

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – October 9, 2019

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

Regrets: Richard Malone

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; Peter Smith, Director Education Support Services, Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the September 11, 2019 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. O'Connor. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None.

3. Member's Notebook

Ms. Sherbo noted it was very exciting to see ASD-S pilot schools afforded the opportunity to begin using a new process for school improvement planning (Provincial Improvement Framework). Schools may pick up to 3 ENDS policies or goals and focus only on those – it allows them to zero in and spend time on specific strategies and evaluate.

Mr. O'Connor noted that Principal Colleen Sullivan and her team were looking at doing more work on their playground – adding more things for kids to do – i.e. music wall, pots and pans, etc. He commented that she does a lot at the school and PSSC get behind it – it is not just about teaching.

Mr. Spires commented that PSSCs are up and running and noted that St. Stephen Elementary School are working on getting a Home & School group started in order to help the Principal and the school with things like financing shortfalls. He also noted that NBCC St. Andrews students had recently prepared a meal to raise funds for bursaries (\$1,300) to assist First Nations students who will be attending NBCC. He advised that the Passamaquoddy are now in the process of being recognized and once that happens, we will have a representative on Council.

Ms. Gillis commented that the no device policy was going well at Bayside Middle School. She also commented that the recently released Green Paper is a hot topic.

4. Presentations

Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ries Van Beek and Stacey Wood - IDEA Centre, and Melissa Savoie, Skilled Trades and Innovation Subject Coordinator, provided Council with an overview of what's been happening under ENDS #3 – Engagement of children and youth. The monitoring report was posted with Council's meeting materials for their review and forms part of these Minutes.

Melissa Savoie spoke on Innovation, Engagement and Personalized Learning in ASD-S. She provided highlights from 2018-19 including 43 grants were awarded for a total of \$50,000, and a breakdown of grants by level and by Education Centre. She shared success stories at the elementary, middle and high school levels and outlined goals for 2019-2020.

Ries Van Beek and Stacey Wood provided information on the IDEA Centre and shared a promotional video. Council were invited to drop in to Connexionworks and see how students learn to move their ideas forward. This program earns students credit towards their diploma.

Mr. Hall commented that he had posted an update on accomplishments and overall health under ENDS #3.

Following the presentation, Ms. Sherbo moved that the monitoring report for ENDS #3 be accepted as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tinker. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler thanked Gary Hall and his team for an informative presentation.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Expenditure Plan Approval

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that last month they rejected the proposed expenditure plan put forward by District staff. He noted that his was not a comment on staff; however, meant to send a message to the Department regarding the concern over chronic underfunding.

Mr. MacDonald advised that all remains as presented at the September meeting. Ms. Watson noted that the District continues to have an on-going requirement for EAs. She advised that the Department did review our enrolment numbers last June and again this past week, and that additional funds were provided for teacher salaries.

Mr. Fowler commented that DEC Chairs requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss this impasse over budget process/allocation but were advised that there would not be a meeting until the budget is passed. Discussion followed; some comments included:

Ms. Gillis thanked staff for figuring out a way to balance the expenditure plan but noted that we should not have to – the government needs to do better. EAs are always underfunded. She would be voting against passing this expenditure plan.

Mr. O'Connor commented that this is an on-going issue and the government never comes to the table to talk about it.

Mr. Boudreau commented that he was very disheartened and upset with Minister Cardy's stance – using political power to strong arm Council. He took great offence that the Minister was unwilling to talk until the expenditure plan was approved. He noted that we all understand restraint. Mr. Boudreau suggested that the government should come to us with ideas – don't make us rob Peter to pay Paul. Mr. Boudreau commented on the great work of staff; however, in his 12 years on DEC, every year it is the same. He advised that he will vote "no" to send a message again.

Ms. Sherbo agreed with Mr. Boudreau's comments and added that she finds it interesting that the government is looking at holding the upcoming Education Summit but will not find time to meet with the governing body who is tasked with passing the District's expenditure plan.

Mr. Tinker commented that all Districts are falling further behind and with the Minister refusing to sit until Council passes this expenditure plan, he cannot in good conscience approve this plan.

Mr. Nesbitt noted that he appreciated all of the comments; however, felt it was wrong not to pass this expenditure plan. He noted that Council has a responsibility to pass it – a balanced forecast. He noted that he is not disagreeing that we don't have enough funds; however, Council should approve plan.

Following these discussions, Ms. Gillis moved that the expenditure plan be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion defeated. Ms. Murphy, Ms. MacAskill, Mr. Regenbogen, Mr. Spires, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Sherbo, Mr. Boudreau, Ms. Gillis and Mr. Tinker voted against the motion.

5.2 PSSC Orientation Sessions Update

Ms. Sherbo commented that even with changes last year and this, we are not getting enough attendance to the events and that it might be worthwhile trying another idea. The subcommittee suggested a video could be prepared in advance for Principals to use at their Open House events and/or first PSSC meetings. The video could be in the same format as the sessions with each person taping their part, along with the mock meeting. Comments from attendees indicate they like the panel discussion and that could be provided in a print format or video. The Info Fair attendees could provide pamphlets to have handed out at the sessions. DEC members could organize/attend in their own area.

Discussion followed. It was suggested that Director of Communications, Jessica Hanlon be included in the subcommittee and work to put together a package to be used across the District. Question was raised whether or not we could send the PSSC pamphlets with the Kindergarten kits to new parents. Mrs. Watson advised that she would speak to Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Regional Director Early Childhood Services for ASD-S.

Mr. Fowler suggested that we leave the details as discussed with the subcommittee and that they proceed.

Mrs. Watson reminded members that she sent a 2018 power point presentation from EECD to all Principals and DEC to use at a fall meeting as a reminder of the role.

5.3 Policy 409 – Morna Heights Update

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the first meeting at Morna Heights would be on Thursday, October 10th at 6:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity to present an update to the community on the proposal and how Policy 409 will proceed going forward. He noted that there is no debate at the first meeting. The power point presentation has been provided to Council and any feedback welcome. He noted that it will be critical for the second meeting that Council members be in attendance.

5.4 Grand Bay/Inglewood

Mr. Fowler provided background information on previous proposals for Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood schools and projects that are currently on the books. He noted that there is nothing to do at this time. He commented that once consultation is completed and a decision is made on Morna Heights, then Council can review and make a motion on how to proceed with these two schools.

6. New Business

6.1 Governance Policies 4.0, 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3

Ms. Sherbo suggested that given what Council has on their plate at the moment as well as the fact that there will be a new DEC Handbook coming out (which will include a template on the monitoring of our policies), that Council table the monitoring of the Governance Policies until the information is received. She went on to suggest that Council could start the review of the Council Staff Relations policies. There are 6 policies and three could be reviewed in November and three in December.

Ms. Gillis moved that Council table item 6.1 until further notice. Seconded by Mr. Boudreau. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

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

Last week we learned of the death of grade 12 student Jessica Haley, from St. Stephen High School. Jessica had some health issues but had been in school regularly. She thanked those who supported St. Stephen High School – our NBTA Counsellor Ronna Gauthier, the Guidance Coaches, Child and Youth Team members, and Coordinator Jennifer Grant. She asked for a moment of silence in memory of Jessica.

Mrs. Watson highlighted additional items including: an article in KV Style which featured Transportation Manager Jamie Tait and the awareness campaign for stopping when flashing school bus lights are activated; the Recognition Ceremony at Portage; ASD-S representation at the Provincial Principals' meetings; the upcoming Education Summit, and her attendance at the 15th Anniversary Celebration of "TALK WITH ME EARLY LANGUAGE SERVICES" in the Miramichi.

Question arose as to who a bus driver would report to when a car passed the bus when its lights were flashing. Mr. MacDonald suggested that they would likely call it in on the radio to the

Transportation Manager or Assistant Manager. Mrs. Watson noted that there is paperwork to be completed and the driver can also call the Police. Mr. MacDonald will confirm the process.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that there is an opportunity to provide feedback to the recently released Green Paper. He noted that the DEC Chairs (including Franco-sud) would meet and he would report back.

He advised that the Superintendent's Evaluation documents have been sent to the committee; however, they have not yet had a chance to meet.

7.3 Correspondence

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

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, November 13, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary