**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting – May 10, 2023**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday,
May 10, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**ASD-S Staff**:

Derek O’Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; John MacDonald, Director of Finance, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Marc Godin, Supervisor of Data and Accountability, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Ms. Hamm, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. She advised that Roger Nesbitt and Jane Logan were unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

Ms. Hamm began the meeting respectfully acknowledging the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Wolastoqey, Mi’gmaw 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.

1. **Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. Hamm 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. Craig. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Hamm referred to the Minutes of the April 14, 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. Hooper moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

Ms. Brittany Cameron spoke on behalf of the PSSC for Chris Sanders Memorial Elementary School. Will there be anything looked at with Middle School rezoning was the primary issue brought forward. The PSSC would like to come back at a later time to the District Education Council to present on Middle School rezoning in the Quispamsis Area.

Mr. Justin Tinker spoke about the new information which was just released from the government concerning the District Education Council structure. He is asking the District Education Council to write a letter to the government regarding this new information on the DEC structure.

Mr. Rob Fowler raised the concern for the department’s review of Policy 713. The policy should be about providing safe working environment, learning environment, inclusive environment for everybody in their communities. He is asking the District Education Council to write a letter to the government regarding Policy 713.

1. **Superintendent’s Report & Update**

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

Mr. O’Brien began his report by highlighting the continued work in the district on each of the four ends policies. One improvement being done is the outdoor experiential professional learning with the elementary, middle and high school teachers.

He spoke about the NBTA Branch 0820 Supper Seminars which just started back up again in April. One of the presentations at the April meeting was “How to be an Anti-Racist in everyday situations in everyday ways”, facilitated by our district team.

Mr. O’Brien noted the work that is going on with First Nations education and spoke about the District Heritage Fair which took place on May 4. The Fair was a well attended event and a great opportunity for many of the students across the district to shine as they demonstrate their learning.

He commented about the Inspire Awards which was formerly called Turnaround Achievement Awards. The Inspire Awards events will be held over the next month with the first one in the St. Stephen Education Centre last evening, May 9th. There were 12 recipients from the middle and high schools across the St. Stephen Education Centre and great stories to hear about the variety of adversity they face.

Mr. O’Brien stated he has been asked to be a part of the Executive Steering Committee for Engagement. This steering committee came about from the visits the Minister was making around the province discussing French Immersion and listening to feedback from communities.

Mr. O’Brien noted that the Student Leaders Council met last week with leaders from each of the high schools across the district and they are now to nominate one of their council who will be recommended to the DEC as the student representative on the District Education Council.

He ended his report by indicating two administrator position were filled this week and that the interviewing process will continue to fill each of the vacancies that are still open.

1. **Presentation**

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

Mr. Ryan Price began the presentation by highlighting the first goal, enhance best practices in instruction and assessment both in person and virtually. Two strategies are to model and support the embedment of plan, do, check, act methodology in district professional learning and classroom practice and to support schools to ensure classroom assessment practices are balanced, outcome driven, and student centered.

He then highlighted the second goal, ensure effective instruction in non-traditional learning environments. The two strategies from this goal are to support schools to develop cross-curricular and exploratory learning experiences that encourage learning outdoors and build teacher capacity to engage learning through technology. Ms. Kari Parsons, Subject Area Coordinator, spoke about the outdoor learning aspect of this Ends policy. She highlighted the initiatives that have taken place, the support that coaches provide, and the variety of professional learning sessions for administrators and teachers. Mr. Price mentioned about the improving communication and collaboration through MS Teams and how 87% of our teachers now feel comfortable using Teams as a form of communication.

Mr. Price concluded his presentation by highlighting the third goal, bring awareness to district education staff about Early Childhood through engagement with the NB curriculum framework to ensure a collaborative effort towards a seamless transition for children birth to Grade 12. The two strategies are to bring awareness to K-5 school leaders about Early Childhood through engagement with the NB Curriculum Framework to ensure a collaborative effort toward a shared vision and to promote the development of common language, while sharing early learning and childcare pedagogy, and creating sustainable relationships between schools and Early Childhood through a re-start of the ASD-S Bridging program.

Ms. Hamm asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Ends #2 Monitoring Report as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion Carried.

* 1. **Functional Capacity Report**

Mr. John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration was in attendance to update Council on the function capacity of each school in their respective Education Centres.

Ms. Hamm asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Functional Capacity Report as presented. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion Carried.

 **5. Business Arising from Minutes**

**5.1 Sub District #10 Update**

Ms. Hamm mentioned we are waiting on the Minister’s approval letter.

1. **New Business**
	1. **Draft Council Meeting Dates & Locations 2023-2024**

Ms. Hamm advised that his report had been posted last week for Council to review. Ms. Hamm asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Council Meeting Dates/Locations be approved as posted. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

* 1. **Monitoring Reports**

 EL 3.5 – Property Management

 EL 3.6 – Stakeholders and Public Relations

 EL 3.0 – Global Executive Constraints

Ms. Hamm asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Craig moved to approve the three monitoring reports as posted. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

1. **Information Items**

**7.1 Member’s Notebook**

Mr. Wayne Spires remarked how fantastic the Inspire Awards event for the St. Stephen Education Centre from the meal to the presenters and the in-site about the students.

Mr. Barry asked about a process to follow up on the boundaries question to help inform those concerned.

Mr. Borthwick indicated the great evening at the Inspire Awards event for the St. Stephen Education Centre. On a sad note, a tragic accident occurred on April 24th where a 16 year old girl passed. Community support and the handling of the incident by the Principal, Staff and District was exceptional.

Ms. Sewell spoke about the Student Leaders Council which she attended. She also attended the Inspire Awards and was able to experience the proudness of the students families.

**7.2 Chair’s Report and Update**

Ms. Hamm mentioned the various events that she attended:

April 13 – Council of DEC Chairs meeting the EECD

April 19 – NBTA meeting with Council of DEC Chairs

April 20 – River Valley Middle School PSSC meeting

April 23 – Saint John High School – ASD-S strings orchestra

April 26 – River Valley Middle School Variety Show

May 1 – Inglewood PSSC meeting

May 9 – Attended Council of DEC Chairs with Minister Hogan – meeting to review the introduction of changes to the Education Act. Ms. Hooper moved that a letter be sent to Minister Hogan requesting a meeting to illustrate all of the concerns relating to the changes to the Education Act. Seconded by Mr. Borthwick. An amended motion was made. Ms. Hooper moved that a letter be sent to Minister Hogan requesting a meeting and illustrating all of the concerns relating to the changes to the Education Act. The draft letter will be shared with DEC members for additional comments in advance of a final letter being sent. Seconded by Mr. Borthwick. Motion Carried.

Ms. Hamm spoke about her concerns with relation to policy 713 the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity policy. The purpose of this policy is to set minimum requirements for school districts and public schools to create a safe, welcoming, including and affirming school environment for all students, families and allies who identify or perceived a LGBTQ+. Her primary concern was that policy 713 not being followed or promoted by EECD is for the safety of staff and students from the community who are now questioning their place in our school system. Ms. McQuinn-Nixon moved that a letter of support for Policy 713 be sent to EECD. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion Carried.

**7.3 Correspondence**

Ms. Hamm mentioned there were two letters received. She read each of the letters to the DEC. The first letter was from a parent who is concerned to read about recent media reports highlighting our provincial government increasing power centralization by having our elected district education councils lose their decision-making authority.

Prior to Ms. Hamm reading the second letter, Matthew Martin excused himself from the room declaring a conflict of interest. The letter was from the President and CEO of Black Lives Matters, Matthew Martin, asking for a letter of support in funding the Black Youth Empowerment Program, fostering social inclusion and integration. Mr. Spires moved that a letter be written in support of this program. Seconded by Mr. Borthwick. Motion Carried.

1. **Adjournment**

Ms. Hamm thanked all who attended this evening’s Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary