

Minutes of Meeting – September 12, 2012

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 in the Common Room of the Hampton Education Centre, 80B Hampton Road, Rothesay. The following council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Larry Boudreau, Stephen Campbell, Gary Crossman, Don Cullinan, Rob Fowler, Joanne Gunter, Gerry Mabey, Bob McDevitt, Charlotte McGill-Pierce, Roger Nesbitt, Sherman Ross, Wayne Spires

ASD-S Staff:

Zoe Watson, Superintendent; Jenny MacDougall, Senior Education Officer; Paul Smith, Senior Education Officer; Jeff Hanson, Director of Finance and Administration; Tina Vallis, Executive Assistant

The media was present.

1. Call to Order / Welcome /Regrets

Rob Fowler, Chairperson called the meeting to order.

2.1 Approval of the Agenda/ Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fowler reviewed the agenda with council and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Mabey moved that the agenda be accepted as is. Mr. Crossman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler indicated that there was a small typing error in the minutes and that the minutes should be amended to correct this error. Mr. Spires moved that the minutes be approved, as amended. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.2 Public Comment

Nil

3. Business Arising from Minutes

3.1 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Watson reviewed a schedule of council meetings for the school year 2012-2013 and advised that locations were rotated so that meetings would be held in various parts of the district as per Council's wishes. Ms. Watson suggested that a meeting be held in one of the Hampton Education Centre High Schools such as Kennebecasis Valley High School or Sussex Regional High School since these two schools have a polycom that can be used for members who wish to attend via video conference. A suggestion was made to move the April meeting to Sussex Regional High School. Council members were all in favour of this.

3.2 Policy Sub-Committee Update

New policies will need to be drafted and finalized for adoption. At the August meeting, the following council members volunteered to sit on the policy sub-committee and report back to council during September's meeting: Mr. Boudreau, Mr. McDevitt, Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Spires.

Mr. Nesbitt presented the September report to all members of council and, on behalf of the sub-committee, put forward two recommendations to council for approval:

1. That, after a review of relevant policies and following the training session in Moncton scheduled for the end of September, policies be brought forward by the following individuals for approval:

Larry Boudreau – Ends Policies
Robert McDevitt – Executive Limitations
Roger Nesbitt – Governance Process
Wayne Spires – Council/Staff Relationship

2. That the Council Code of Conduct, developed provincially, and adopted by previous District Education Councils be adopted as soon as possible and form part of the set of Governance Process Policies.

Mr. Nesbitt advised Council that the policies would be brought forward for approval over the next several meetings and suggested that a smaller group rather than a larger group would work best for this task since it would expedite the process. Mr. Nesbitt stated that there would be plenty of opportunity for council to discuss policies and that all policies would be subject to review in a year's time. It was suggested that the Ends policies be addressed first since these policies deal with school performance. Ms. Watson suggested that the provincial improvement plan could be used as a guide to assist with the development of Ends policies. It was also suggested that any draft policies that would be placed on the Agenda for adoption be provided to Council members one week prior to the meeting. Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Nesbitt for his presentation to Council.

3.3 Agenda Planning Calendar

Mr. Fowler requested that the Member Code of Conduct document be added to the October meeting agenda. The following calendar items were suggested: a Monday morning breakfast meeting with local MLA's, and a presentation on the District Improvement Plan (DIP). Ms. Watson will provide Council members information on the status of the District Improvement Plans for all three former districts and recommended to Council that an interim DIP be put in place for now until the provincial plan is finalized and we have more time for consultation.

4. New Business

4.1 Update on Major Improvement Projects for summer 2012

Ms. Watson introduced staff members from the facilities department; Mr. Craig Jones, Facilities Manager within the Hampton Education Centre; Mr. Jim Connors, Assistant Facilities Manager in the Saint John Education Centre and Bob Price, Assistant Facilities Manager in the St. Stephen Education Centre. Staff was invited to the meeting to answer any questions that Council may have.

Council members reviewed the status of the Capital Improvement Projects for Summer 2012. Council members had many questions for staff. All questions were answered by the facilities department staff to the satisfaction of Council.

4.2 Major Improvement Projects for summer 2013

Ms. Watson reviewed the draft document for Capital Improvement Projects for Summer 2013. Council had many questions on this document which were answered by the members of the facilities department. With all questions answered to the satisfaction of

council, Mr. Fowler asked that a motion be put forward to approve this document. Ms. McGill-Pierce moved that the document, Capital Improvement Projects for Summer 2013 be approved as is. Mr. McDevitt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Fowler thanked the facilities department for taking the time to attend the meeting and for answering questions.

4.3 Major Capital Construction Projects

Council members reviewed the draft document, Major Capital Construction Projects. Ms. Watson advised Council that two of the projects were already going forward:

- Quispamsis K-5 School (announced)
- Kennebecasis Park Elementary (construction started)

After much discussion among council regarding what items should be submitted to the Minister for approval and in what order of priority, the following was agreed upon:

1. Fundy High School (Grade 7-12, population 560) - Renovation to create a middle school (Grades 6-8) within the school.
2. Construction of a new elementary school (K-5) in Grand Bay – Westfield to accommodate students from Inglewood School (Grade 3-5, population 91) and Grand Bay Primary (Grade K-2, population 126).
3. Sir James Dunn Academy (Grade 6-12, population 150) - Renovation for accessibility inside the school, new administration offices, reception area and building a cafeteria.
4. Vincent Massey Elementary School (Grade K-6, population 181) - Renovation for accessibility inside the school, new gym/cafeteria.

Mr. Fowler called for a motion to approve the order of priorities for Major Capital Construction Projects, items 1 through 4 and asked for Council to vote with a show of hands. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the order of priorities be approved. Ten Council members were in favour of the order of priorities and two were opposed. Mr. Boudreau seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

4.4 Location of new Quispamsis School K-5

Ms. Watson reviewed a draft site map and photos of the proposed location which would be adjacent to Quispamsis Middle School. Ms. Watson explained that although the schools were side by side, the plans were to have separate schools, separate administrations and separate playgrounds. Mr. Nesbitt stated that this land is already owned by the province and is a huge green space. Several concerns from council members such as traffic and parking were addressed by Mr. Jones. The suggestion was made that a separate road could be built behind Quispamsis Middle School to eliminate traffic congestion around the school. Mr. Fowler asked for a motion to be put forward to support this proposed location. Mr. Campbell put forward the motion that council support the proposed location of the new Quispamsis K-5 school. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was agreed the Superintendent would make the Department of Education aware of the traffic concerns.

4.5 District Logo

Ms. Watson advised Council that there is an opportunity for high school students to be involved with the creation and selection of a new district logo.

4.6 PCAC Representative for Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee

Ms. Watson asked if any council members would be interested in volunteering their time to sit on this provincial committee. Both Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Gunter submitted their names.

5. Information Items

5.1 Superintendent's Report and Updates

Ms. Watson reviewed the opening activities that were held during the last week of August and the first week of September to prepare for the startup of school. Ms. Watson stated that school supply lists were a concern and that, moving forward, this issue would be addressed next calendar year with consistent guidelines for educators. This year there was a marked improvement on the rookying incidents within the Saint John Education Centre high schools. Looking ahead, the district is busy preparing for; Anti-Bullying Week activities; an October 9th professional learning day for staff, educators and educational assistants; and Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) Open House events.

5.2 Chairperson's Report and Updates

Mr. Fowler advised Council that a job posting is currently circulating for a provincial Anti-Bullying Coordinator.

a. PSSC Elections

Mr. Fowler asked for volunteers to help organize the PSSC Orientation night. The following members volunteered:

St. Stephen Education Centre:	Larry Boudreau, Wayne Spires
Saint John Education Centre:	Joanne Gunter, Don Cullinan, Gerry Mabey
Hampton Education Centre:	Roger Nesbitt, Charlotte McGill-Pierce, Gary Crossman

The week of October 15th has been targeted to hold these sessions.

b. Provincial Training for DEC in Moncton

Mr. Fowler advised members that they should let Stacey Brown know prior to September 14th if they plan on attending this governance training session. Laptops would likely be distributed during this event.

Mr. Fowler advised Council that there is a planned meeting of the DEC Chairs for September 19th and that if they had questions or issues that they would like addressed, they should let him know prior to the meeting.

5.3 Correspondence

Nil

5.4 Business for Future Meetings

Various questions from several members were addressed. There was a question regarding the transportation of students for extra-curricular activities. Ms. Watson stated that there are provincial policies on this that all districts must follow. A question was asked on the

decision making process for school closures due to inclement weather. Ms. Watson stated that during bad weather, school closure decisions would be in consultation with all three education centres. It is possible that, on some days, schools may be closed within one education centre but open in the other two. These decisions are based on several weather forecasting sources that the district currently uses.

5.5 Members Notebook

Mr. Nesbitt advised Council that he would not be in attendance at the October meeting due to a prior commitment. Mr. Spires advised Council that he had visited several of the schools within his sub-district and that the Superintendent has certainly made a good first impression among the administrators.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Fowler thanked all staff who were present and attended this evening's Council meeting. The next staff meeting will be held at the St. Stephen Education Centre, on October 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fowler, Chairperson

Tina Vallis, Recording Secretary