudos to the Campobello Leadership Class for the funds which were raised for Charlotte County Childhood Cancer – 6 students raised \$2,500!

Ms. Gillis commented it was nice to see elementary schools participating in jamborees. She noted that Bayview School will be hosting a Holiday Breakfast tomorrow, and Bayside will be serving its annual Christmas Turkey Dinner for students, staff, and parents, also on Thursday.

Mr. Malone advised Council that Hampton Elementary School was very excited to be the recipient of a \$100,000. AVIVA grant for their playground.

4. Presentations

4.1 Minister's Excellence in Education Award Recipients

Mr. Nesbitt introduced our winners: Christopher Graham (teacher at Saint John High School); Andrew Jones (teacher at Grand Manan Community School) and Sharlene Jackson and Shawnee McConchie (co-owner/operators of Wonderland Childcare).

Mr. Nesbitt noted that our recipients were honoured at a ceremony in Fredericton in November and their videos were presented at that time. He offered congratulations to all on behalf of the DEC.

The videos for each recipient were played for Council.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 PSSC Orientation Subcommittee Follow Up

Ms. Sherbo advised that the committee met and reviewed feedback received. They have noted 7 things to do differently for the orientation sessions next fall. The committee members have agreed to continue and will work to plan next year's events. They will talk again in June to begin preparations for September.

5.2 Policy Review Committee Update

Mr. Nesbitt, Vice Chair, reminded Council of a tabled motion to rescind GP #8 and replace it with 4.6 (Effective Communication) from the November meeting and the reason it had been tabled. He then asked for a motion to move rescinding GP #8 and replacing it with 4.6 (Effective Communication) from tabled to the floor. Motion was made by Ms. Gillis and seconded by Mr. Regenbogen.

Mr. Nesbitt called for any questions with regard to the motion.

Question was raised with regard to wording of section 4.1.d. Mr. O'Connor moved that we replace this section with: "In accordance with the Education Act, PSSC are encouraged to ensure a copy of the Minutes of each meeting of a Parent School Support Committee is forwarded, within a reasonable period of time following the meeting, to the District Education Council, through the superintendent." Following discussion of the current process for PSSC minutes being emailed to the DEC site, the motion to change section 4.1.d was seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

There being no further questions with regard to the motion to rescind GP #8 and replace it with 4.6 (Effective Communication), the motion was carried.

Mrs. Watson noted that she will forward the new policy to all PSSC Chairs.

Mr. Nesbitt then advised Council that Policy 3.0 (replacing EL 1) had been posted with their meeting materials for review. He then asked for a motion to rescind EL 1 – Global Executive Constraint and replace it with 3.0. Motion was made by Mr. Spires and seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt then advised Council that Policy 3.1 (replacing EL 2) had been posted with their meeting materials for review. He then asked for a motion to rescind EL 2 – Emergency Superintendent Succession and replace it with 3.1. Motion was made by Mr. Spires and seconded by Ms. Gillis.

Discussion followed, and question was raised with regard to "succession" planning for the Superintendent (vs emergency/holiday coverage) and the need to add a Governance Policy for this down the road. Motion was then carried.

Question was raised with regard to an upcoming meeting of the Policy Review Committee where a member of the Department Policy and Planning staff is scheduled to participate. Mr. Nesbitt advised that Policy and Planning have been invited to review policy governance, the Carver Model and the role of DEC's with respect to policies and how we operate. It was suggested that all Council members could benefit from a refresher with Policy and Planning staff. Mr. Nesbitt advised that this is something that we could look at in the new year.

5.3 Policy 409 Phase – Saint John Education Centre Update

Mr. Nesbitt advised Council that the meetings for Phase 3 are now complete. Two meetings were held at M. Gerald Teed, and reconfiguration meetings were held at Hazen-White/St. Francis, Millidgeville North and Princess Elizabeth.

Mrs. Watson advised that information was requested during the Hazen-White/St. Francis meeting and staff will follow up. She advised that notes were taken at all meetings and are (or will be) posted for DEC. She suggested that we would likely be ready for a motion on Phase 3 at the January meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Expenditure Plan Update

Mr. MacDonald advised that the District is predicting a break-even budget at year end. He then reviewed the highlights and pressure points as reported on the Expenditure Plan which was posted with Council's meeting materials for review.

Questions followed with regard to casual bus drivers, replacement of District office employees on leave, the amount of kms put on our buses per year (Mr. MacDonald will report back), use of surplus funds, and moneys that are reimbursed by EECD which were all addressed by Mr. MacDonald.

6.2 Pupil Transportation

Mr. O'Connor referred to a recent request with regard to busing in St. George. He suggested that we need a policy to give the Superintendent the authority to extend bus routes where the District may deem it appropriate to do so.

Mr. O'Connor then moved that, effective immediately, Council establish a policy whereby the Superintendent has the authority, in special cases, to reasonably extend the bus route beyond normal limits, while staying within the limits of the budget provided by the Minister. While this policy shall be effective immediately, the issue shall also be referred to the Policy Review Committee for formal inclusion with our Executive Limitations policies. Seconded by Mr. Boudreau.

Discussion followed with regard to similar requests received in the past and the challenges created. Mrs. Watson advised that as much as possible, the District adheres to our established guidelines and budget with regard to in/out of zone requests for transportation.

There being no further comments or questions, the motion was carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson asked for a moment of silence to remember long time Council member Gerry Mabey who passed away on November 16th after a lengthy illness; and, for a long-term employee at Harry Miller Middle School, John Paul Saunders, who passed away last week.

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

She highlighted our winner of the holiday card was a kindergarten student from Glen Falls who has been presented with a framed copy of her design and cards for her personal use. Mr. Norm Bosse of the Child & Youth Advocate's office chose one design for his office and he will present to the winner in St. George next week.

Mrs. Watson noted that the Christmas Concert schedule has been sent to all DEC and she wanted to pass our thanks to all the teachers involved with putting these productions on at a very busy time of the year. She added that she was the emcee for the Strings Concert where 125 kids participated – it was a wonderful evening. Mr. Hall is attending the Sistema concert tonight.

She thanked all involved in the many school initiatives to fundraise for the less fortunate in our city. It is heartwarming to hear about the many kind gestures our students are involved in.

Mrs. Watson noted that the District supports the youth at Portage, Cassidy Lake, and she was happy to report that all have a safe place to be over the Christmas holidays. Staff casual day funds will be used to purchase a new artificial Christmas tree for the centre for next year.

Request was made for a presentation on UNESCO schools at a future date.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler was not in attendance for the public session as he was attending a meeting with the Central Peninsula School Task Force which was taking place at the same time.

7.3 Correspondence

Ms. Sherbo referred to a letter that had been received from the Harry Miller Middle School PSSC Chair with regard to challenges due to the August 2018 changes in Policy 711 - Nutrition Policy. It was noted that since the letter was written, the government had changed hands, and the policy was revised, and most points outlined were addressed.

It was moved by Mr. Tinker that Council write a one-page letter to the Minister thanking them for listening to concerns and acting on the key points raised by revising the policy. The letter would include a copy of the correspondence from the PSSC as an example of the challenges the previous policy posed for schools within our District. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt 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, January 9, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary