

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – February 10, 2016**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, February 10, 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, Joanne Gunter, Bob McDevitt and Don Cullinan.

**Regrets:** Kerrie Olinskie, Gerry Mabey, Larry Boudreau, Sherman Ross

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Debbie Thomas, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre; Kate McLellan, Director Education Support Services and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Fowler passed on regrets for Mr. Olinskie, Mr. Mabey, Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Ross. Mr. Fowler welcomed members of the general public.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

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

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Nesbitt moved that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Spires seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.3 Public Comment**

Ian Hutchison, PSSC Chair for St. Martins School addressed Council. He thanked members for the opportunity for a second meeting at the school and suggested that if anyone had any questions, to please ask. He stated that K-8 is important to the community and the younger children attending the school.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Hutchison for his comments.

## **3. Business Arising**

### **3.1 Policy 409 Grade Reconfiguration Review & Motion: St. Martins School**

Mr. Fowler read into the record the summary document of the meetings that were held at St. Martins School during the consultation process. The summary document is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

After the summary document was read into the record, Mr. Fowler asked for a motion on St. Martins School. Mr. Cullinan moved that Council direct the Superintendent to inform Minister Rousselle that Council accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to reconfigure St. Martins School from a K-8 school to a K-5 school, and middle school students attend Bayside Middle School effective September, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Spires.

Mr. Fowler then asked for any questions or comments on the motion. Mr. McDevitt stated he had given thought to it, and that he is all for the middle school experience; however, these students would not be able to be involved in after school activities due to long bus times. He advised that he was not in support of the reconfiguration.

Mrs. Gunter agreed with Mr. McDevitt. She stated that St. Martins is a wonderful community and parents deserve to have their children in their community. She stated that the bus times are too long, and in the winter, even longer. She advised that she was not in support of the reconfiguration.

Mr. Campbell agreed with both Mrs. Gunter and Mr. McDevitt. He stated that these students were not missing out on anything and that he could not support the reconfiguration.

Mr. Spires stated that all students deserve the best education the DEC can afford. He stated that middle school has certain criteria in order for students to receive the full benefit of being in grades 6, 7 & 8 - to develop and get ready for high school. He believes that the grade 6-8 students at St. Martins do not receive the full middle school experience and that they are being short changed. He has seen the middle school experience – seen the changes (maturing) in grade 9 students. He does not believe this will happen in St. Martins. He stated they will receive a good program, the teachers in St. Martins are excellent, but not the full middle school experience. He will support the reconfiguration to ensure all students have the full middle school experience.

Mrs. McGill-Pierce stated that she has children in both elementary and middle school. She noted that children have different experiences in middle school – it expands their life skills with full classes of students their own age. It is a different environment in middle school – they mature. She noted that after school experiences are important but the day time classroom experiences are also important. She will support the reconfiguration recommendation.

Mr. Nesbitt advised that he is in support of the reconfiguration.

There being no further questions or comments on the motion, Mr. Fowler asked for a show of hands. Four voted in favour of the motion to reconfigure St. Martins and 3 voted against the motion. Motion carried.

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **4.1 District Report Card**

Mrs. Watson introduced Marc Godin, Supervisor Data & Accountability who was in attendance to provide Council with an update on the District Report Card. She noted that these results will be posted to the website.

Mr. Godin reviewed for Council all assessments that were undertaken during 2014-15 at the different grade levels. This included provincial and international assessments for K-12.

He reported the results of the Provincial Literacy Assessment at the Grade 2 level in Reading which showed that ASD-S had 79.1% of students achieving at the appropriate or above level (successful). This was a drop from 2014 when 81.4% were successful. This compares to a provincial average of 76.9%. All grade 2 students were assessed.

The results of the English Language Proficiency Assessment at the Grade 9 level in Reading showed that 79.6% of our students were successful vs 82.2% in 2014. The provincial average is 78.3%. All grade 9 students were assessed.

The English Language Proficiency Assessment at the Grade 9 level in Writing showed that 91.9% of our students were successful. This is up from 2014 when 89.1% were successful. The provincial average is 90.7%.

The results of the provincial Mathematics Grade 8 assessment showed that 58.4% of our students were successful. This is down from 2014 when 61.9% were successful. The provincial average is 57.7%. It should be noted that this was a 20% sampling of 481 students in ASD-S.

The French Immersion Second Language Oral Proficiency Grade 12 targets are:

- 85% of early French immersion grade 12 students attain an advanced oral proficiency level; and,
- 85% of late French immersion grade 12 students attain an intermediate plus or above oral proficiency level.

Results for ASD-S:

41.6% of our early immersion students met or exceeded the advanced proficiency level and 56.2% of our late immersion students met or exceeded the intermediate plus proficiency level.

Questions asked and answered by Mr. Godin following the presentation included: whether or not there should be an oral proficiency taken in grade 10 for more accurate results; would grade 12 level students be capable of passing exams for French efficiency for a government job; why we assess late and early immersion students differently – they should be assessed the same; and if in grade 12 students are required to take a maintenance program.

Mr. Fowler thanked Marc for his informative presentation.

#### **4.2 ENDS Policy #2 – Positive, safe and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth and staff.**

Mrs. Watson introduced Pam Miller and Monique Hughes, Positive Learning Environment Coordinators for ASD-S. She noted that Monique is new this year to the team.

The development of a District Positive Learning Environment Plan designed to promote, create and maintain a positive, safe and inclusive environment was developed this past fall. It will be used as a spring board for schools who are all required to have their own plan. The District plan is posted on the portal for schools to access.

The introduction and ongoing development of Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model as well as Response to Interventions model through professional learning has led to an opportunity for all Vice Principals to attend a 90 minute workshop with Behaviour Leads; 33 schools applying for \$13,000 in PBIS project funds (17 were successful); a PBIS presentation during Summer Learning Week and at fall Seminar Series; a PBIS Resource Guide for School-based Teams presentation to ESS-R and EES G.

The Behaviour Leads are visiting with schools and supporting the development of school based behavior pyramid of interventions. They are presently collecting data to look at how behavior is being tracked in ASD-S – it was noted that Power School will have a behavior tracking system that is better than what we currently have available in WinSchool. Attendance tracking will be a focus going forward.

It was noted that the TurnAround Achievement Awards have been expanded to include St. Stephen and Saint John and this is a positive event that we CELEBRATE each year.

This will be the third year we honour middle and high school students for turning their life around.

ASD-S response to safe use of the internet has included resources being made available to schools including “Kids in the Know” for grade 3 and 4, as well as links to resources for grades 5 to 12. Internet Safety Week is being promoted February 8-12. The Saint John Theatre Company will present 18 performances of the production “FallOut” in our high schools. This is a performance about cyberbullying and the lifelong effects on three different woman.

The development of an Emergency Measures team has been completed and the District plan has been updated. The District also collects hard and electronic copies of all schools’ EMO plans.

EECD have recently developed guidelines for “Lockdowns & Hold & Secure” procedures. ASD-S will meet with local and municipal police and RCMP detachments to ensure a common understanding of these guidelines. This document has been reviewed with all Principals and will be reviewed with all Vice Principals.

The District added two new questions to the “Tell Them From Me” survey in the fall of 2015. The results showed that 65% of grade 6 – 12 students feel connected to at least one adult in their school and 83% felt that attending school every day is important. At the elementary level, 87% felt that someone at their school would help them if they felt sad or worried and 95% felt that attending school every day is important.

Work on the new DEC policy, ENDS #5 has begun. The policy has been shared with all principals and vice principals will receive it at their meeting next week. Mrs. Watson has canvassed middle and high schools to ask if they currently have a GSA within their school. There will be a meeting of teacher advisors and those who are interested from schools with no GSA. K-12 resources have been purchased from Canadian Teachers’ Federation. Funds from EECD (\$10,000) will be used to host a March 18<sup>th</sup> sharing session of middle and high school teachers.

Attendance Matters presentations within ASD-S communities are on-going and District staff are speaking to municipal councils to get the word out. There is on-going sharing at Principals’ meetings to keep the initiative alive and parent focus groups by Centre.

Mr. Fowler thanked Pam and Monique for their informative presentation.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Update on Naming Committee – Fundy High School**

Mr. Boudreau, Chair of the Naming Committee for Fundy High School was unable to attend Council this evening and his report will be deferred to the March, 2016 meeting.

## **5.2 Candidate Sessions**

Mr. Fowler advised Council that DEC Manager Stacey Brown would be running three sessions across ASD-S for prospective Council members to ask questions about the roles and responsibilities of the DEC in time for the May 9<sup>th</sup> elections. There will also be print ads. Emails have gone out to all PSSC Chairs and Principals with this information. Sessions are as follows:

- Thursday, February 18 - 6 – 8 pm at Hampton High School Learning Commons
- Thursday, February 25 – 6 – 8 pm at the Saint John Education Centre, 490 Woodward Avenue in the Donaldson Room
- Wednesday, March 2 – 6 – 8 pm at St. Stephen High School Theatre

All DEC members are welcome to attend.

## **5.3 & 5.4 Council-Staff Relationship Policies #4-6; Executive Limitations #1-3**

Mr. Fowler asked if there were any questions or concerns with regard to the Council Staff Relationship policies and/or the Executive Limitation policies that had been posted on the portal for Council to review. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. McDevitt moved that these policies be approved as presented. Seconded by Mrs. McGill-Pierce. Motion carried.

## **6. Information Items**

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

Mrs. Watson advised that the expansion of ISD to the Saint John and Hampton Education Centres has been announced. This is good news for ASD-S.

Mrs. Watson updated Council on the Syrian refugee families in our District. She stated that we currently have 43 students at the Learning Centre at Prince Charles School and on Monday there will be an additional 11 students arriving. This number could rise to 70 by the March Break. We have 2 full time teachers and 2 tutors and EAL Mentor Jeff Matheson. We will be adding one casual EA and one more teacher. There are four children who will soon be transitioning to high school half-days. They will receive tutoring and begin with one class each day.

The Learning Centre is in the process of identifying those who could begin K-8 (Prince Charles, Princess Elizabeth, Hazen White St. Francis or St. John the Baptist King Edward). These will be age appropriate placements as students are lacking English language skills. Schools are collecting all kinds of items that these students will require.

Many activities taking place throughout the District including a Wellness Night at Fairvale Elementary School; Simonds High School Wetlands Day; Harbour View High School being awarded \$14,900 from Best Buy to support Technology in their school; Canada's Outstanding Principals named – Christine Roy (Saint John the Baptist King Edward) and

Patrick Laskey (Bayside Middle School). These principals will be heading to Toronto for a week of training and a Gala Awards event in late February.

Mrs. Watson noted that the awareness campaign for “Attendance Matters” continues as it is rolled out within the community. Presentations are being made to local Councils across the District and have included St. Andrews, Rothesay, Grand Bay-Westfield and Quispamsis. Similar presentations are planned for St. Stephen, St. George and Saint John in March. Two parent forums have also taken place.

Staff Appreciation week is next week and all staff will be recognized for their hard work and dedication to many schools and students. This week is Safe Internet Week and all schools have been encouraged to promote this initiative. Schools have received a packet of Internet Safety/Digital Citizenship materials.

Mrs. Watson reported on a question that arose at our previous Council session with regard to life jackets on the Deer Island ferry. Mrs. Watson confirmed that there are sufficient life jackets and life saving equipment aboard all Coastal Transport ferries as legislated by Transport Canada. Passengers are not required to supply their own life jackets regardless of what vehicle they are travelling in. The ferry crews are well trained in emergency situations and carry out drills regularly.

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

Mr. Fowler advised that he was in Fredericton last week for the Budget Lock In (locked in a room from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm – no cell phones allowed) until the budget was officially presented at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Fowler reminded Council that last fall, the Council of DEC Chairs met with the NBTA Executive and decided to convene a meeting in the new year to review how Policy 322 has been implemented and how it is working in the classroom. He and Gerry Mabey attended this meeting on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> with Lori Wall, Principal at Sussex Regional High School (former Inclusion Manager). This meeting discussed the inclusion policy and how it is working – the reality in our classrooms. Information from this meeting has been posted on the portal. He advised that the NBTA plan to make a motion at their February meeting to ask the province to undertake a formal review of Policy 322 in light of a number of concerns in terms of possibly conflicting statements within the policy, items that are interpreted differently across Districts, and in general application of the policy.

Mr. Fowler asked Council for a motion to provide a letter of support for this request for a provincial review of Policy 322. Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

## **6.3 Correspondence**

Mr. Fowler noted a letter received from the Saint John South End Lions Club with regard to a meeting being held on February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Saint John Baptist Church, 54 Broad Street at 7 pm which was posted on the portal. This meeting is to bring together community based organizations who are interested in working with the Lions Club to assist in serving the needs of the community. This group was instrumental in the upgrading of the kitchen

facilities at Saint John the Baptist King Edward School. District staff will attend and he encouraged Council to attend if they can.

#### **6.4 Members Notebook**

Mrs. McGill-Pierce noted that Fairvale Elementary School would be holding their Cyber Information night this Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **7. 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, March 16, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Rob Fowler, Chair

---

Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary