

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – February 14, 2018

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

Regrets: Rob Fowler, Chair

ASD-S Staff:

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

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

Mr. Nesbitt advised that our Chair, Mr. Fowler, was unable to attend this evening as he was attending the Minister's Forum.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Nesbitt advised that there had been a request to add an item to the agenda: 6.3 – List of Schools Not Being Visited (as part of Effective Communications – GP #8). He asked that if there were no questions or concerns with the amendment to the Agenda, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Boudreau moved that the amended Agenda be approved. Ms. Sherbo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting and asked that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Regenbogen moved that the Minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Mabey. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

None.

3. Member's Notebook

Mr. Boudreau commented that he was not happy with the letter from the Minister with regard to our request for additional support for Power School. Following discussion, motion was made by Mr. Boudreau that we send a letter to all DEC's to ask for their support in a letter to the Minister identifying the importance of Power School for communication with parents and students. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion carried.

Mr. O'Connor commented on the National Inclusion Award for Forest Hills School and that the school was very proud - it was very good for morale. He also reminded Council of the March 14th event with Dr. Chorney at Harbour View High School on Understanding Teen Depression.

Ms. Gillis advised Council of an April 21st fundraiser for St. John the Baptist/King Edward which will raise funds for the lunch program. More details to follow. She also advised that there would be an information session on Drug Awareness – WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW at Bayside Middle School on March 21st. The event is sponsored the PSSC.

Ms. Sherbo commented on the pockets of needy within the Rothesay area and what could be done to assist those in need.

4. Presentation

Mrs. Watson introduced Nick Munn, Supervisor, Data and Accountability for ASD-S.

Mr. Munn reviewed for Council the highlights of the District Report Card for 2016-17 and addressed all questions. The presentation is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

Mrs. Watson advised that the presentation would be posted on the ASD-S website. Mr. Nesbitt thanked Mr. Munn for his presentation.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Policy Review Committee Update

Mr. Nesbitt advised that there were no new policies for review at this meeting; however, a couple are almost ready but require some tweaking. He hopes to have GP#4 and GP#5 (and possibly others) ready for the March 21st meeting.

Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Sherbo provided updates to Council on the Committee's policy work.

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

Mrs. Watson thanked Council members who attended the first public meeting at Centennial School and advised that the power point presentation will be posted on the ASD-S website.

She reminded Council of the upcoming first meeting at Hazen-White/St. Francis School at 6:30 pm on February 20th. She noted that a letter had gone home with all students and that the letter had also been translated for our Syrian families. The District translator will capture the "main points" of the presentation and translate it for the meeting on the 20th.

Mrs. Watson advised that an email had gone out with regard to the meeting on February 21st with the Premier. She advised that there will be a letter for all community leaders to sign showing their support for the closure of St. John the Baptist/King Edward and Prince Charles schools with a recommendation to build one new school in a central location.

6. New Business

6.1 DEC Spring Symposium

Mr. Nesbitt advised that we have a list of 18 PSSC members who have requested funding to attend the Symposium in May 2018 in Fredericton. He noted that Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, will cover the first 6 attendees.

Discussion centered on how many we can cover, the cost and whether or not a limit should be set per school in the future. Mr. Boudreau moved that we cover the expenses for the 12 additional PSSC members who requested to attend. Following discussion, Mr. Nesbitt asked for a show of hands. Motion carried.

6.2 Motion re Change to Summer Improvement Projects 2018

Mr. Nesbitt advised that Council needed to ratify an email response regarding a change to the Summer Improvement Projects for 2018. Mr. Nesbitt noted that a two thirds majority vote would be required.

Mr. Malone moved that Council requests that the paving Capital Improvement Project approved for Simonds High School for summer 2018 be cancelled and moved forward to the Capital Improvement Project list for summer 2019 and that in its place, a window replacement Capital Improvement Project for Barnhill School be added for summer 2018 as recommended by District and Department of Education and Early Childhood Facilities staff. Seconded by Mr. Mabey. Motion carried.

6.3 List of Schools Not Being Visited (as part of Effective Communications – GP #8)

As part of policy GP#8, Effective Communications, Mr. Nesbitt asked Council members to identify if they have any schools that they will be unable to visit this school year (i.e. attend PSSC meeting). All members advised that they had, or would, visit all their liaison schools this year. One member suggested that he would likely have to attend via technology due to the geographic location.

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 5 student, Gabe Murchison, from St. Rose School. The student had medical challenges; however, his passing was unexpected. It was a difficult time for the school and the District staff were available to lend support. She asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

Mrs. Watson noted that she had attended the National Inclusion Awards at Old Government House in Fredericton and she shared the program and some pictures with Council. St. John the Baptist/King Edward and Forest Hills received awards.

Mrs. Watson and Mr. Paul Smith will be attending Canada's Outstanding Principals Award ceremony in Toronto on February 27th. Bonnie Hierlihy from Fairvale Elementary School will be receiving the award. She is one of forty Principals across Canada to receive the honour this year.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that she had recently spent four hours with 2 representatives from the Auditor General's office who visited the District to review: data,

student achievement, how do we know people do their jobs, renewal of Principals every 5 years, school reviews, assessments, perception surveys, to name but a few.

Mrs. Watson updated Council on work on the District Improvement Plan. She noted that we are working internally on the strategies – which is a big process - and the tasks that follow under those strategies.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Fowler was not in attendance due to the Minister's Forum taking place in the Miramichi.

7.3 Correspondence

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

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council of the change in meeting dates for March. The next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chair

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary