

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – February 13, 2013**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue. The following council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Regrets:** Roger Nesbitt.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Debbie Thomas, Senior Education Officer, Saint John; Jeff Hanson, Director, Finance & Administration; Stewart Stanger, Director, Human Resources; Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

The media was present. Also in attendance were PSSC Chairs Dan O'Connor (Bayside Middle), Debbie Luttrell (Princess Elizabeth), and Mandy Burke (Grand Bay & Inglewood).

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

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Fowler advised that Mr. Nesbitt would be unable to attend this meeting and sends his regrets.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes**

Mr. Fowler reviewed the agenda and requested a change in order. Specifically, he asked that we move Item 3.2 after Item 6.1 as this was expected to be a lengthy discussion. All were in agreement. He then advised that if there were no further concerns or questions regarding the agenda that a motion be put forward to approve as amended. Mr. Spires moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Mr. Crossman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fowler referred to the minutes of the January 9th meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce moved that the minutes be approved. Mrs. Gunter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.2 Public Comment**

None

## **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **3.1 Student Council Presentations to DEC**

Mrs. Watson advised Council that invitations have been sent to the Saint John & Hampton Education Centre high school and alternate education centre students, inviting them to address the DEC. The three areas of focus were outlined as follows:

- What is going well at your school that you would like members of Council to know about?
- What things might be improved in education K-12?
- What suggestions do you have for improving public education?

Saint John Education Centre high schools and Woodlawn will present on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and the Hampton Education Centre high schools and PALS sites will present one week later on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. St. Stephen high schools will present on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

DEC members are asked to attend as many of these presentation nights as they can, especially within their Education Centre.

## **4. Presentations**

### **4.1 District Logo Presentation**

Mrs. Watson welcomed Madeleine Levesque and her family to the meeting.

Madeleine is the Hampton High School student who submitted the winning logo design for the new Anglophone South School District. She was one of 60 submissions received when Hugh Kennedy, Fine Arts Subject Co-ordinator put the call out to all high schools in the District. All entries were screened and voted on by the Council. The District then had a graphic artist refine Madeleine's design, and a final logo was created. This logo will be used to brand ASD-S collateral materials going forward, including letterhead, business cards, signage, lapel pins, etc.

Madeleine was then invited to speak about how she came up with her design.

Madeleine explained that she was looking to include 4 things into her design: a pencil for writing; a book for reading; a student figurine and initials of the District. She went on to explain that everything just flowed from that initial concept.

Mrs. Watson and Mr. Fowler then presented Madeleine with a framed print of her original logo design and the final logo that was adopted. Pictures were taken.

## **4.2 Celebrate Initiative**

Ms. Watson welcomed Tracy Friars of Tracy Friars Consulting to the meeting.

Mrs. Watson explained Mrs. Friar's prior involvement with the initial launch of Celebrate and how the program came about. Mrs. Friars was seconded from her role with Innovatia to a one year term with the former District 6 to help implement the initial program. With our work on Pay It Forward, the Council decided it was a good time to revisit this initial concept. Joan Wilkins who was the former District 8 Celebrate Co-ordinator was present as well and spoke briefly on the initiative in her area.

Mrs. Friars began her presentation with some background on the program in former District 6, and also shared successful outcomes and how it now ties in so well with our current program of Pay It Forward.

To date, emotional and social health continues to be a huge cost to the Canadian economy, with hundreds of thousands of employees not being able to make it work on any given day. Celebrate provides an opportunity to improve overall well being. The basic philosophy of Celebrate encourages positive thinking and an abundance mentality. Seven key concepts, which were developed by renowned photographer and motivational speaker Dewitt Jones, were identified and his video "Celebrate What's Right with the World" was played for Council members.

Mrs. Friars concluded her presentation with the key thought: "When we are INTENTIONAL about CELEBRATING what's RIGHT, it gives us the energy to fix what is wrong." When we believe it we will see it, since perception controls our reality.

Feedback from Council was very positive and Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. Friars for her presentation.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Budget Update**

Jeff Hanson, Director Finance & Administration reviewed PSSC spending by schools to date. He noted that overages were not a concern at this point in time and there was still money to be spent in some schools.

Mrs. Watson explained that some schools were not showing a cost for Synrevoice to September, but that is because contract time frames were different for all three education centres. She advised that the District is now on one contract and has one rate which has resulted in substantial savings.

Mr. Hanson next reviewed key numbers in the Third Quarter Financial Report for the District. He advised that we are expecting to come in on budget.

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions regarding the budget. There being none, motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Crossman. Motion carried.

## **6. Information Items**

### **6.1 Superintendent's Report & Updates**

Ms. Watson reminded the Council that this week was Staff Appreciation week and that bags of treats had been sent to all staff, teachers, EA's, administrative assistants – everyone working within ASD-S. Ms. Watson reiterated that this is a time when staff are recognized and personally thanked for all of their hard work and dedication within the District.

Mrs. Watson advised the transfer of new staff from Health & Social Development to Anglophone South continues, with these folks being housed in schools across the District, including Milltown, St. Stephen Elementary, Fundy Shores, St. Rose, Millidgeville North (F Wing), Kennebecasis Valley High, Sussex Elementary and Fairvale Elementary.

The challenge facing this move has been transforming classroom space into office space - the need to find furniture, set up telephones, etc. Gary Hall, Director Early Childhood Services and Kate MacLellan, Director, Education Support Services, have been leading this project with support from IT and Facilities.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> the new staff attended a "Welcome" meeting where many initial questions were answered; however, many more needed to be addressed. A second meeting was held where more answers were provided – and more questions generated. Meetings will continue until all questions are addressed.

Mrs. Watson advised that there will be meetings for grade 5 students and parents after March Break – French & English. Early immersion meetings are not yet scheduled.

On February 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the members of the Education Support Team from St. Malachy's High School who were the recipients of a National Recognition Certificate for inclusive education which was awarded by the New Brunswick Association for Community Living at Old Government House in Fredericton.

The NBACL hosted a session for grade 6-12 principals across ASD-S. Jennifer Katz spoke about inclusion – how we include everyone - and feedback from this session was very positive.

Premier Alward visited Kennebecasis Park Elementary to view the renovations to the school. Mr. Fowler and Mrs. McGill-Pierce were both in attendance.

Ministers Carr and Higgs were in ASD-S a few weeks ago when they visited the New K-5 School in Quispamsis and formally announced the project and posted a sign out by the main road. DEC members Mr. Nesbitt and Mrs. McGill-Pierce attended this event.

Minister Carr and MLA Tait visited Bayside Middle School where a very enthusiastic committee spoke with the Minister on their plans to renovate the theatre space. Meetings are scheduled with Mr. Laskey and District staff regarding this project.

February is Psychology Month and the Management Team met with Psychologists from the District. These folks have expressed an interest in presenting to the DEC at a later date.

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a District Health Advisory Planning Day.

Mrs. Watson addressed the security and safety in our buildings and advised that new visitor ID tags for those who are in and out of our schools are currently being prepared. This week 95 pictures were taken in the Saint John Education Centre. Photos will be done in the Hampton and St. Stephen Education Centres in the near future.

Mrs. Watson advised that an audit of the schools needing new blinds has been completed. The project will be moving forward with most blinds being needed in the Saint John Education Centre, a few in the Hampton Education Centre and very few required in St. Stephen.

Mrs. Watson was pleased to report that she has only 5 schools left to visit (out of 34) in the Saint John Education Centre. She's visited 14 (out of 16) in the St. Stephen Education Centre (only Campobello and White Head Island remain). She advised that she is trying to get out and visit all of the schools as much as possible.

Mr. Campbell asked if the theatre project at Bayside Middle would be similar to the one in Sussex. Mrs. Watson advised that yes, it would be and that Bayside was communicating with Sussex, and even using some of the same resources. Mrs. Watson mentioned that Carolyn Thompson at the Telegraph Journal is helping to get the word out.

Mr. Fowler advised that Bayside Middle has another project on the go as well – the field behind the school is not useable and they are working to get it repaired.

### **3.2 (Moved from earlier in Agenda) DEC Retreat & Vision/Mission/Ends**

Mr. Fowler thanked the Council for the very productive two day session in January during which a vision statement for ASD-S was finalized. Following the January meeting, Mrs. McGill-Pierce, Mrs. Watson and members of her staff expanded the results and developed a comprehensive, one page document which the Council reviewed.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce reviewed the thought process for the development of the ENDS policies and Mrs. Watson reviewed the draft document. Mr. Fowler commented that it was a very good summation of the work the Council had done.

Review of the contents of the document generated a number of comments and a lot of good discussion, including feedback on the proper wording of certain statements. Mrs. Watson was asked by Mr. Fowler to take the feedback of the Council and incorporate it into the document. All Council members were in agreement.

Mrs. Watson asked Council if she could share the revised document (taking into account their comments of this evening) with Principals and this was agreed to by all Council members.

Question was raised by Mr. Campbell as to whether or not these ENDS policies would be able to be tracked. Mrs. Watson advised that yes, there would be ways to ensure accountability. Mr. Fowler added that compliance would need to be tracked as well.

### **6.2 Chairperson's Report & Updates**

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that he and Mrs. Watson would be attending the Minister's Forum February 15 & 16.

The Round Table discussions whereby Districts can address what is unique in their area has been re-instated and Mr. Fowler feels that this is a positive approach. He asked that any Council member who has an issue they would like brought forward at these meetings, to please email him by Friday.

Questions surrounding the budgeting process were asked and Mr. Fowler advised that he will get an update at this meeting. Council would like to see a final budget before November as happened this past year.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the Student Council presentations to the DEC by all Saint John Education high schools will be held on Wednesday, February 20 here at 490 Woodward Avenue and all Hampton Education Centres on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Library in the Hampton High School. He asked that as many Council members attend as possible and advised that is amazing to see what these kids do.

### **6.3 Correspondence**

None

### **6.4 Members Notebook**

Mr. Crossman asked about the communication between schools and PSSCs and parents, stating that information is so important for parents. He asked how many websites list PSSC/DEC information, post the dates and minutes of meetings, and names of members.

Mrs. Watson advised that we spot checked a number of school websites (34 across the District) and found:

- 9 sites had no mention of PSSC/DEC
- 11 sites had something, but it was not up to date
- 14 sites were well along, including Minutes of meetings

Mrs. Watson will be requesting all schools have links to PSSC information, including a write up, list of members (contact info at their discretion), and schedule of meetings. There could also be a link back to ASD-S.

Mr. Fowler questioned who was responsible for updating the school sites and Mrs. Watson informed that it is usually someone on staff. Mr. Fowler suggested that it might be good use of some PSSC funds to pay someone to do it as the school site enhances school communication.

Mrs. McGill- Pierce mentioned that she recently attended a PSSC meeting where the Principal was the one taking the Minutes. She told the Committee that this was not the way it was supposed to work and this responsibility should be shared by the members.

Mrs. Gunter asked about the electronic Student Survey "Tell Them From Me". Mrs. Watson advised that Minister Carr has sent a memo to all Principals, PSSC Chairs, and Student Council Presidents about an electronic student (grades 4-12) and parent survey called "Tell Them From Me" (TTFM). The student survey will be available for students to complete from mid-March to mid-April. Question arose whether or not paper copies of the survey will be available to parents who do not have access to the internet. Mr. Fowler advised that he will address this question at the Minister's Forum.

## **7. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's council meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Saint John, Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue, on March 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chairperson

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary