

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – November 15, 2023

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; 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 Educational Support Services; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration (on-line), Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (on-line), Carolann Spear and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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. One additional item 6.5 was added to the agenda. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the October 11, 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 Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

No public were present.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

Mr. O'Brien began his report by announcing that in October our Director of Communications, Jessica Hanlon, won an Award of Excellence at a Gala in Montreal by the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education. The Award of Excellence is highly competitive and the highest recognition for education public relations programs and campaigns in Canada. He also made mention of Mark Blucher, who will be filling in for the Supervisor of Data & Accountability until the new year.

He spoke about some of the various activities that are taking place in the district. He mentioned about the Violent Threat Risk Assessment Training with Kevin Cameron, Executive Director of the Center for Trauma Informed Practices. This training was for ASD-S staff and our Integrated Service Delivery partners.

Mr. O'Brien highlighted the activities and events going on for principals around diversity and inclusion as well as the resource teacher training. There are resource teachers who are brand new to this role.

He mentioned the great event in October for middle school students at the Gender Sexuality Alliance workshop. We do appreciate the work the student and teacher leaders are doing in their schools.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the successful mental health forum in October and some events going on that are helping us with improving student engagement and achievement.

He commented on the holistic curriculum work that we are doing. He is hearing from teachers, how excited they are as they learn and continue to work with the holistic curriculum. Beginning this fall, 39 ASD-S schools are implementing the holistic curriculum.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by referring to the great work of the Student Leaders Council who met the beginning of November. These students represent all of our high schools and Kyle Peters, Subject Coordinator, leads them. This is one way to hear the voices of our learners.

4. Presentation

4.1. Provincial Assessment Results 2022-2023

Mr. Price began by outlining the overall provincial assessment program and provided some updates on the specific result of the past year.

Mr. Price drew our attention to the interpretation of the assessment results, the participation, and the overall results of the assessments. The results are trending upwards.

He commented about the chronic absenteeism particularly in grades 7 and 8 that is very concerning, so things begin to waver in all areas of the province beginning in middle school but seems to be a concern in our District. It does however get a bit better comparatively at the high school level.

He reviewed the Provincial Percentage Results for Scientific literacy, English reading, French Reading, and French oral proficiency for grades 4, 6 and 10.

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.

Mr. Price concluded his presentation by explaining a bit of history with some of the changes that have happened to assessments over the years.

4.2. District Improvement Plan Update

Mr. O'Brien began his presentation by explaining the four principle themes for the District Improvement Plan: Belonging, Achievement, Professional Competence and Equity.

He reviewed each of the goals which corollate with the four themes for the plan. These goals are tied closely to the work that the Directors of Schools and Mr. O'Brien are doing with the principals and vice-principals around their schools growth goals.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his presentation by explaining the specific measures which include student survey data, teacher perception survey data, assessment data and attendance data. The team will set attainable targets and measure success.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hooper moved to approve the district improvement plan as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spire. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Sub District #6 Update

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the Minister has information regarding the three qualified individuals. Mr. Nesbitt mentioned that Ms. Hamm and Mr. O'Brien are to review the candidates and send the Minister the recommendation from the three individuals.

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 Ms. Craig. Motion carried.

6.2 Governance Policies

4.6 Effective Communication

4.7 Public Comments and Presentations

4.8 Nomination of Student Representative

11 Code of Conduct

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials. There were no changes or corrections made at this time with respect to these policies.

6.3 District Health Advisory Committee

Mr. O'Brien thanked Ms. Hooper for volunteering and being appointed as the DEC Representative on the District Health Advisory Committee to replace a past DEC Member.

6.4 Annual DEC Planning Cycle 2023-2024 Updated

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the DEC Annual Planning Cycle which was posted as part of the meeting materials. A few things have been changed and new presentations have been added. This planning cycle is fluid and used as a guideline for the DEC to move forward in the meetings and also see what presentations may be coming up. Mr. O'Brien asked the members if they had any suggestions of presentations they would like to hear.

6.5 Land Proposal

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Land Proposal and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Spires moved that we declare the property (PID00049932; PAN 06177295) surplus to the needs of the school district and for the intended purpose of Housing NB to build a 20 unit multistorey family unit. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Barry mentioned concerns from the PSSC and community from his sub-district regarding the ability to access the schools for basketball.

Mr. Spires spoke about how impressed he was with the students in his sub-district who participated in the poppy program. He gave the teachers a lot of credit for taking time out of their regular time for teaching to help the children with this program.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Since Last Meeting

October 17, 2023 – CDC met with Darren Blois virtually

October 23, 2023 – Met with Superintendent

October 24, 2023 – PSSC at Chris Saunders Memorial School

November 3, 2023 – Attended the Matthew Martin keynote address on racism for PL Day

November 14, 2023 – Attended the Minister's Forum in Fredericton

November 15, 2023 – Teams meeting regarding plans for New North End Elementary School

Policy 713

- The policy continues to present challenges for some DEC's around the province that have received corrective action letters from the Minister.
- The Civil Liberties Union, the NBTF as well as Egale are suing the province over the policy.
- CDC met virtually with Lawyer Darren Blois to consider next steps.

Minister's Forum

The forum was the first in-person event held this school year for DEC Chairs, Vice Chairs and EECD personnel. There should be a second one in the Spring. It took place at the Crown Plaza Hotel on Tuesday, November 14th . Agenda items included: District Priorities, EECD Priorities, DEC Manager, Bill 46 and Governance, Provincial DEC Symposium. Take aways include: Plans to hire a new DEC Manager, the Education re-write (Bill 46) will not come back as well as Provincial DEC Symposium and the Excellence in Education Awards.

DEC Retreat

You are asked to reserve the date Saturday, April 20, 2024. This will be a time for us as a DEC to gather in a location to be determined for at least the morning, and consider possible topics such as: Policy Development (Stacey Brown has been contacted and agreed to facilitate this topic), School Improvement Planning process, District Improvement Planning, the Role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Education. More to follow on this. Suggestions welcome.

7.3 Correspondence

No correspondence to report.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary