

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – April 9, 2014**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at Hampton Elementary School, Hampton, NB. The following council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Regrets:** Sherman Ross

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Senior Education Officer Hampton; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration, Gary Hall, Director Early Childhood Services, and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

Media was in attendance.

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

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

Mr. Fowler advised that Mr. Ross will be unable to attend this meeting.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda & Minutes**

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

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the February 12, 2014 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Boudreau moved that the Minutes be approved and Mr. Mabey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.2 Public Comment**

None

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

### **3.1 Pennfield & Fundy Shores School Reconfigurations**

Mr. Fowler reviewed for Council the purpose of a conference call that was held on March 27, 2014 to review a recommendation by the Superintendent to reconfigure Pennfield and Fundy Shores schools as per previous Council discussions. He reiterated that this decision is solely at the Superintendent's discretion and that the District Education Council is not required to approve it. However, as determined by a consensus vote during the March 27, 2014 conference call, Council hereby officially ratifies the two motions brought forward and approved as follows:

Motion: Pennfield Elementary School in the St. Stephen Education Centre will be re-configured from a K-4 to a K-5 school effective September 2014. Motion by Wayne Spires, seconded by Bob McDevitt – CONSENSUS.

Motion: Fundy Shores School in the Saint John Education Centre will be reconfigured from a K-8 school to a K-5 school effective September 2014. Motion by Gerry Mabey, seconded by Wayne Spires - CONSENSUS.

Mrs. Watson went on to inform Council that as a result of the March 27, 2014 conference call, Principals of both schools were advised the following day. PSSC were then informed and a letter to all parents of both schools was distributed. Mrs. Watson then followed up with a letter to the Minister confirming these reconfigurations for September 2014. This letter was posted with Council's meeting materials.

## **4. Presentations**

### **4.1 Early Childhood Update**

Mr. Hall began his presentation by introducing himself to members of Council and reminding them that further to his presentation last year, the integration of early childhood into education continues as a work in progress. He explained that he is starting to see some cohesion with integrated services and this will only improve over time.

He went on to explain that their purpose is to better prepare children for school success and future learning opportunities by providing quality, integrated early childhood learning services for children from birth to age eight in Anglophone South. The key service providers are Talk With Me – Early Language Services; Family and Childhood Education (FACE) and Early Childhood Services Coordinators.

Mr. Hall advised Council that students who had attended preschool scored 20 points higher on PISA than those who had not by the time they got to grade 10.

Mr. Hall went on to briefly describe the main goal for each of their key programs:

Talk With Me – Early Language Services staff strive to provide promotion, prevention, and intervention services to families, care givers and communities so that language development and communication skills are enhanced for all preschool children of Anglophone South. They are open and accessible and promote language development in community settings. Their key message is “earlier is better” – if you have a concern with your child’s development, the earlier they can be involved the better it will be for the child.

Family and Child Education (FACE) – formerly known as Early Intervention Agencies (from Sussex, Saint John and Charlotte County) amalgamated in April, 2013 to become FACE. They are governed by one board with an Executive Director and are under contract with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and managed by Mr. Hall.

Additional responsibilities have been assigned to this new group including responsibility for Developmental Daycare (Assessment of need for Aide support); Kindergarten Readiness (Administration of EYDA Developmental Assessment); Parental Programs (Partnerships with existing agencies); Creative Outreach (Methods of staying in touch with hard to service families) and providing support for families and schools in the 5-8 year old group after school entry. Their key message is if you have a question about your child’s development, to get in touch.

Early Childhood Services Coordinators – this group’s responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the licensing of 144 daycare, preschool and after school programs which cover the geographical area of Anglophone South; providing mentoring and consulting services to operators and educators; ensuring that operator standards and regulations are being met; conducting annual inspections and three to four spot checks per year for all facilities. These coordinators also investigate complaints concerning licensed and unlicensed daycare facilities. Their key message is that early learning and child care prepares children for learning and school success and they need to be partners with public education in the discussion of early learning pedagogy and transition to school.

Mr. Hall then briefly outlined his responsibilities for managing the above groups, as well as the Transition to School programs outside of those managed by FACE; the Early Learning Centre Project at Saint John the Baptist/King Edward; the early Childhood Services website, data collection and interpretation and overall, the integration of early childhood into public education. Mr. Hall’s key message is that when you think about education and learning, think birth to high school graduation.

The complete power point presentation is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Hall for his informative presentation.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1 DEC Policies for Annual Review (Ends Policy #3)

Mrs. Watson reminded Council that ASD-S Ends Policies were identified during our District Education Council Retreat in January 2013 and have been developed over time by ASD-S staff. Ends Policy #3 focuses on strengthening engagement of families and fostering community partnerships. Mrs. Watson then went on to introduce Erica Lane, Community Engagement Coordinator for Anglophone South and Neil Martell, Technology Mentor from the Hampton Education Centre who were in attendance to review current strategies that support this policy.

Ends Policy #3: “to strengthen engagement of families and foster community partnerships.”

The main strategies under this policy include:

- Providing a variety of communication strategies and social media to strengthen connections with family and community.
- Fostering community partnerships.
- Providing opportunities for students to participate in real-world citizenship building activities and work toward creating a global community.

Mrs. Lane and Mr. Martell outlined a number of strategies being used to strengthen engagement of families and foster community partnerships including: the development of a District website under the direction of Mark Bates; the weekly distribution of the Southern Exposure Newsletter; the Versatrans system for transportation (which is now being updated to include all three education centres in one system); the use of E-Link and twitter to communicate late buses, delays and storm closures. The Superintendent also tweets special events and CELEBRATE items and some of our schools have a twitter account as well. Schools are discouraged from having Facebook accounts.

Mr. Martell explained to Council that a basic checklist has been developed and shared with schools on essential communication components for their individual school websites. He advised that communication is being improved through online access to newsletters, Synervoice, PSSC news, events and announcements. There has been a key person identified at each school to maintain their website and there is on-going support from the District by way of mentor training and support. These mentors have presented classroom options of using one communication tool for ease of use for all parental communications. They will be encouraging consistency within the schools (ie using Weebly, Edline, Wiki, blogs, etc).

Mrs. Lane spoke about her role in Community Engagement. She presented at last October’s PSSC/Student Forum and has followed up with schools and is available to all schools; she encourages all schools to share their news and initiatives. She advised that ASD-S now has an updated Volunteer Policy that was developed from a review of the policies from the three former districts. Mrs. Watson spoke about the work on Integrated Service Delivery linkages with Community Partners and explained that the St. Stephen Education Centre has participated fully in the ISD demonstration from

2011-14. This program includes a website linking community services for students. Discussions are now underway for a full roll out to Anglophone South for September 2015 and Mary Ann Mackay has recently been appointed to a 2 year term as the Regional Coordinator for this expansion.

Mrs. Lane went on to explain that Citizenship Education plays an important role in this strategy and Inclusion Facilitator Mark Perry has been assisting in developing this point. Citizenship education gives students a complex understanding of how to give back farther; how important it is to be informed and knowledgeable and participate.

Mrs. Lane advised Council that in order to increase our numbers of International Students, collateral materials have been developed for Homestay Coordinators to help market our International Student Programs at school and community events and that we are building a presence on the ASD-S website to provide information of these programs and on the application process for families interested in hosting international students.

The complete power point presentation is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mrs. Lane and Mr. Martell for their informative presentation.

## **5.2 Executive Limitations Policies #4-9 for Review**

Mrs. Watson advised that she had completed Monitoring Reports on policies EL-4 through EL-9 and had posted the documents to the portal for Council to review. She was confident that she was in compliance with all. Mr. Fowler reviewed for Council what constitutes 'compliance' and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Mr. Spires then moved that the Monitoring Reports for EL-4 through EL-9 be approved. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McGill-Pierce. Motion carried.

## **5.3 Summer Improvement Projects Approved for 2014**

Mr. MacDonald briefly reviewed the Summer Improvement Projects for 2014 which had been previously approved by Council. He noted that the dollars were down a bit from last year.

## **5.4 Capital Projects/Summer Improvement Projects 2015-16**

Mr. MacDonald explained that we have been requested to submit our Major Capital Project and Capital Improvement Lists for the fiscal year 2015-16 by May 30, 2014. This is being requested to help improve the capital planning process and may help to alleviate work not being completed by the time students head back to school in the fall as projects can start earlier.

Mr. MacDonald advised that he had met with Facilities staff regarding our submission and had posted the recommended list, which includes Fire Marshall recommendations, on the Portal for Council to review. Mr. MacDonald asked Council for a motion to approve. Mrs. McGill-Pierce put forward a motion that the list be approved for

submission. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Spires were opposed to the motion.

Mr. MacDonald advised that many are health and safety issues and therefore a priority to be addressed. Mrs. Watson explained that these items were identified through consultation with the Education Centres and Principals. Mr. Boudreau went on to suggest that we need a 'matrix' in order to properly determine our priorities. Mrs. Watson clarified that we had talked about a weighting system/rubric with the Department in previous submissions, and that it can be expressed in the submission letter again this year.

Mr. Boudreau requested that in the future more description be added on what each of these jobs entails. Mr. Fowler advised that Mr. MacDonald would be able to provide this information.

Mr. MacDonald also advised Council that we need to re-affirm our original submission (last fall) of our three priority construction projects as per the document posted on the Portal for members to review.

1. Continuation of the planning and construction of the new K-5 school in Quispamsis
2. New school for Lower West Side
3. New K-5 school for Grand Bay

Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt that this list be forwarded on to the Department and was seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion carried. Mr. Boudreau opposed the motion.

## **6. Information Items**

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

Mrs. Watson reported that this week there is an International Symposium on Classroom Assessment and Assessment for Learning in Fredericton. Suzanne LeBlanc (Literacy Coordinator Saint John Education Centre) and Mrs. Watson are attending sessions Tuesday evening onward and on Friday evening/Saturday, 25-30 teachers/administrators/and Centre staff will also attend. As well, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, a team of students, administrators, Centre staff and Mr. Crossman will be attending a session sponsored by the Canadian Education Association in Fredericton. There will also be 4 high school students representing ASD-S.

At the end of April, Mrs. Watson, Debbie Thomas (Senior Education Officer, Saint John) and Mr. Spires will attend the Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law and Education conference in Prince Edward Island.

Mrs. Watson advised that on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, Fundy High School will host the Regional Elementary Drama Festival. This will be a 2 day event with 500 enthusiastic elementary children from nine schools in the St. Stephen and Hampton

Centres participating. As well, Saturday, April 12 will be the Provincial Chess Tournament at Kennebecasis Valley High School. ASD-S had three successful tournaments by Centre.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that there will be a Regional Science Fair at UNBSJ on April 16 featuring 80 projects and 100 students from 23 middle and high schools.

Mrs. Watson reminded Council of the many wonderful drama productions taking place in three of the high schools this week – Kennebecasis Valley High School opened last evening with “Wedding Singer,” Rothesay High School opening tonight with a student-led production of “Music Man,” and Simonds High tonight as well with “GREASE.” She reported that she had attended a number of these productions and they are very well done.

Mrs. Watson was happy to report that Harbour View High School, who had recently received an Art Smarts Grant, chose to invite local artist Bob Morgan to work with the school on a novel study and student production of art work. The end result was a beautiful book that was published and presented to Mrs. Watson as a gift. The book features the artwork the students produced and was exceptionally well done.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that this is National Volunteer Week and a great opportunity to CELEBRATE and say thank you to the many volunteers in our District – those who are part of Home and School, PSSC and DEC, those who help with breakfast and lunch programs, fundraising, volunteer readers, student mentors, those who work with Co-Op Education students in high schools, coaches, drivers and many more. As well, School Reviews continue at Sussex High, Deer Island and Harry Miller Middle School.

Mrs. Watson noted that April 17, 2014 would be our next provincial Professional Learning Day for educators and Education Assistants. This would include a provincial module in the morning called “Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, (PBIS)” with a guide and morning activities. PBIS has been a pilot at Fundy High, Belleisle Regional, St. Malachy’s and Simonds High School this year through support from ASD-S and EECED. In the afternoon there are several suggested topics – UDL (Universal Design for Learning), anti-bullying initiatives, a focus on a strategy from the School or District Improvement Plan, or an opportunity to work with the school Education Support Services team on some of the information from modules they have participated in this year.

Mrs. Watson also wanted Council to know that this Saturday there will be several administrative positions advertised in detail on the ASD-S website and a shorter version in the Telegraph Journal. There are also Subject Coordinator opportunities open as well. There have been 4 principal retirement notices received to date; others are in acting roles and the positions must now be posted.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that the anti-bullying brochure “Together, anything is possible!” had been sent home to all parents with their child’s report cards. A copy of the brochure has been provided to each member with their meeting materials tonight.

Mr. Campbell asked Mrs. Watson if there had been any thoughts about cancelling the April 17 PD session due to the number of storm closure days. Mrs. Watson advised that it was discussed by the Department, but the decision was to proceed.

Mrs. Gunter suggested that with so much missed time, perhaps school work could be posted on line for students to do catch up when storm days happen. The Superintendent assured Council that all are concerned about the time missed and schools are having discussions about maximizing instruction time.

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

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that the Spring Symposium was being held May 23-25 this year in the Miramichi. He advised that our registrations need to be in to Stacey Brown by April 15<sup>th</sup>. He also advised that to date, 2 PSSC members had signed up to attend and he encouraged members to let their PSSC know that we can take up to 6 PSSC at no cost to them.

## **6.3 Correspondence**

None

## **6.4 Members Notebook**

Mr. Cullinan advised that he would like a more detailed explanation of PISA to understand why we are doing so poorly. He suggested that maybe this could happen during the 2014-15 school year.

Mr. Boudreau extended his congratulations to Mrs. Watson on her handling of the many snow days we have endured this year. He also suggested that he would like to have someone from Fredericton meet with DEC to discuss Curriculum at some time in the future.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce enquired about the PSSC fall training session and Mr. Fowler advised that this happens every year and that the previous format worked very well. He recommended that we begin planning for it now.

Mr. Fowler also advised Council that it was too late in the year for presentations to DEC by individual high schools and that we would revisit in September/October.



**7. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at Quispamsis Middle School, Quispamsis, on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary