

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – September 13, 2023**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**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, Peter Smith, Director of Educational Support Services, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (on-line), Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction (on-line) 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 Sarah Craig, Jennifer Sheils and Shane Borthwick 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. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the August 16, 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**

Mr. Justin Tinker spoke about a recently published article in the Telegraph Newspaper regarding Policy 713 and stated his concerns about the changes to this policy.

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

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

He began his report by mentioning the smooth start-up of a new school year and how some operational items needed to be taken care of with so many moving parts. A particular item was in transportation and how every single one of the spare buses are in for service. We are currently waiting on new buses and adding more electric ones to the fleet. The facilities department have helped to get charging stations in place for these buses.

Mr. O'Brien indicated that the unofficial number of students is up by approximately 500 since the end of school June 2023. With the increase comes the need for additional staffing and reconfiguring classrooms, however, this increase sees more students in our community. The final count will be reported at the next DEC meeting in October.

He spoke about the various professional leadership activities that occurred prior to the start of the new school year with orientation of new administrators, Principal and Vice Principal meeting, antiracism as well as new teacher learning sessions.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by letting the DEC know the leadership team is working to develop the goals and strategies as well as the measurements that will come to support the new district improvement plan.

#### **4. Business Arising from Minutes**

##### **4.1 Report from the Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee, acting as a sub-committee of the District Education Council of ASD-S (DEC) submits the following report.

The committee met virtually on August 17, 2023 to consider the report of the NB Child and Youth Advocate, Kelly Lamrock, KC *On Balance, Choose Kindness* that was released on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. This matter had been referred to the Policy Committee by the DEC on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

As a result of further changes of Policy 713 announced by Minister Hogan on August 23, 2023 and extensive discussion by the Council at a meeting held on that same day the following motion was moved by Amanda Hamm and Seconded by Wayne Spires:

*That the motion concerning the addition to Ends Policy 4, that was passed by the DEC on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 be rescinded and the following be added to Ends Policy 4: The district shall ensure all staff respect the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, New Brunswick Human Rights Act, Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Positive Learning Environment Policy.*

Motion was carried.

##### Motion to approve the Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by: Ms. Henderson-Matthews

Seconded by: Mr. Spires

Date: September 13, 2023

Disposition of motion: Motion carried.

Ms. Hamm moved that the Anglophone South School District DEC refer the September 8th "Addendum to the Advocate's Report", the September 9th "Model Policy for District Education Councils" and the "Opinion re Revised Policy 713" prepared by lawyer Darren Blois from Murphy, Collette, Murphy to the policy committee for review to ensure we are following statute law and resolve all EECDC Policy 713 conflicts we have been made aware. The policy committee shall use an Education policy expert to help with the task and the district will recommend such an expert. The committee shall report to the DEC with recommendations at our next meeting on October 11th. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion carried.

##### **4.2 Report of the PSSC Orientation Committee**

Mr. Spires reported to the DEC Committee that a meeting was held with Ms. Hamm, Mr. Borthwick and Mr. Spires along with Mr. O'Brien. The PSSC members are so important and we as DEC members are obligated to ensure our sub-district school's parents and principals are supported.

Ms. Hamm outlined three key pillars for the PSSC members, why should I care to become part of the PSSC, what is involved and what is the time commitment. She mentioned about the use of virtual presentations on a PSSC portal where parents could view the information on-line. The key is having it accessible to all families in the schools.

Ms. Hamm mentioned PSSC members are key to building positive school environment and support open communication processes, encourage successful relationships and support between parents, teachers, students, staff and community.

The committee recommended that for this year, the orientation of PSSC's be left to the schools and that a slide presentation would be provided for use similar to one shown by Mr. Hamm at the meeting.

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

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Sub District #6 Vacancy**

Mr. Nesbitt indicated that three qualified individuals had sent letters of interest. A letter has been sent to Minister Hogan who will select and appoint one person to complete the term of office that ends June 30, 2025.

### **5.2 Governance Policies**

4.0 Governance Commitment

4.1 Role of the District Education Council

4.2 Governing Style

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

## **6. Information Items**

### **6.1 Member's Notebook**

Mr. Spires shared he went to the opening at Milltown Elementary School and he was glad to see kids back together with their friends and they looked happy and ready to go.

Ms. Henderson-Matthews shared that she attended a PSSC meeting at Campobello Island Consolidated to see how everyone was doing. They are getting ready for election and hopefully more people will come out. Current members were looking to see how they could use their budget to help bring parents in and get them interested.

Ms. Henderson-Matthew also shared that she attended "meet the teacher night" prior to school starting and it was nice to see that it was well attended.

Ms. Hamm indicated she attended the following:

- DEC workshop to look at the District Improvement Plan
- Session with the Council of DEC Chairs to review the changes with policy 713
- PSSC Training Committee meeting
- Inglewood School Open House
- River Valley Middle School Open House
- Meeting with the Child and Youth Advocate
- Harbour View High School Open House

Ms. Hamm mentioned all the School Open Houses were well attended and nice to see families in the schools and the excitement. She took the opportunity to wish all students a wonderful year of learning and personal growth and she looks forward to getting into more of the schools and engaging with families this year.

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

Mr. Nesbitt indicated he was involved in the following:

- District Appeal hearings during the summer
- Teams meeting regarding the new North End School design
- Teams meetings with the CDC re: Policy 713
- Meeting with the Child and Youth Advocate
- Teams meeting with Anglophone and Francophone DEC Chairs

### **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, October 11, 2023 beginning at 7:00p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary