

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – June 14, 2023

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent (on-line); Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Carolann Spear, Budget & Accounting Manager, 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

Mr. Nesbitt Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

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. Two additional items 5.5 and 5.6 were added to the agenda. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Ms. Henderson-Matthews. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the May 10, 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, Mr. Borthwick moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

Ms. Jill Comeau spoke on behalf of the PSSC for Loch Lomond Elementary School with regards to terminating French Immersion program at Loch Lomond Elementary School. They understand the reversal is for the year so numbers can be reviewed, however, we are here as parents to challenge the reversal. It is a very important program at the school and within our community.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

He highlighted the continued work in the district on each of the four ends policies. High School and Middle School Vaping Response Committee formed with representatives from our Healthy Learner Nurses, Subject Coordinators, Principals and Leadership Team. This committee will review our Vape-free campaign and policies where their goal is to reduce the number of students who currently vape and prevent more youth from starting.

He spoke about the Grand Opening of Kit's Place – a community-based centre that provides services to sexual assault victims and their families using a client-centred approach in a child-friendly environment. ASD-S is a partner agency.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the 45 employees who were recognized for 25 Year of Service and 96 employees who were recognized for their retirement during the Celebration of Service events in each of the Education Centres.

He commented that Saint John High School received a Heritage Award from the city; three Inspire Awards ceremonies honouring 41 students; NBTA Awards recognized three staff of our district; two members of our district received a Breaking Barriers Award by the Saint John Newcomers Centre for their outstanding work toward breaking Islamophobia in our community; Creativity and Innovation in Education Awards were presented to three district employees, and Phyllis Webstad, creator of Orange Shirt Day visited Sussex schools for an Art Installation, two presentation and spent time with students while they created and 'unveiled' a massive, temporary, public art installation in her honour.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by speaking about the new District Improvement Plan Development outlining the actions and timeline over the next few months.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Sub District #10 Update

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned we received the Minister's approval letter recently. Jennifer Sheils has been appointed to the DEC member position for Sub-District #10. Ms. Sheils will be joining us in August 2023.

4.2 Student Leaders Council Nominee for DEC

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the name of the student was submitted to the Minister for approval.

5. New Business

5.1 Final Expenditure Plan 2022-2023

Ms. Carolann Spear, Budget & Accounting Manager, sitting in for Mr. John MacDonald the Director of Finance & Administration, provided Council with the breakdown of the Final Expenditure Plan for 2022-2023.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Final Expenditure Plan 2022-2023 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Logan. Motion carried.

5.2 New Budget Approval 2023-2024

Ms. Spear provided Council with the breakdown of the New Budget Approval 2023-2024.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Logan moved to approve the New Budget Approval 2023-2024 as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion carried.

5.3 Self Sustaining Funds Update 2022-2023

Ms. Spear provided Council with the report of the Self-Sustaining Funds.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Self-Sustaining Funds Report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

5.4 Evaluation of Derek O'Brien

Moved That the ASD-S District Education Council commends and thanks Derek O'Brien for his successful administration of the school district during this year and assesses his performance as having Met Expectations in all areas and Exceeding Expectations in some.

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

Moved That if the salaries were not frozen at current levels, this assessment would entitle Derek O'Brien to a three-step re-earnable increment.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Henderson-Matthews moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

5.5 Ends Policy #4

Under EECD Provincial Policy 713 section 8.0 titled "DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL POLICY-MAKING" it is noted:

"A District Education Council may develop policies and procedures that are consistent with, or more comprehensive than, this provincial policy. Their policy must be posted on the school district website."

Ms. Hamm moved that the ASD-S-DEC adopt a policy that is more comprehensive than EECD Provincial policy 713 and states "ASD-S school personnel shall use the chosen first name and pronoun(s) that students request. The chosen first name and pronoun(s) shall be used consistently in ways that the student has requested." This is to be added to Ends Policy 4 and be posted on the school district website. This policy is effective immediately.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns with the motion put forward to approve. Ms. Hamm moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

5.6 Anglophone East Request

MOVED THAT the Council of ASD-S supports the efforts of Anglophone East in challenging the changes to the Education Act that would limit the powers of the District Education Council. In this regard, the willing members of ASD-S DEC have agreed to donate their stipends to a maximum of the \$25,000 requested. It is understood that this money will be held in trust and used as needed for legal services with any remaining funds returned to the district.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that the motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

6. Information Items

6.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Hamm had the privilege and opportunity to attend the Westfield School PSSC meeting; she attended the Inglewood school fundraising dinner, the River Valley Middle School fundraising auction; attended the Grand Bay Primary PSSC meeting. Ms. Hamm also attended the Saint John Education Centre Inspire Awards and congratulates all the students that were recognized. She attended the ASD-S Strings Program Spring Concert, the NB Soap Box Derby with congratulations to the student and pit crew from Westfield School on capturing first place and they will move on to the national competition. Ms. Hamm also attended the River Valley Middle School volunteer tea, the Inglewood School volunteer luncheon and the Grand Bay Primary volunteer breakfast. She mentioned a couple of schools which received grants, River Valley Middle School received \$8,000 for a soccer program and Westfield almost \$10,000 in funding was awarded from Crane Mountain Enhancement Inc. to support the River Valley Middle School Raider Ignite Sessions. Finally, Inglewood School was a recipient of a \$15,000 Indigo Love of Reading Foundation Literacy Fund grant.

Mr. Spires had the privilege of attending Vincent Massey Elementary where they held a volunteer day tea. Mr. Spires spoke about the two high schools in his Sub-District and how the students are in the week of exams and those in Grade 12 are looking forward to graduation.

Mr. Barry spoke about three topics that arose from PSSC meetings, concern over the uncertainty of the French Immersion program and how it will work, Policy 713 which has been a hot topic and how PSSC's are looking for some updates. Finally, the loss of a retired teacher, Lawrence MacDonald, who was the longest serving employee with the school district at 42 years.

Ms. Hooper echoed other DEC members as far as PSSC's with their concerns over the changes the government wants to propose with the DEC and Policy 713. She also indicated how wonderful the Inspire Awards were. She was invited to the Kindness Café at Centennial School which was run by a grade three class who do this fundraiser every year and how they raised around \$1500 this year.

Mr. Borthwick commented about the Blacks Harbour area with regards to the food insecurity issues. He spoke with the Erica Lane, Community Engagement Coordinator about bringing the food depot to the Charlotte County area.

6.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned he attended year end activities at Quispamsis Middle School and Lakefield School. He mentioned about the discussions he had with other DEC's around the province regarding Bill 46. He attended two of the Inspire Awards, QPlex for Hampton Education Centre and Lily Lake for Saint John Education Centre where the opportunity was great to recognize students.

Mr. Nesbitt spoke about attending a presentation for Bee Me Kidz where the government has committed \$2.5 million to the program over the next six years. He attended the Hub Kitchen Grand Opening at the District Office and how this is a tremendous program for the schools by providing meals to students, particularly at lunchtime and how the province is instituting a breakfast program this fall.

He mentioned about attending the Legislature recently and was particularly interested in the comments and questions around Bill 46 and there was discussion of Policy 713 as well.

Mr. Nesbitt reminded the DEC members about completing the English Prime Survey and the French Second Language survey which both have a June 30th deadline.

6.3 Correspondence

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary