

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – January 12, 2022

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met virtually on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Heather Gillis, Vice-Chair; Jane Logan, Wayne Spires, David Connell, Amanda Hamm, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Richard Malone, Shelly Merrill-MacKillop, Kristen Murphy, Jonathan Barry and Amanda Henderson-Matthews.

ASD-S Staff:

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

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

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. Ms. Murphy moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the December 8, 2021 meeting and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gillis. Motion carried.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

Mrs. Watson advised that her report had been posted earlier in the week for Council to review.

She gave her congratulations to Skylar Li, a kindergarten student from Fairvale Elementary School who was the winner of our holiday card design contest. Mrs. Watson had the pleasure of meeting Skylar and her parents and presented Skylar with her image framed, and some cards for her to use over the holidays. Also, Kali MacDonald, a Grade 5 student at Quispamsis Elementary, was the winner of the holiday card design chosen by the Child and Youth Advocate's Office.

She provided details on the most recent COVID information where we saw an increase in cases through December, especially in Saint John and Hampton Education Centers. The district distributed approximately 60,000 boxes of test kits to students in response to cases and for over the holidays.

On December 30, 2021 the province announced that students would be learning from home starting January 11, 2022 until January 21, 2022 and the situation would be monitored to determine next steps.

Mrs. Watson provided information about an “Outdoor Learning” cohort that has been formed consisting of 25 teachers from all subject areas and multiple schools. It is a group of passionate educators who will meet every six weeks to share ideas and try new pedagogical activities that encourage learning outdoors.

She provided the following highlights from her report: 18 middle school physical education teachers from across all their Education Centres participated in peer observations at the end of November and December; all High School SPRs (Special Positions of Responsibility) in ASD-S will have an opportunity to participate in online professional learning beginning at the end of January; there are several “Plan, Do, Check, Act” projects going on in the district; nine teachers were awarded an Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Education Grant to study the work of Ghoddy Muhammad, author of *Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework*; 12 schools have signed up for the “Welcoming Schools” initiative; a Black Cultures and Histories professional learning series is being offered to teachers.

Mrs. Watson addressed questions from Council with regard to COVID response capabilities and expectations in relation to online learning and what challenges it brings to teachers, students and parents. It is important for teachers to hear positives.

4. Presentation

4.1 ASD-S Provincial Assessment Results

Marc Godin presented to the DEC members the ASD-S Assessment Results 2020-2021 for the Anglophone Sector. The presentation has been posted on the ASD-S website under “About Us” Pre-school Screener EYE-DA Assessments were presented first addressing the five developmental areas associated with readiness to learn at school. From the results, ASD-S seems to be slightly higher than how the province is trending.

Mr. Godin also addressed the Assessment Program Updates from 2017 to 2021 and how they are moving to a Census Assessment. He touched on the Results of Interpretation, Participation and the Impact of Covid. The greatest declines were less than four percentage points provincially on any assessment.

Mr. Godin also provided the Grade 4, 6 and 9 English Reading results and where ASD-S falls in the percent successful by District and Grade level. ASD-S exceeded the provincial results. Subject Coordinators and Director, Ryan Price responded to questions. The French Second Language was tabled and will be discussed at the February 9, 2022 DEC meeting.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Provincial Sports during School Hours

Discussion amongst the DEC members regarding the provincial sporting bodies hosting games/tournaments during school time.

Mr. Squires moved that a letter is to be written to the various provincial sporting associations regarding the concern about student attendance. Seconded by Ms. Merrill-MacKillop. Motion carried.

5.2 Policy Committee Update

Mr. Malone reported to Council there is no update for this meeting, however, an update will be reported at the February meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Policy Review – 4.6 & 4.7

Mr. Nesbitt advised that policies 4.6 and 4.7 would be moved to the February meeting to further discuss wording changes as suggested by DEC members.

6.2 Draft Policy: Social Media & Electronic Communication; Digital Code of Responsibility for Families

Mrs. Watson spoke about this draft internal policy which the district is getting prepared to roll out. There was discussion how to proceed in getting this document out to the students and back from the parents.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Hamm and DEC Chair, Roger Nesbitt had the opportunity to provide an Education Infrastructure Investment Update for Grand Bay Primary & Inglewood Schools on January 10th to the Grand Bay – Westfield Town Council. The Grand Bay – Westfield Town Council were thankful for the presentation.

On December 16th Ms. Hamm had the opportunity to attend the virtual NB Student Leadership Conference and was impressed by the sharing and initiative taking place.

Ms. Hamm attended PSSC meetings at Inglewood School and Grand-Bay Primary. Inglewood and Grand Bay Primary are doing great work with the School Improvement Framework. Finally, Ms. Hamm gave a thank you to District/school staff for their resiliency in light of the recent changes.

Ms. Gillis talked about the new windows at Saint John High School which arrived this week. A number of PSSC meetings will be held this coming week, and looking forward to hearing how schools are making out. Ms. Gillis gave a big shout out to the educational staff for making online and in-person learning happen, over this highly stressful time. Ms. Gillis mentioned a school in her subdistrict that hasn't been able to have a PSSC over the last few years, due to lack of interest. They held their first PSSC meeting in December. Thanks to Zoë and Jessica for their social media blitz on PSSC involvement.

Ms. Merrill-MacKillop had the opportunity to attend a meeting last month at Back Bay Elementary School and hear what they are working on with regards to their School Improvement Plan. The Parent Community Engagement are looking to organize an event to be held outside in the spring.

Ms. Henderson-Matthews mentioned about a school in her sub-district that have been struggling for three years with getting a PSSC formed. Reaching out to the DEC members for suggestions.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Activities Since December Meeting:

December 9, 2021 – Participated in interviews for the new Executive Assistant and welcome to Susan Cunningham the successful candidate.

December 15, 2021 – Participated in the Zoom Meeting with DEC Chairs and Vice Chairs and Ashley Counsell regarding the governance review. The Chair encouraged all DEC members to register for one of the times indicated on the invitation for the sessions to take place during the week of January 17.

December 16, 2021 – Participated in the Student Leadership Conference via Zoom. This annual conference is always worthwhile and a great opportunity to hear what is on the mind of students.

January 10, 2022 – Attended and presented to the council of Grand Bay/Westfield with DEC Councilor Amanda Hamm. The sessions went well and it is certainly clear that the council wished to press the case for new school construction in Grand Bay/Westfield.

January 12, 2022 – Attended a zoom meeting this morning hosted by the New Brunswick Teachers' Association. The purpose of this was to share a new ad campaign they will be rolling out later this month.

January 12, 2022 – Attended a zoom meeting with DEC Chairs and Vice Chairs and the Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister and Stacey Brown. Minister Cardy also spoke briefly to the group at the beginning. They were encouraging all to get their third booster shot of covid vaccine as soon as you are able. As with the two previous shots Mr. Nesbitt asked members to notify him when you have received yours so that we have it on record.

Earlier today clarification was obtained from the Department about the call for expressions of interest for a First Nations DEC representative. This will be actioned right away.

7.3 Correspondence

None. All was posted.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary