

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – June 12, 2019

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

Regrets: Rob Fowler, Chair

ASD-S Staff:

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

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. He advised that Chair, Rob Fowler, was unable to attend 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. Seconded by Ms. Murphy. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the May 8, 2019 meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Malone moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Tinker. Motion carried. Ms. Murphy abstained.

2.3 Public Comment

Angela Rogerson, PSSC Chair from Deer Island Community School addressed Council to bring forward concerns with regard to the allotment of teachers for the coming school year. Facing the loss of a teacher in such a small school is going to affect the school and the island community. There will be 3 split class combinations, teachers will not have time to work one on one with the students and won't have time to take on extra-curricular duties such as coaching. Ms. Rogerson asked that the Superintendent reconsider this decision.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. O'Connor asked Council to invite Jennifer Kruger (Estey Art Initiative) to speak during an upcoming public session (15 minutes) on her artwork program in schools. This would be for information purposes only. He explained that Ms. Kruger currently leases out artwork to businesses to fundraise for students

to be able to attend a 10-12 week afterschool art program. She currently has 1,000+ students from 70 schools across the province. Mrs. Watson will follow up on this for a future meeting.

Ms. Sherbo asked Council to invite Dr. Lee Chalmers to speak to Council during private session before the August or September meeting. She felt it would be good to hear from her as she has a different perspective on Policy 409. Discussion followed. Mrs. Watson will follow up on this for a future meeting.

Ms. Sherbo extended her thanks to Mrs. Watson and her team for the great work that was done during the measles outbreak.

Mr. Tinker wanted to thank Deer Island PSSC for attending Council to bring their concerns with regard to teacher allocation noting that the loss of a teacher will be difficult. Mr. Tinker also wanted to commend Mrs. Watson and her team for the hundreds of hours that were spent handling the measles outbreak.

Ms. Gillis commented on the Soap Box Derby event held at Princess Elizabeth and feedback was that those who attended had a great time. That Saturday she was coaching volleyball in Moncton. The Bayside Middle girls won the City and District and a silver at the Provincials. She also wanted to note that beginning in September, Bayside Middle grade 5 students will not have cell phones in class next year between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm. The grades 6, 7 & 8 students will follow 2019-2020.

4. Presentations

4.1 Human Resources Report

Ms. Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, was in attendance to present the annual review of the Department of Human Resources. Her presentation is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

Following the presentation, comments and questions arose from Council including: the use of an outdated DOS system; the shortage of qualified teachers for some assignments; AESOP program and discretionary leaves; the need to see "trends"/changes year over year and violent incident reports filled out by EAs, all of which were addressed by Ms. Moffatt.

Mr. Boudreau commented on the ratio used for the reduction of teachers. Mr. Boudreau then moved that Council write to the Minister with a request to review the reduction formula for teachers in the school system. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt thanked Ms. Moffatt for her informative presentation.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Spring Symposium

Mr. Spires commented that the event held in Miramichi was very well attended and many were PSSC members. He felt that the sessions provided a lot of knowledge and information. Minister Cardy spoke and answered questions. The accommodations and meals were great, and all had a pleasant time. Mr. Malone added that at recent PSSC meetings he was hearing from attendees who felt that it was a very valuable event.

5.2 August Retreat Update

Mrs. Watson was asked to look into retreat for some time after the September 11th Council meeting and conduct a doodle poll to determine the best date. The poll has shown that most favour September 21st as the best date; however, there are only 6 confirmed and one maybe. Mr. Nesbitt commented that he felt in order for an exercise such as this to be beneficial, we would need at least 10 in attendance. Discussion arose, and it was decided to hold off and see if more are available to attend as we get closer to the date.

6. New Business

6.1 Executive Limitations 3.0

Mrs. Watson reviewed for Council her monitoring document for Executive Limitations policy 3.0 (Global Executive Constraints) which was posted with Council's meeting materials for their review.

Mr. Nesbitt asked that if there were no questions or concerns, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. O'Connor moved that Council accept the monitoring report as presented. Seconded by Ms. Sherbo. Motion carried.

6.2 Functional Capacity Report (Updated)

Mr. MacDonald advised Council that revisions to the report posted last month have been made and an updated report was posted with Council's meeting materials for their review. There being no further comments, Mr. Regenbogen moved that the Functional Capacity Report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

6.3 Final Expenditure Plan 2018-19 and & Self Sustaining Funds (Updated)

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the revised report on self sustaining funds which was posted with Council's meeting materials for review. He noted that staff will report annually (in June) on the 5 accounts listed going forward. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Spires moved that the report be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tinker. Motion carried.

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the expenditure plan and was pleased to advise Council that we finished the year with a surplus of \$158,000 which will be carried over into next year. He highlighted the pressure points within the plan including funding for EAs, replacement costs for employees, minor repairs to facilities, and employee benefits to name a few.

Comment was made that there were additional dollars added to the budget when compared to the initial amount that was approved.

There being no further questions, Mr. Tinker moved that the final expenditure plan be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Boudreau voted against the motion.

6.4 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Update

The Superintendent was advised to hold off on providing Council with her report due to the substantial demands on her time dealing with the measles outbreak. The Committee may meet in July and then bring this item forward on the August agenda.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Watson advised that her report was posted with Council's meeting materials for their review.

She noted the death of grade 10 student Ashly Mosher from Saint John High School last month. Directors, members of the Child & Youth team and NBTA Counsellor Ronna Gauthier were all on hand to support the students and staff at the school just after the long weekend in May. She asked for a minute of silence in Ashly's memory.

Mrs. Watson highlighted the work of the Vaping Committee and their plans for next year; she reminded Council of the final Sistema Concert on June 14 at Saint John High School and noted that graduations begin on Wednesday, June 19th and continue until Sunday, June 23rd.

The 2019-20 school calendar has been posted on the ASD-S website. Summer Learning opportunities are available over the summer months and Minister's Excellence Award nominations are due in by June 18th. Mrs. Watson will remind all PSSCs of the upcoming deadline.

Mrs. Watson wanted to acknowledge the work of many during the measles outbreak, especially Principal JoEllen Jensen at Kennebecasis Valley High School and Rosemary Southard, Principal at Hampton High. Mrs. Watson also wanted to extend her thanks to all Public Health staff and the Regional Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kim Barker, who were very supportive during this time.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler was not in attendance. Mr. Nesbitt asked for volunteers to sit on the committee to review the Minister's Excellence in Education nominations. Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Tinker, Ms. MacAskill and Mr. Malone volunteered. After the closing, nominations will be emailed to those on the committee who will rank them in order 1-3 (as ASD-S is allowed to nominate three).

7.3 Correspondence

None. All correspondence was posted for Council's review.

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, August 21, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary