

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

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

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Jane Logan, Wayne Spires, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Teresa Sewell, Richard Malone, Sarah Craig and Ginny Hooper. On-line: Jonathan Barry.

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, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director, Early Childhood Services, Marc Godin, Supervisor of Data and Accountability and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. He advised that Shelly Merrill-MacKillop 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.

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. Craig. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the September 14, 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, Mr. Malone moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Logan. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

No public wished to address Council. The two ladies were there from Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

Mrs. Watson spoke about the Healthy Learners Nurses who will be re-starting the District Health Advisory Committee after two plus years. Two new nurses have joined our district, Kelly Harrell in the St. Stephen Education Centre and Tracey Curtis in the Saint John Education Centre. Jane Logan has joined the Committee to represent DEC with Roger Nesbitt as an alternate. Their priorities form part of the District Improvement Plan.

She mentioned the opportunity for the grade 6 and 9 students to participate in the program on food allergies and anaphylaxis and learning how to use an epi-pen.

Mrs. Watson mentioned the schools are required to update their EMO template and as part of the plan, dates are required to be recorded for fire drills, lockdowns and the annual evacuation to an alternate site. There were

discussions about lockdowns with the Saint John and Hampton/KV police. Recently meetings were held with the inner-city Principals with Chief Bruce of the Saint John Police to discuss challenges and how they can work closely together. At various schools in HEC, the police attended the open houses to address parents focusing on social media and the importance of everyone working together.

Mrs. Watson spoke about the importance of professional development with teachers, however, the number of unfilled teachers is being monitored daily. Having teachers to cover classes is a priority. Recently the Human Resources Department staff organized a blitz of supply teacher interviews and there are more to add to the casual teacher list.

She mentioned by the end of October the two District teacher counsellors will offer an opportunity for school wellness representatives to meet in person for the first time since fall 2019. This meeting will allow each schools designated wellness teacher an opportunity to share ideas and strategies that are working in their schools.

Mrs. Watson mentioned that two half day training sessions are being organized for administrators interested in using the Mental Fitness Resiliency Inventory with their staff. 27 schools administered the inventory last school year.

She mentioned about a two-day professional learning series focused on First Nations culture and history in high school French Immersion Social Studies. Thirty teachers are participating in the professional learning session which provides them with a variety of resources.

Mrs. Watson mentioned that on September 29, 2022 the schools participated in Orange Shirt Day. A large art installation happened on the front lawn of Rothesay High School.

Mrs. Watson pointed out as of the end of September 548 newcomer students have been registered with 70% in SJEC, 16% in HEC and 14% in SSEC. Enrolment numbers are continuing to be monitored and unofficially there has been a growth of 700 students. Enrolment numbers will be confirmed later in November.

Mrs. Watson congratulated Harbourview High School music educator Lisa Sanderson on receiving The Indu Varma Fellowship Award for Creativity in Education. Lisa offers so many opportunities for students at HVHS and worked tirelessly to keep her program going despite the challenges of the last few years.

She mentioned the Kindergarten registration for the 2023 – 2024 year is taking place this week at all the elementary schools.

Mrs. Watson ended her report by thanking DEC members for their dedication and support of the District and for the important role they play with the DIP and being a liaison with the PSSC's.

4. Presentation

4.1 Provincial Assessment Results – Marc Godin and Ryan Price

Mr. Godin started by outlining the background of the assessment process over the past number of years and the most recent assessments administered in 2021-2022.

Mr. Godin explained the transition from pen and paper to having the assessment completed online. The results are very similar between the two avenues.

Mr. Godin along with Mr. Price drew our attention to the interpretation of the assessment results, the participation and the overall results of the assessments. The results were a greater success than anticipated and remained fairly stable over past years.

Mr. Godin reviewed the Provincial Percentage Results for scientific literacy, English reading, French Reading, French oral proficiency for grade 6, 10 and 12. Due to the pandemic many of the assessments were not completed in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Both Mr. Godin and Mr. Price outlined the District Results for Anglophone South. For each of the categories captured in the assessments some results were slightly above and some slightly below the Provincial average.

The power point slides will be on the ASD-S website under "About Us".

4.2 District Improvement Plan Update

Mrs. Watson reviewed each of the four Ends Policies along with the goals and strategies of the draft District Improvement Plan. The DIP is considered to be a roadmap of the priorities and we identify these priorities by reviewing the priorities of our schools in their SIP.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the District Improvement Plan by continuing with the four areas of focus as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn Nixon. Motion carried. The one-pager will be added to the ASD-S website under "About Us".

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Sub District #5 DEC Representative

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned that two individuals submitted their intent to become the Sub District #5 DEC Representative. A letter was sent to the Minister early in October outlining the candidates and no response has been received back at the time of this meeting.

5.2 Appointment of New Superintendent

WHEREAS, Zoë Watson has informed the District Education Council of her intention to retire as Superintendent of Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) and,

WHEREAS, Zoë Watson has agreed to stay on during a transition period to work with the appointed candidate and,

WHEREAS, a search committee consisting of Roger Nesbitt, Amanda Hamm, Wayne Spires, Heather Gillis (resigned in August 2022), and Craig Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development undertook an extensive cross Canada search in collaboration with KBRS (Knightsbridge Robertson Surette).

MOVED THAT, the District Education Council (DEC) of ASD-S appoint Derek O'Brien as the next Superintendent of the school district. Moved by Ginny Hooper. Seconded by Jane Logan. Motion carried.

Mr. O'Brien addressed the Council briefly.

6. New Business

6.1 Quarterly Budget Report

Ms. Carolann Spear, Budget and Account Manager presented the quarterly budget report. Ms. Spear reviewed the report in detail outlining each of the categories and where the monies are designated. At this time the District is forecasting a break-even budget.

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

6.2 PCEAC Resignation (Provincial Curriculum Evaluation Advisory Committee)

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned that Shelly Merrill-MacKillop has had to resign from the PCEAC. Mr. Nesbitt mentioned this commitment of this committee is a one to two day meeting held twice a year in the Spring and Fall. Mr. Nesbitt asked if any DEC members would be interested in becoming a member of this committee. Ginny Hooper and Sarah Craig offered their names for consideration.

6.3 GP 4.3 – Governance Commitment
GP 4.4 – Governing Style
GP 4.5 – Role of the District Education Council

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials.

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

7 Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Spires spoke about the PSSC Handbook and what a great tool it is for each of the PSSC committees.

Ms. Sewell mentioned she has gone to the schools in the SSEC to introduce herself and that she would be more than willing to go to any of the schools in the other Education Centres.

Ms. Hamm spoke about attending and open house at Westfield Elementary School and the grand opening of their accessible playground.

Ms. Hooper mentioned she went to all the open houses and PSSC meetings in Sub District #4. Parents and teachers were excited about the return to having open houses.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Dates (since last meeting)

Thursday, September 15, 2022 – Virtual interviews with short listed candidates for ASD-S Superintendent.

Friday, September 16, 2022 – Virtual review of the In-basket exercise done with the short listed candidates for ASD-S Superintendent.

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – United Way kick-off luncheon at the Delta, Saint John.

Thursday, September 22, 2022 – Virtual meeting to review the results of the Leadership Assessment of the 2 remaining candidates for ASD-S Superintendent.

Friday, September 23, 2022 – In-person meeting of the Council of DEC Chairs in Fredericton.

Monday, September 26, 2022 – In-person interviews with the remaining candidates for ASD-S Superintendent.

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 – PSSC at KVHS.

Wednesday, September 28, 2022 – Special In-camera DEC Meeting.

Governance Review

The Council of DEC Chairs met in Fredericton on the afternoon of Friday, September 23. All Chairs and Vice Chairs from the DEC's were present. Following the cancellation of the contract with Porter O'Brien this meeting was to determine next steps. It was decided that the best next step was to have a meeting with the Minister and lay out our concerns. A letter was prepared at the meeting and hand delivered to the Minister's office by Joe Peterson, President of the CDC. This letter asked for a meeting before the Legislature opens.

Superintendent Search

This has been a busy month for the search committee. At this stage the committee has made a recommendation to the DEC regarding the appointment.

Mr. Nesbitt shared during the meeting there has not been any efforts to replace the DEC Manager who was dismissed earlier in the year.

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned additional information regarding the Governance Review and the linguistic rights and how it put it at another level. Why aren't the Anglophone and Francophone Districts having their governance review at the same time? The Anglophone review is happening this fall where the Francophone review will happen next spring.

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.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary