

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – March 21, 2018**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Wayne Spires, Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Heather Gillis, Larry Boudreau, Justin Tinker, Gerry Mabey

**Regrets:** Richard Malone, Rob Alexander

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

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

Mr. Fowler advised that our Mr. Malone and Mr. Alexander had sent regrets.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Fowler asked if there were no questions or concerns with the Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Regenbogen moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the February 14, 2018 meeting and asked that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Boudreau moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Ms. Sherbo.

Discussion arose as to how much information/detail should be captured in the Minutes. The Chair clarified that the discussion point should be noted and then any motion following the discussion should be recorded. The Minutes are not a verbatim record of what members say. There being no further questions, motion carried. Mr. O'Connor voted against the motion.

### **2.3 Public Comment**

None.

### **3. Member's Notebook**

Mr. O'Connor advised that the It Takes A Village session on Understanding Teen Depression went very well. He thanked Debbie Thomas and District staff for allowing the school to open that evening on a storm day. He estimated there were from 90-100 in attendance. The group is hoping for more sessions next year and applying for a grant.

He noted that some Forest Hills parents have expressed concerns to the PSSC with regard to traffic at the school. They will reach out to Jim Connors, Facilities Manager.

Mr. O'Connor commented that Simonds High School would be performing "Back to the 80's" the last week of April.

Ms. Sherbo advised that the Principal at Kennebecasis Park reported the Internet Safety Talk was very successful with middle schools attending, and then returning to their schools to continue the talk.

Ms. Sherbo provided staff a Cannabis Kit – How to Talk to Your Teens – from a recent District Health Advisory Committee meeting she attended.

Mr. Spires was pleased to announce the St. Stephen High School is performing "Grease" this week and next. He noted that a lot of work goes into these productions which are open to the public.

Mr. Boudreau raised a question with regard to First Aid training for staff at Back Bay Elementary. The concern was if a school has only one person trained, what happens when that person is out. Mr. Fowler suggested that this would be something staff would address.

### **4. Presentation**

Mrs. Watson introduced Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood Services.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie spoke to the launch of the Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan. Her presentation is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

Questions included who is in charge of where the centres go; the eligibility levels for families to receive child care subsidies; number of children allowed per centre; cost to the government and the goal of this plan. All questions were addressed by Ms. McNaughton Dickie.

Mr. Fowler thanked Ms. McNaughton-Dickie for her presentation.

## **5. Business Arising from Minutes**

### **5.1 Policy Review Committee Update & Draft GP #4**

Mr. Nesbitt commented on the new numbering system and that the GP designation will be dropped as all these policies fall under section 4 of the Policy Binder.

He noted that the current GP #4, Chair's Role, is now 4.3 and a revised policy draft had been posted with Council's materials for review. Mr. Nesbitt moved that GP# 4 be rescinded and replaced with 4.3. Seconded by Mr. Spires.

Question arose with regard to the wording of section 4.3.1.1(a). Following discussion, Mr. O'Connor moved that the motion be amended and 4.3.1.1(a) now read: "conduct and monitor Council meetings to ensure that only Council issues, within the scope of Council's mandate, are discussed." Seconded by Ms. Gillis.

Motion to approve as amended carried.

Mr. Nesbitt updated Council on the status of GP #5, #6.

Mr. Nesbitt moved that GP #7, Pupil Appeals, be rescinded. He noted that it is redundant as it is clearly outlined in the Education Act. Seconded by Ms. Sherbo. A discussion on the motion followed. Mr. Boudreau moved that we table this motion until the April meeting. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

Mr. Nesbitt then updated Council on the status of GP #8.

Mr. Nesbitt moved that GP# 9, Quorum, be rescinded as it is covered in the Education Act and is unnecessary. Seconded by Mr. Boudreau. Motion carried.

### **5.2 Sustainability Studies – Hazen-White/St. Francis School & Centennial School**

Mr. Fowler reviewed the meetings that have taken place to date in each school. Attendance has not been great; however, these families participated last year. He noted that at the last Centennial School meeting the PSSC advised that they had not received any complaints.

He noted there will be an additional opportunity for Centennial parents to meet with Council and staff on March 28, 2018 at 10:30 am at the Nick Nicolle Centre.

He reminded Council of the second meeting at Hazen-White/St. Francis School on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 6:30 pm and an additional opportunity for parents to meet with Council and staff at the Crescent Valley Resource Centre at 12 noon the same day. The third and final meeting is set for April 11<sup>th</sup> at our regular Council meeting.

Mrs. Watson noted that Debbie Thomas had conducted a tour of Seaside Elementary School for 14 families. The District provided busing.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Budget Update 2017-2018**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the budget forecast to date and advised that we have three weeks left to year end. He reviewed the pressure points for the District including: Educational Assistant funding; school administrative support; staff replacement costs; electricity and natural gas costs; long term illness replacement costs, and vacation pay. He noted that at this time, we are projecting a small deficit; however, hopes to be able to erase this by year end.

Mr. Fowler advised that DEC Chairs did receive permission to retain any surplus up to \$400,000 – an increase from \$100,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt to approve the budget update as presented. Mr. Spires seconded the motion.

Discussion arose on the increased budget allotted from August when the expenditure plan was approved until now, and why changes happen. The Superintendent explained we had retroactive pay after the Teachers' Collective Agreement was settled, as well as other amounts that come in after DEC approves the August plan. Mr. MacDonald advised that if there is something major that affects the budget, he will advise Council.

There being no further questions, motion carried.

### **6.2 Capital Projects and 2019 Summer Improvement Projects**

Mr. MacDonald spoke about the 2019 Summer Improvement Projects that are on the list for funding. He noted that the District normally receives around \$2 million. Discussion arose with regard to washroom improvements and other items on the list. Mr. MacDonald advised that he could request from the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DTI) additional information with regard to replacement of roofs. The roofs are examined and prioritized by DTI. Mrs. Watson noted that Council must approve this by the end of April,

and if they felt more time was required to review, this could be moved to the April meeting. Council agreed to move this item to the April agenda.

Mr. MacDonald then reviewed the Major Capital Projects list for the District. He explained that the planning for the Saint John High School Mid-Life Upgrade is currently underway and would remain at the top of the list until completion. Discussion arose around the recommended order of the two remaining projects on the list. Mrs. Watson advised that staff can provide the power point presentations to new DEC members who were not involved in the Policy 409 process for Morna Heights, Inglewood and Grand Bay Primary for additional information. Mr. O'Connor moved that Council table the approval of this item until the April meeting. Seconded by Ms. Sherbo. Motion carried.

### **6.3 Executive Limitations #1 – 4, 6 &7**

Mrs. Watson noted that her Monitoring Reports had been posted on the portal for Council's review and advised that she would like a motion to approve as presented.

Questions were raised with regard to EI-1, Global Executive Constraints, and EL-2, Emergency Superintendent Succession which were addressed by Mrs. Watson and Mr. Fowler. Discussion also arose on whether there was a need for an Audit Committee.

There being no further questions, Mr. Spires moved that the Monitoring Reports be accepted as presented. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

## **7. Information Items**

### **7.1 Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Watson advised that her report was posted on the website for review with tonight's meeting materials. She had a few additional comments to add:

Mrs. Watson advised Council of the death of a grade 12 student, Marcus Finch, from Simonds High School. The student died in a single vehicle car accident just prior to the March Break. Debbie Thomas and Peter Smith arranged for supports to be in place over the March Break. She asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

Mrs. Watson noted that PSSC have been getting questions about the legalization of marijuana. She advised that high school Principals would be meeting in April at Portage - a drug rehabilitation centre in Cassidy Lake. Dr. Jennifer Russell has been invited to speak. She also noted that she will be attending a Harm Reduction Symposium this Friday night organized by Horizon Health.

Mrs. Watson advised that IT staff are working on having a place on the DEC portal for PSSC Minutes. It is likely that each school will have a folder where the school

administrative assistant can upload the files each month and Council will have access. Staff hope to have this up and running by the April meeting.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that she had received a request from Hampton High School asking Council to provide a letter of support for the school's application to become a UNESCO school. She noted that Council's ENDS policies 1, 3, & 5 all fit within the four pillars of UNESCO. Mr. Spires moved that Council provide a letter of support as requested. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Fowler advised that he had sent out the draft Minutes from the Minister's Forum. He advised that he has sent an email cancelling his appearance at the upcoming Grand Bay Council meeting. He noted that the council of DEC Chairs has joined the Canadian School Board Association and that the annual conference will be in Halifax in July and open to any Council member who would like to attend. More information to follow.

## **7.3 Correspondence**

None; all correspondence was posted on the portal for Council's information.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary