

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – November 18, 2020**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met virtually on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Regrets:** Kristen Murphy; Richard Malone

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communication, Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services, John MacDonald, Director Finance & Administration, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

**1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets**

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**1.1 Swearing in of New DEC Member**

Mr. Jonathan Barry was sworn in by a Commissioner of Oaths as Councilor for Sub-district #8.

Mrs. Watson then provided the following introduction to Council:

Jon is a partner and the National Client Services Leader for MNP's Technology Solutions. He has always been an active community member and is currently Chair of the Sweet Caroline Foundation and a Board member with Food Allergy Canada; both charities focus on anaphylaxis education and awareness.

Jon lives in Rothesay with his wife and four children who have attended Kennebecasis Park Elementary, Rothesay Park School and Rothesay High School. He strongly believes that education is the single most important thing we do as a collective community, and that it represents the most significant influence we can have on our Province's future. As well, he feels that we are on the cusp of a transformational opportunity to improve our children's classroom education with the help of innovation and technology to support our teachers.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Agenda for the meeting and Mr. Tinker requested to move item 5.1 (Superintendent Evaluation 2019-2020) to the December meeting. Mr. Fowler asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Ms. Gillis moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

### **2.3 Public Comment**

Amanda Hamm, PSSC Chair at Inglewood School, and Suzanne Holmann were in attendance to present to Council with regard to their concerns for Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood Schools. Ms. Holmann explained that a task force of 15 community volunteers had been formed and they are working to see change happen at these two schools. They were here tonight to ask for collaboration with Council and to identify a path forward. Ms. Holmann began her presentation reviewing the age of each building, capacity, enrolment, capital improvements required and the cost to run the schools each year. She commented that the space available in these schools for music, library, stage, gym and for visiting professionals is not adequate when compared to the NB Guidelines. Ms. Holmann reviewed the QBL process from 2015-2020 for the schools.

Following the presentation Mr. Fowler provided background on where the schools stood in the Policy 409 process over the past number of years. He explained that the QBL process looks at all schools in all districts and is revisited every year. Schools will score differently from year to year depending on our school needs vs the needs of all schools across the province. He noted that when the Policy 409 on Morna was completed and saw the school closed, it effectively cancelled the project for the remaining Grand Bay schools at the time. He suggested that the task force engage the community and focus on options for the schools to determine what is the best solution for Grand Bay (additions, demolish, etc.). He advised that John MacDonald would be available to coordinate between the task force and the DEC. He noted that the capital project list goes to Fredericton in May 2021 and there would not be enough time for this Council to conduct another Policy 409 study. He advised that the task force should be prepared with viable options for September 2021 when the incoming DEC would need to determine whether or not to conduct another Policy 409 study for the area.

### **3. Member's Notebook**

Mr. O'Connor moved that Council write a letter to the City of Saint John with regard to concerns over changes to snow clearing of sidewalks in east Saint John, specifically, Tim Street, where Glen Falls students access parent drop off/pick up. Seconded by Ms. Gillis.

Discussion followed with regard to the list of a number of streets in east Saint John where sidewalks would no longer be cleared due to budget cuts. Mrs. Watson suggested that the District connect with the City of Saint John prior to writing a letter. Mr. Fowler suggested that John MacDonald could research the list and establish all streets being cut that could affect our schools and write one letter outlining all concerns.

Motion carried with change as noted above.

Mr. O'Connor advised that Loch Lomond School is fundraising to upgrade their playground and include an outdoor classroom. At Forest Hills, they are creating a video to get the word out to parents to "KISS & GO" in the drop off zone to alleviate congestion. He suggested that District might consider creating their own video (or use the Forest Hills video) for all ASD-S schools. He noted that at PSSC meetings the transitional DIP was being reviewed with positive feedback.

Ms. Gillis agreed that a drop off video to help train parents would be great for all parents.

Mr. Spires noted that some villages in St. Andrews/St. Stephen areas don't receive adequate clearing of sidewalks in the winter. He suggested a letter to all Councils covering our District. Mr. Fowler clarified that there was a list published of some Saint John city streets that would lose this service due to budget cut backs.

Mr. Tinker thanked Mrs. Watson for arranging for a TEAMS call with Campobello families and Dr. Barker from Public Health. It was very informative and answered many questions.

## **4. Presentations**

### **4.1 Quadruple Bottom Line Multi-Criteria Analysis (QBL)**

Josh Nowlan, Acting Director Educational Facilities and Pupil Transportation with the Department of Education and Early Childhood (EECD) was in attendance to provide Council with an overview of the QBL tool for ranking infrastructure projects within the province. QBL uses a common set of criteria with a weighted scoring system. Mr. Nowlan's presentation is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

Mr. Nowlan began his presentation with a summary of the current state of school infrastructure and an outline of the capital planning strategy and budget process. He went on to provide a history of the QBL process and advised that it offers an un-biased, data-driven analysis which is used to assist EECD in making recommendations to the government. He stressed that it is one decision tool, not the decision. Factors that are included in the analysis look at the economy, the environment, and social and cultural factors with all projects being scored against 15 indicators.

Mr. Nowlan noted that a tiering approach was developed in 2018 (Tier 1 projects get top priority) to adapt to projects being requested due to rapid population growth versus 2014 when the province was experiencing a period of declining enrolment. Moving forward EECD will be re-engaging with the 7 school districts to review and update QBL and address the changing challenges the province is now facing with regard to infrastructure.

Following the presentation questions included how much money would be required to keep our infrastructure from "falling behind" and whether or not the QBL takes into account the difference in cost to maintain much older infrastructure, both of which were addressed by Mr. Nowlan.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Nowlan for his informative presentation.

## **5. Business Arising from Minutes**

### **5.1 Superintendent Evaluation (2019-2020)**

This item has been moved to the December agenda.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Minister's Excellence in Education Award**

Mr. Fowler advised that the nominations received were sent to subcommittee members who then ranked, in priority order, their top three choices. These choices were then tallied and the final three winners were determined. The names will be sent to the Minister and he will connect with the winners at the appropriate time. This year's ceremony will be a virtual event.

### **6.2 DEC Resignation – Subdistrict #2**

Mr. Fowler reminded Council of the resignation of Larry Boudreau and asked for a motion to accept his resignation. Mr. Nesbitt moved that Council accept Mr. Boudreau's resignation. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

The Minister will be advised of the vacancy. An advertisement will be placed in the St. Croix Courier, on the ASD-S website, and the Principals of the area schools will be contacted. Eligible applicants will be sent to the Minister who will appoint someone to fill the seat.

## **7. Information Items**

### **7.1 Superintendent's Report and Update**

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

She informed Council of the death of Harbour View High School EA – Frances Gallery Moss - who passed away following a two year illness. Frances joined ASD-S as a casual EA in 2016 and became permanent in the fall of 2017 at Harbour View High – she loved her work; as her obituary said, becoming an EA was a “life changing decision for her.” Frances’ daughter Tiffany Munn teaches at Beaconsfield. Mrs. Watson asked for a moment of silence in her memory.

Mrs. Watson went on to highlight items from her report including: ongoing visits to all schools by our Healthy Learners Nurses and Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator who provide feedback on school operational plans; the many virtual Remembrance Day ceremonies which took place in schools and which were exceptionally well done; work happening in developing operational plans for a small number of middle schools sports to start up; the important role of our custodians in their continuing work to keep our buildings clean; the learning from home initiative for approximately 100 students who have medical exemptions; focus on incorporating outdoor learning in our schools; epi-pen training; NBTA Wellness Facilitators who are focusing on how they can best support school staff this year; virtual parent teacher arrangements and correspondence with families; professional learning has been scaled back but sessions have taken place for high school counsellors on “Solution Focused Grief Counselling” and elementary and middle school resource teachers had a half day of professional learning on the role of the resource teacher during a pandemic; a very successful professional development day on October 30 focused on technology and using TEAMS to support learning; discussions with high school principals on “assessment week” in January; middle school GSA advisors will meet in November (no student event this year); significant number of communications with parents clarifying evolving requirements from EECD and Public Health related to staff and student travel to Orange zones; website redesign project; community schools coordinators working to find new and creative ways of keeping partners engaged including the “Hub Kitchen”; and the exciting news that the Talk With Me team has been chosen as the winner of the Marilyn Trenholme Counsel Literacy Award in the category of Early Childhood Literacy Program.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. Watson for her report.

### **7.2 Chair’s Report and Update**

Mr. Fowler advised Council that there will be a virtual Minister’s Forum on November 30. He does not have the agenda for the meeting at this time.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

None, all had been posted.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening’s Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Council may choose to attend in person or virtually.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary