

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – March 22, 2023**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Wayne Spires, Teresa Sewell, Ginny Hooper, Matthew Martin, Sarah Craig (on-line), Jon Barry (on-line) and Shane Borthwick.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; John MacDonald, Director of Finance, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre, Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Peter Smith, Director of Education – Support Services and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He advised that Richard Malone, Jane Logan and Amanda Henderson-Matthews 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.

Sub-District #2 Representative – Shane Borthwick was sworn in as a new council member.

**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 Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

**4. Presentation**

**4.1 Ends #3** Engage system's leaders in improving mental health and resiliency for both learners and staff through proactive strategies such as Positive Education and Social Emotional learning.

Mr. Peter Smith began his presentation indicating he was going to review each of the strategies. The first strategy is to support adoption of PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) in identified schools. This is to improve mental health and resilience for both learner and staff through proactive strategies.

Mr. Smith continued with the second strategy which is to support adoption of restorative practices in identified schools. PBIS behavior, intervention and supports as a research based, school wide approach that follows a response to intervention model. PBIS is the approach we want to encourage positive behavior and responses in schools. Students need to be taught appropriate problem-solving skills and appropriate behavior proactively.

Mr. Smith continued with the third strategy which is to provide direct support to coordinators and coaches to increase integration of Social Emotional learning into curricular outcomes. The definition of these two terms social and emotional learning is a term we use for the skills of well-being. When you think about school, we think about reading, writing and arithmetic, which are the skills achieved through school curriculum. We also teach kids about self-management and self-awareness, which is understanding yourself.

Mr. Smith then spoke about the fourth strategy which is to provide direct support to teachers to implement positive education and social emotional learning into their classroom practices, specifically at the middle school level. When we speak about positive education, we are talking about helping teachers make instructional decisions, so they add the skills of well-being along with the skills of achievement.

He talked about the fifth strategy which is to continue to implement the positive mental health framework with school and district leaders using the mental fitness resilience inventory. The positive workplace framework helps school leaders understand where their staff is with positive mental health. It provides the principals a guideline of what they can focus on a monthly basis to improve the climate within their schools.

Mr. Smith reflected on the final strategy which is to provide opportunities for school leaders to share their strategies and resources with each other. School leaders have opportunities to share their strategies about social emotional learning which allows other leaders to get ideas for their schools.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hooper moved to approve the Ends #3 Monitoring Report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion Carried.

## **2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the February 8, 2023 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. Hamm moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

## **2.3 Public Comment**

No public in attendance.

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

Mr. O'Brien advised that his report had been posted last week for Council to review.

He spoke about a recent hire in cooperation with EECD as it is a position that belongs to them but also supports our district. We had to replace our Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator, Clare Tooley, as she is out on maternity leave. Ken McGarney will be with us during this time while Clare is out.

Mr. O'Brien began his report with ENDS policy #1 with the work that is being done through ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) which is a really important one to have staff trained in and we do have Jennifer Grant and Pam Miller who run a minimum of three ASIST courses annually to meet the goal of ensuring all counsellors, guidance teachers, behaviour intervention mentors, and Education CYT staff are trained. He spoke about Peter Smith and Todd Cormier completed a virtual training day in trauma-informed Violent Threat Risk Assessment. They consult with schools on Violent Risk Threat Assessments in the district.

Mr. O'Brien continued by talking about ENDS policy #2 with the When Children Succeed project which continues and Ryan Price plans to present information during the May meeting. The ASD-S Take Me Outside Winter Challenge took place in February where teachers were encouraged to teach outdoors and sample activities were provided.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned there are lots of good initiatives starting through ENDS policy #3 which you saw in the presentation from Mr. Smith.

He finished his report by referring to ENDS policy #4 and the important work that is being done with Black Lives Matter NB where training is happening along with the experiences for many students of colour. ASD-S looks forward to collaborating on more enrichment and learning opportunities with BLM NB who do so much wonderful work with our students and staff. The ASD-S Antiracism Committee met and while most students are invited to attend this meeting was specifically for the adults to discuss options to move forward with antiracism in ASD-S.

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

### **5.1 Sub District #2 Update**

Mr. Nesbitt welcomed Mr. Shane Borthwick as our new member for the Sub-District #2.

## **5.2 Policy Revisions**

Mr. Nesbitt reported that in our quest to update our policies and to make the language as inclusive as possible, three policies have had some changes which are minor in nature – EL 3.2, EL 3.5 and GP 11.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve these revised policies. Ms. Hooper moved to approve the revised policies as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion Carried.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Capital Projects 3 2024 Summer Improvement Projects**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Capital Improvement List (9 projects) that are slotted to be completed in the summer of 2024.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no other questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Summer 2024 Improvement Projects List as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn Nixon. Motion carried.

### **6.2 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee**

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there would any members who would take part in the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee. The committee will be represented by Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Wayne Spires and Sarah Craig.

### **6.3 New School Education Specification Approval**

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the two new schools for Saint John, North and South areas, has been approved. At this time the specifications are not ready but materials will be sent out in due time.

## **7. Information Items**

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

Mr. Wayne Spires shared about a visit he had to Fundy Middle/High School and that he spoke with a Grade 12 student, Cohen Draper, and they talked about the positives of St. Stephen High School and the Wellness Wednesday. A concern for St. Stephen High School was the lack of attendance and they would like to have a mental health counsellor come to the school. At Sir James Dunn school the students have someone come in and do yoga with them, but they also bring along a specially trained health dog. This school is also wondering of ways to offer more courses.

Ms. Amanda Hamm had the privilege to attend PSSC at Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood School, River Valley Middle School and Westfield School. The four PSSC groups came together to collaborate a project that they wanted to bring the focus on the importance of a healthy learner. There were over 25 participants who signed up to be part of the Wellness Night. It brought together the whole community.

Ms. Hamm mentioned the PSSC's have the School Improvement Survey planned for later in the year. This provides great data back to the schools. The PSSC's are planning parent sessions regarding French Immersion and once the registrations happen and the number start coming in there is an opportunity to get more live data.

Mr. Matthew Martin mentioned he had the opportunity to be in many schools across our district for Black History Month events. A warm welcome was received by the community and the students and one of the amazing things Saint John High School did were Black Excellence Awards to highlight some of the black students within their school body. The students who received awards were:

- Benaura Freeman for outstanding Academic Performance
- Tracy Okyne for outstanding contributions to Athletics
- Rachel Eruokwu for outstanding Academic Performance
- Fareeda Sanusi for outstanding contributions to Athletics
- Timothy Afolayan for outstanding contributions to Cultural Awareness & Appreciation
- David Ojo-Abegunde for outstanding contribution to Leadership
- Christabel Ugolo for outstanding contributions to Community Activism
- Jamelia Moore for outstanding contributions to Cultural Awareness & Appreciation
- Marion Ojo-Abegunde for outstanding contributions to Leadership

Mr. Shane Borthwick spoke about the number of new comers from Ukraine coming to the area of Sub District #2. The PSSC are talking about planning different events and it is heartwarming to see the community come together for the new families. These events are important community building exercises.

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

Mr. Nesbitt spoke about the Minister's Forum which took place on February 21<sup>st</sup> for Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Superintendents from the province along with the Minister, Deputy Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister to have a session on the governance. Another topic which was discussed during this session was new education changes that will be introduced in the Education Act.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

Mr. Nesbitt read a letter of resignation from Mr. Richard Malone who has been a member since 2016 representing Sub District #10. Mr. Spires moved that we accept this resignation with regret. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn Nixon. Motion carried.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary