

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – May 11, 2016**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Rob Fowler, Wayne Spires, Roger Nesbitt, Stephen Campbell, Charlotte McGill-Pierce, Gerry Mabey, Larry Boudreau, Don Cullinan, Bob McDevitt

**Regrets:** Kerry Olinskie, Sherman Ross, Joanne Gunter

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Suzanne LeBlanc Healey, Director Curriculum & Instruction; John MacDonald, Director Finance & Administration and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Fowler welcomed incoming DEC members who were in attendance and advised that there will be an orientation session in Fredericton in June. More details to follow.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

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

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the April 13, 2016 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. Mr. Mabey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

None

### **3. Business Arising**

#### **3.1 Capital Projects & Summer Improvement Projects 2017-18**

Mrs. Watson advised that following the April meeting, more details were added for clarity to the list of projects and it was re-posted on the portal. She advised that the final approved list would need to be submitted by the end of May to EECD.

Question was raised about the priorities and it was confirmed that projects are listed in priority order, with the most important ones being at the top of the list. It was noted that we do not expect to receive funding for the complete list.

Motion to approve the list as presented was made by Don Cullinan and seconded by Stephen Campbell. Motion carried. Mr. Boudreau opposed the motion.

### **4. New Business**

#### **4.1 Executive Limitation Policies #10-12**

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to the Executive Limitation policies #10-12 that were posted on the portal for Council to review. The Monitoring Reports submitted by the Superintendent show compliance with these policies. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Spires moved that these policies be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion carried.

#### **4.2 District Multi-Year School Infrastructure Status**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the document and the information contained in it; highlighting the functional capacity and enrolment numbers as triggers for a Policy 409 review (under 30% functional capacity or less than 100 students). He noted that the status reviews included three sample reports, one school from each Education Centre. He advised that this information is available for all 72 schools in the District. Mr. MacDonald will post the information for all schools to the portal.

Question was asked if these reports included any feedback directly from the schools. Mr. MacDonald advised that there was a section for Principal comments, but not all filled them out.

### **5. Information Items**

#### **5.1 Superintendent's Report and Updates**

Mrs. Watson advised that this week is ALLERGY AWARENESS Week in the District. Many schools have had volunteers from the Sweet Caroline Foundation visit to give students training on use of the epi-pen and allerject device. Over the last four years we have lost

three students as a result of allergic reactions, so it is a topic of great importance. We thank members of the Foundation for their support, and teacher Lindsay Savoie, for offering to facilitate assemblies for students following their training. Today is Purple Day in our District in support of Allergy Awareness. Our facilities are peanut/nut and scent free.

We welcomed Dr. Ann Marie Churchill from Newfoundland back to ASD-S – she addressed teachers last August on mental health. Dr. Churchill is a mental health consultant specializing in psychological resilience and mental health promotion. On April 25<sup>th</sup> she presented the “Fun Friends” program to a group of kindergarten teachers and hosted a group of 60 parents and family members that evening. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, she met with a group of 55 middle school administrators, guidance and District staff on mental health and teens. At all sessions she spoke of the importance of attachment for students – she cited it as the number one factor in predicting well-being. Students need to feel they belong in our schools and that someone cares.

The Canadian Association of School Principals Conference “Tides of Change Oceans of Opportunity” is taking place in Saint John next week; Mrs. Watson will bring greetings to the over 200 representatives attending this national conference.

Mrs. Watson advised that she attended the annual CAPSLE conference at the beginning of May. Sessions were on the legal aspects involved in education and included sessions on mental health, bullying, social media, etc. She will also attend a conference in Moncton with Gary Hall, Director of Early Childhood Services, on early childhood.

She advised that Principals met today and enjoyed a three hour presentation from the Privacy Commissioner, Ann Bertrand, on RTIPPA. It was an excellent presentation.

Mrs. Watson updated Council on administrator positions that have recently been awarded. She announced that Johanne Austin, our FI Subject Coordinator has now been seconded to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as a FI Learning Specialist working on curriculum for the remainder of this year and all of next year. Johanne’s position will be posted for next school year. As well, teacher fte positions for leads/mentors are now moving ahead. She noted that ISD positions for Resource and Guidance were filled last month and will be ready to go for this fall. Their training begins next week.

Mrs. Watson mentioned that she is working with the Department to confirm a date for the official opening for Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary School. The original opening had been cancelled in March due to a snow storm.

Mrs. Watson advised Council that she has been hosting ‘Fireside Chats’ with mixed groups of Principals for feedback on what is going well in the District, and what they see that could be improved. Two sessions were held to date, and she is hoping for one more before the school year ends.

Mrs. Watson reminded Council of the many special events taking place across the District this time of the year, including, Heritage Fairs, musicals, drama productions, “Write Stuff”, and the Turnaround Achievement Awards ceremonies that will be starting next week. She encouraged all to attend.

On Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Watson will attend the annual “Turning Points” ceremony at St. Thomas University where several ASD-S students will be honored. This is a program for middle and high school students organized by The Learning Partnership – students submit a piece of writing describing a turning point in their lives.

On Thursday and Friday of this week ASD-S will host provincial meetings of the NB School Superintendents Association and the provincial Education Group, and on Saturday the provincial DEC Chairs and Superintendents will meet with the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for our Minister’s Forum.

Question was asked with regard to the number of retirements in the District this year. Mrs. Watson advised that to date, 42 teachers will be retiring and a total of 90 employees across ASD-S.

Mr. Campbell noted that he had heard fantastic reviews on the PD session with Dr. Ann Marie Churchill.

## **5.2 Chairperson’s Report and Updates**

Mr. Fowler reminded Council about the upcoming Turnaround Achievement Awards taking place in the District and advised that he would be bringing closing remarks at the event in Saint John. He will also be attending the teacher retirement event at Lily Lake on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Minister’s Forum will be held in Saint John this weekend and will include a meeting of the DEC Chairs with the Minister on Friday night and a tour of the Bee Me Kidz program on Saturday at Beaconsfield School with the Minister and Superintendents.

Orientation session for new DEC members will be held the weekend of June 10 & 11. There will be a dinner on Friday evening for members/spouses who are leaving. More information will be forthcoming from Stacey Brown, DEC Manager.

The next meeting of the high school PSSC Mental Health Committee is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> at District Office. Key people will be doing presentations to start the planning process for the fall.

Mr. Fowler advised that with the election behind us, we have one vacant seat in Sub-district 12 (Grand Manan, Deer Island, Campobello areas). We will be publishing an ad in the St. Croix Courier for expressions of interest to fill this seat. Three names will be chosen and sent to the Minister who will make the appointment. He suggested that if anyone knows someone who might be interested, to please encourage them to come forward.

## **5.3 Correspondence**

None; all correspondence posted on the portal for Council’s information. Mr. Fowler highlighted that we had received a letter from the Minister confirming the new name for Fundy High School and read the letter. The new name will be Fundy Middle and High School. Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Boudreau and his committee for their work.

#### **5.4 Members Notebook**

Mr. Mabey reminded Council of an upcoming session on Mental Health tomorrow at St. Rose at 6:30 pm (Project ROAR). He also noted the Soap Box Derby will be held on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> on Cranston Avenue in front of Princess Elizabeth School.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at 490 Woodward Avenue on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary