

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – June 8, 2022**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Jane Logan, Wayne Spires, Amanda Hamm, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Teresa Sewell, Jonathan Barry and Richard Malone.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Peter Smith, Director of Education – Support Services; John MacDonald, Director, Finance & Administration, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director, Early Childhood Services, Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He advised that Heather Gillis and Shelly Merrill-MacKillop were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Nesbitt began the meeting respectfully acknowledging the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We strive for respectful relationships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation and honour this beautiful land together.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Agenda for the meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn Nixon. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the May 11, 2022 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. Logan moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

No public were present.

**3. Superintendent's Report & Update**

Mrs. Watson advised that her report had been posted last week for Council to review.

Mrs. Watson learned of the death of KV bus driver Eileen Randles after a short illness. She was a driver coach for many years, worked for the district as a driver for 43 years. We also learned of the unexpected death of Seaside Park Elementary School grade 5 student Rayan Hussein. The EA team and teachers were thankful for the additional support of a CY team member, Guidance Coach, and NBTA Counsellor who were on site to lend a hand. A moment of silence took place to remember Eileen Randles and Rayan Hussein.

Mrs. Watson mentioned that it is a very busy time of year with interviews for Principals and Vice Principals – with 10 Principal retirements and two Vice Principal retirements and two Principals taking a one-year leave of absence next year. As we complete interviews for these leadership positions, new vacancies are created

and jobs posted. A thank you to Human Resources who have been working on reviewing resumes as well as the PSSC members who are participating in the interview process.

Mrs. Watson spoke about the management team hosting a dinner for retiring school leaders and that each of the Education Centres have hosted an evening reception to honor recipients of 25 year watches and the retirees. There are currently 58 educator retirements and 77 support staff with a total of 135 employees

She mentioned a meeting with Director of Finance and Administration, Aubrey Kilpatrick who presented an initiative called "Project Shield," which is a multi-layered approach focused on the protection of students from sexual abuse. Education for staff is a big component as well all are equipped to identify concerning behaviors which could potentially be grooming. As a follow-up to this we have also been exploring a program called "Commit to Kids" which is a program of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. The program helps child serving organizations reduce the risk of sexual abuse and creates safer environments.

She spoke about the ASD-S Outdoor Track and Field Events for K-8 students. Throughout the month of June there are seven events taking place. Approximately 250 students will be participating in the first event.

Mrs. Watson spoke about the teachers who were honored with an Innovation and Creativity Award at the Maker Faire which was hosted at the District Office on May 24<sup>th</sup>. A great afternoon with students interacting and sharing their work.

Mrs. Watson mentioned the middle school GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) Day which was held on June 2nd. Two students and a staff person from each school were invited. The focus of the day was on allyship. Activities were done to help students and staff better understand what is involved in being an ally (a peer ally or an adult). Guidance Counsellor (QMS) Stu Kearney presented on the "Freeze Out Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia" campaign he did at his school in May.

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **4.1. ENDS #4: Ensure all members of the school and district community are welcomed, respected, accepted and supported.**

Mr. Peter Smith, Director of Educational Support Services was in attendance to update Council on the goal of ensuring all members of the school and district community are welcomed, respected, accepted and supported. The supporting documents were posted with Council's meeting materials for review and form part of these Minutes. Presenting with Mr. Smith were Amy Marshall, Literacy Coordinator, Therese Trofimencoff, Antiracism & Equity Coach, Laura Taylor, Subject Coordinator for First Nations & EAL Grades K – 12 and Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director, Early Childhood Services.

Mr. Smith provided Council with an overview of goal 4.1 – develop a strategic plan to promote diversity and antiracism and to address heterosexism and discrimination by creating affirming cultures. A welcoming and affirming environment feels safe. It is a space where people find themselves represented and reflected, and where they understand that all people are treated with respect and dignity. An affirming culture proactively and publicly promotes a culture of diversity.

Mr. Smith provided Council with an overview of strategy 4.1.1 – consult with the ASD-S anti-racism and LGBTQ2+ advisory committees to implement a strategic plan promoting diversity. The status of this strategies is in progress and on-going.

Ms. Marshall spoke about four areas that literacy plays a part in this ENDS policy. Discussion and application of the equity framework outlined in the Cultivating Genius book study, intentional selection of diverse texts for classroom use, capacity building for coaches through courageous conversations training, collaboration between elementary and high school ELA classes.

Mr. Smith provided Council with an overview of strategy 4.1.2 – ensure equity of instruction for vulnerable, culturally, and/or linguistically diverse students. The status of this strategy is in progress and on-going.

Ms. Trofimenoff spoke about her role as the Antiracism and Equity Coach to provide professional learning to staff, presentations to students, co-planning lessons, consulting with school administrators, researching best practices and participating in school and community events.

Ms. Taylor provided Council with an overview of strategy 4.1.3 – support curriculum and increase resources that reflect diversity and anti-racism. The status of this strategy is in progress and on-going. She spoke about the school learning series, the diversity resource project – creating book lists, the EAL Library which currently has 28 mentors who work with newcomers, the community partners, First Nation book studies, professional learning opportunities, educational opportunities, K-5 indigenizing the curriculum PLC and teaching resources.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie provided Council with an overview of strategy 4.1.4 – building capacity in early childhood educators by bringing awareness to anti-racism/anti-bias education through communities of practice and by providing resources that support all forms of diversity.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Logan moved to approve the Ends#4 Monitoring Report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion Carried.

#### **4.2 Ministers Excellence Awards Videos**

Mrs. Watson spoke about the Ministers Excellence Awards which took place on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Three short video clips were shown about each of the recipients from ASD-S. Stu Kearney (Guidance Counselor - Quispamsis Middle School); Jo-Ann Schwarze (Principal, Blacks Harbour Elementary School) and Pam Burt (Principal – Inglewood School).

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

#### **5.1 DEC Vacancies**

Mr. Nesbitt reported that approval for the vacancies in Sub District #4 and #7 have been approved. Ginny Hooper for Sub District #4 and Sarah Craig for Sub District #7.

### **6. New Business**

#### **6.1 Final Expenditure Plan 2021-22**

Mr. MacDonald provided Council with the breakdown of the Final Expenditure Plan for 2021-2022.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Final Expenditure Plan 2021-2022 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion carried.

#### **6.2 Self Sustaining Funds Update**

Mr. MacDonald provided Council with the breakdown of the Self Sustaining Funds Update.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Self Sustaining Funds Update as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

#### **6.3 Expenditure Plan 2022-2023**

Mrs. Watson asked Council to meet at a later time in June to present the Expenditure Plan 2022-2023. A virtual meeting has been planned for Monday, June 27, 2022 at 6:00pm. The plan is to be submitted to the Department by July 1, 2022.

#### **6.4 Evaluation – Zoë Watson**

**MOVED THAT** the ASD-S District Education Council commends Zoe Watson for successful administration of the school district during this year of continuing pandemic and assesses her performance as Exceeds Expectations.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

**MOVED THAT** if the salaries were not frozen at current levels, this assessment would entitle Zoe Watson to a four-step re-earnable increment.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. McQuinn Nixon moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

## **7. Information Items**

### **7.1 Member's Notebook**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **7.2 Chair's Report and Update**

#### Activities

May 4, 2022 – Virtual meeting of the Council of DEC Chairs (CDC).

May 5, 2022 – Appeal Hearing in Saint John

May 6, 2022 – Virtual meeting of the CDC

May 11, 2022 – Virtual meeting of Chairs and Vice- Chairs with the DM and ADM

May 11, 2022 – Regular DEC meeting in Saint John

May 12, 2022 – Turn Around Achievement Awards for the St. Stephen Education Centre (Dominion Hill)

May 14, 2022 – Special DEC Meeting at Fredericton High School

May 16, 2022 – QMS PSSC meeting

May 20, 2022 – Deadline for submission of interest for the sub-district 7 vacant council seat

May 25, 2022 – Virtual meeting with the Superintendent

May 26, 2022 – Turn Around Achievement Awards for Saint John Education Center (Lilly Lake)

#### Sub-district 7 Vacant Council Seat - Filled

As of the writing of this report only one name was submitted for the vacant council seat. As the candidate has met the qualifications, the name has been forwarded to the Minister for the appointment.

#### Sub-district 4 Vacant Council Seat - Filled

As of the writing of this report, we are awaiting the appointment for this vacancy.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council a special meeting will be held virtually on Monday, June 27, 2022.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary