

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – August 18, 2021

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Zoë Watson, Acting Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Jane Logan, Wayne Spires, Shelly Merrill-MacKillop, Jonathan Barry, Heather Gillis, Kristen Murphy, David Connell, Amanda Hamm, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, Beth McQuinn Nixon,

Regrets: Richard Malone

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services; Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration; Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources; Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; and Tanya Bannister, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mrs. Watson, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. She advised that Richard Malone was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Watson began the meeting by acknowledging that we are on the unceded territories of the Wolastoqiyik, Passamaquoddy and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mrs. Watson referred to the Agenda for the meeting. It was discussed that item 6.7 Student/First Nations Representative be added to the agenda. Ms. Gillis moved that the agenda be approved with item 6.7 added. Seconded by Mr. Spires. With Council in agreement, the motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Watson referred to the Minutes of the June 9, 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. Nesbitt moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Murphy. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

Justin Tinker, past District Education Council member, addressed Council to congratulate all new members. He spoke about how rewarding the role is and wished the new Council luck during their term.

3. Member's Notebook

Heather Gillis gave a shout out to Jenn Carhartt, principal at Simonds High School as well as Pat Laskey, principal at Bayside Middle School for being in touch with the families of their school communities. She also thanked Jessica Hanlon and Zoë Watson for their work on information release.

Amanda Hamm introduced herself and spoke of the schools she's involved with. She advised that Westfield Elementary School has received funding for a new accessible playground, which was successful due to the high level of collaboration between the school, generous sponsors, families and the community. They are looking to break ground soon with the playground construction. The school also received a \$40,000 Indigo Love of Reading Foundation Grant, so they will be purchasing a lot of new reading material. She also spoke of the school staff

involvement with the “Positive Workplace Framework” and that the team successfully completed the “Mental Fitness Resiliency Inventory”.

She advised that at Inglewood School, there was major site reconfiguration happening over the summer. The interior washrooms have been updated and there was an addition of two much needed portable classrooms. She advised that this year, the School Improvement Plan will be revamped to better align with the updated District Improvement Plan. She advised that with the help of community partners (Saint John Community Foundation, Crain Mountain Investment Inc., Town of Grand Bay-Westfield, and Grand Bay Guardian), new soccer nets have been purchased, the old soccer field has been resurfaced, there has been a sensory garden installed, and an outdoor classroom has been installed.

Wayne Spires spoke about the fact that PSSC meetings have been virtual. He encouraged Council members to attend PSSC committee meetings since contact is so important, and to come back to District Education Council meeting with information earned at PSSC meetings.

4. Presentations

4.1 Human Resources Report (2020-2021)

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, questions arose from Council, which included: will additional hours continue for bus drivers/custodians due to Covid-19; access to the number of founded 701s; recruitment of new employees; whether she believes the district will be ready for the beginning of classes for the upcoming school year, all of which were addressed by Ms. Moffatt. Mrs. Watson advised that a lot of Human Resources time is spent interviewing and recruiting casual staff and French Second Language teachers.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Provincial Curriculum Evaluation Advisory Committee (PCEAC) – ASD-S representation

There had been a letter sent on February 16, 2021 from the Department advising that Mr. Justin Tinker’s term as representative was expiring on April 30, 2021 and inviting the Council to submit the name of another individual to be part of the PCEAC. Mr. Spires asked Mr. Tinker to speak of his experiences on the PCEAC. Mr. Tinker addressed Council and informed that the position requires a lot of work and reading, but that it was very rewarding. Mr. Nesbitt spoke that in the past, he had chaired on the PCEAC for a 4-year period and volunteered his name. Mr. Spires asked that the decision be deferred to next month’s meeting in order to give Council time to think about the position.

6. New Business

6.1 Selection of Chair & Vice-Chair and term of office

Heather Gillis moved that the selection of Chair & Vice-Chair be moved to the September meeting. Seconded by David Connell. Motion carried.

6.2 Draft Council Meeting Dates & Locations (2021-2022)

Mrs. Watson reviewed the schedule for the coming year and advised that the meetings are shown on the schedule as the second Wednesday of every month and all at the Office of the Superintendent/Saint John Education Centre. She opened up the topic to the floor for discussion. The point was made that there is flexibility on stormy evenings for members to join virtually. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Council Meeting Dates/Locations be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Henderson-Matthews. Motion carried.

6.3 Liaison Schools

Mrs. Watson reviewed the Liaison Schools document which outlines which schools are in each Council member's sub-district. Ms. Gillis informed that anyone is welcome to any PSSC meetings. Mrs. Watson will advise Principals of the new Council members' names so that they can be notified of upcoming PSSC meetings.

6.4 Draft Annual Planning Calendar (2021-2022)

Mrs. Watson reviewed the draft Annual Planning Calendar and advised that it was populated from and is similar to last year's. She advised it's a fluid and ongoing calendar and subject to change. She encouraged Council to attend the Provincial Student Council Conference on November 4, 2021 in Fredericton.

6.5 PSSC Orientations

Mrs. Watson informed that there is information available regarding PSSC operations on ASD-S's website under the DEC tab. The District Education Council leads training for PSSC and opened it up to returning members for a talk regarding their experience in this regard. Ms. Gillis spoke about previous sessions and advised that since plans are still up in the air due to Covid-19, there are no plans for future sessions as of yet. Mr. Spires asked that if new members have ideas regarding PSSC Orientations to bring forward, to please do so.

6.6 PSSC Budgets (2021-2022)

Mr. John MacDonald presented his report to Council and advised that the funding formula is the same as last year - \$2.40 per student with a minimum of \$500 per school. He advised that usually the current budget is based on current year, but that this budget shows September 2019 and September 2020 enrolment. Mr. MacDonald stated that in order for schools not to be penalized for lower enrollments during the 2020-2021 pandemic year, he will ensure that schools receive funding based on the year of higher enrolment, September 2019 or September 2020. Mr. Spires moved that the PSSC Budget Allocations be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt. Motion carried.

6.7 Student/First Nations Representative

Ms. Murphy advised that she had talked about this matter with the the last Council and that the *Education Act* required a Student and First Nations Representative. She stated it is important for these two representatives to have a voice within Council. Stacey Brown, DEC Manager informed DEC that the Minister has asked Policy & Planning to look at the process for adding a First Nations representative. Ms. Murphy moved to write a letter to Minister Dominic Cardy to stress the importance of appointing a First Nations representative on Council, and to get an update on the process. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Ms. Murphy also requested that the Council form a sub-committee in order to discuss how to include the student voice on DEC. Ms. Murphy, Ms. Gillis, Ms. Hamm and Ms. McQuinn Nixon volunteered to form this sub-committee. The sub-committee will bring information back to Council when they've looked at it. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn Nixon. The committee will consult Stacey Brown, District Education Council Manager for direction on this topic.

7. Information Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report & Update

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

She spoke of the unexpected death of a student, Katrina Morton, at St. Stephen High School and asked that Council observe a moment of silence to remember her. She highlighted many Capital Improvement Projects and thanked facilities and custodians for doing such a great job over the summer. She advised that Summer School took place this year at Saint John High School, Sussex Regional High School and St. Stephen High School and thanked Mr. Josh Eastwood for his leadership. She advised that there will be meetings for Principals and Vice-Principals coming up next week and that the return to school plan will be reviewed with them. A question was asked regarding reduced coach positions last year as the positions were used to keep elementary class bubbles as small as possible.

7.2 Correspondence

None. All was posted.

8. Adjournment

Mrs. Watson advised that Ms. Clare Murphy, outgoing retired Recording Secretary wanted to thank Council for a gift they had given her in honor of her retirement. Mrs. Watson thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Zoë Watson, Chair

Tanya Bannister, Recording Secretary