

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – September 13, 2017**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Rob Fowler, Chair; Roger Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Wayne Spires, Bernie Regenbogen, Dan O'Connor, Linda Sherbo, Justin Tinker, Gerry Mabey, Rob Alexander, Heather Gillis, Larry Boudreau

**Regrets:** Richard Malone

**ASD-S Staff:**

Zoë Watson, Superintendent; Paul Smith, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Derek O'Brien, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre; Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration; and Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**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. Ms. Sherbo moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler referred to the Minutes of the August 23, 2017 meeting and advised that if there were no concerns or questions regarding the Minutes, that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Regenbogen moved that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2.3 Public Comment**

None

## **3. Member's Notebook**

Mr. Regenbogen attended the open house at Princess Elizabeth School where Kings Church again volunteered and provided back packs, clothes, etc. for students. It was a great evening.

Mr. Spires attended the open house events at 3 elementary schools and Sir James Dunn Academy. He will be attending St. Stephen High School's event tomorrow night.

Mr. O'Connor attended Simonds High open house and noted that staff were very appreciative of the upgrades at the school – new bleachers and paint. He also attended Glen Falls and was happy to see they had a lot of volunteers for the PSSC – there was a great deal of interest.

Ms. Sherbo attended open house events in her subdistrict and noted that oral language was a topic, including how to engage children in conversation.

Ms. Gillis has attended 4 open houses in her subdistrict.

Mr. Mabey attended several open houses and encouraged Council to go and see the new school, Seaside Park Elementary. It is a beautiful place to learn.

Mr. Fowler attended 2 events; one at our new Seaside Elementary where there were crowds lined up in the hallways! He also attended the event at Inglewood with about 30 people in attendance.

## **4. Business Arising from Minutes**

### **4.1 PSSC Orientation Sessions**

Mr. Fowler reviewed with Council the suggested dates for the PSSC Orientation sessions by Education Centre. The following dates were agreed upon:

St. Stephen Education Centre – October 4 @ 6:00 pm

Hampton Education Centre – October 24 @ 6:00 pm

Saint John Education Centre – October 25 @ 6:00 pm

Mr. Boudreau asked that these dates be communicated immediately with the schools. Mr. O'Connor suggested a video introduction showcasing the roles of DEC and a mock meeting

would be a good tool to use during these sessions. Mr. Fowler advised that Stacey Brown, DEC Manager, has this on her list to develop.

Council members were asked if they could try and obtain some prizes to give away at the events. Council will cover the costs for supper at each event.

## **5. Presentation**

### **5.1 Syrian Update**

Mr. Fowler welcomed Lynn MacDonald, International Student Coordinator and Susan Pitman, EAL Lead, to the meeting.

Mrs. MacDonald reviewed her statistics on international students within ASD-S (a student who is not born in Canada or born in Canada whose mother tongue is NOT English) as of September 13. She advised that this changes on a daily basis and is only a snapshot in time.

She highlighted the number of newcomer and international students (961) and the number of AEI - Atlantic International Students - (147). There are 191 students who pay tuition to attend school in our district. The number of new students as of September 2017 (including AEI students) is 272. She reported that approximately 500 students are receiving English as an Additional Language tutor support (not including AEI students). The District is now home to 239 Syrian students across 21 different schools. She noted that these students are progressing as expected; however, there is a challenge in trying to develop options at the high school level as students have not had any structure in the past.

Ms. Pitman spoke about the professional learning opportunities for staff throughout the District during the 2016-17 school year and what is planned for 2017-18. She reviewed the resources that they plan to purchase and the value of the resources provided to the District by the YMCA. She noted that these resources are being shared with the schools rather than keeping them all in the Library.

Questions raised by Council included where the majority of international students come from; the summer program for the Syrian students and whether additional interpreters would be required. All were addressed by Ms. MacDonald.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Ernst & Young Report – Central City Schools**

Mr. Fowler reviewed that over the summer months Kevin Doucette from Ernst & Young was asked to review new suggestions that were presented by Council following feedback

gathered during public sessions last year. Mr. Doucette worked through these suggestions and has options to present tonight. Mr. Fowler emphasized these are not “recommendations”, but options, solely based on the parameters we provided for him to explore.

Mr. Doucette began by reviewing in detail how the enrolment projections were determined and the changes that had occurred since the initial report was prepared. He then reviewed the following four scenarios which were provided to him by Council for review:

- **Scenario 1:** Millidgeville North School to be reconfigured to a middle school for the Central Saint John schools (grades 6 – 8). Consider the enrolment projections (600 students), the middle school program and the impact on the building space now used by EECD, ISD and SISTEMA. Additionally, examine the possibility of a school boundary change for the middle school students from Prince Charles and St. John the Baptist/King Edward schools to attend Bayside Middle School (instead of Millidgeville North School).
- **Scenario 2:** The consolidation of Centennial, Hazen White-St. Francis and Princess Elizabeth schools into a new K-5 school to be built on the Princess Elizabeth site or other sites in the area. Consider the enrolment projections in regards to sizing of the new school according to EECD Planning Guidelines for elementary schools. Other considerations for this scenario are to include whether the Princess Elizabeth site is large enough to construct the school and what the potential would be for changing school boundaries to reduce enrolment projections.
- **Scenario 3:** St. John the Baptist/King Edward School is closed, with the students moving to Prince Charles School, it being reconfigured into a K-5 (the middle school students would be included within scenario 1). Additionally, examine a scenario for the consolidation of the two schools into a new K-5 school. The DEC would like to look at the possibility of building the new school on the St. John the Baptist site. Determine if the new school would meet educational specifications.
- **Scenario 4:** M. Gerald Teed School to be expanded from K-2 to a K-5 school. Determine if there is enough space at the school site for an expansion. Consider if the school addition can meet educational specifications and identify areas that are not met. (Note: Early French Immersion is starting at this school in September 2017).
- **Note:** Examine the potential of K-8 schools within the 4 listed scenarios for the Saint John City Centre schools. The long-term infrastructure planning will examine four possible options of combining the four scenarios together into one plan.

Mr. Doucette then reviewed four options that he developed from the above scenarios which are outlined in his presentation to Council and form part of these Minutes.

Following Mr. Doucette’s presentation, the floor was then opened for questions and/or comments. Mr. O’Connor stated that he found no real value in this latest study and felt that it had only muddied the waters. He noted that last year we had established a school population drop of 27% over the last 17 years and now we have a report showing a 30% increase in some populations over the next five years. Mr. Doucette responded that he works to the standard, and worked with the numbers we have available. Mr. Doucette reiterated that these options are all based on what was asked of him by Council.

Mr. Tinker commended Mr. Doucette for his work on the plan and felt that it was a solid report with good numbers. He thanked the public for their feedback stating the DEC now has a decision to make.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Doucette for his efforts to verify the numbers and added that he was bang on and felt he had done phenomenal work. He noted that Mr. Doucette has done work across the province and saved substantial work for staff. Mr. Doucette has provided solid numbers for Council to work with moving forward based on what we heard from the public last year.

Mr. Fowler stated that Council has looked at the alternatives, noting that the 7 schools are a package and cannot be looked at in isolation. This will be a multi-year infrastructure plan. It will be accomplished in multi-phases. As a follow up to Council's review of the alternatives available, it was suggested that first we look at the south end schools and undertake sustainability studies at St. John the Baptist/King Edward and Prince Charles with the construction of a new K-8 school. Mr. Fowler noted that he had preliminary meetings with the City of Saint John and the Province and they were very positive. He reminded Council that we do not have any say over where a new school might be built; however, after meeting with the City, he felt that there may be enough land in the south end (6+ acres) and Council would recommend to the province that it be built in the area of the two schools. He advised that phase two will be discussed at a future date by Council and announced at the appropriate time.

Mr. Spires moved that we advise the Minister that Council intends to conduct a sustainability study of Prince Charles and St. John the Baptist/King Edward with construction of a new K-8 school as phase one of a multi-phase process. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion.

Mr. O'Connor noted that "all schools" need to be addressed, including M. Gerald Teed and Princess Elizabeth and that he would rather see staff take this away and develop a ten year plan with recommended steps and bring it back to Council.

Ms. Sherbo felt that Council had made progress and that this is a good starting point. What we need to do with the five remaining schools should be addressed sooner than 10 years.

Mr. Regenbogen advised that he felt the project proposed last year was too big – Council listened to the public and now will proceed with smaller steps which will work better. Ms. Gillis stated that Council listened to the unique needs of the neighbourhoods and communities.

There being no further questions, motion carried.

## 6.2 DEC Retreat

Mr. Fowler shared that Council met this past weekend to develop goals for the remainder of their term. Mr. Alex Dingwall facilitated the session and there were good discussions. From this meeting, staff will come back to Council with a more developed plan. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr. Dingwall on behalf of Council.

## 6.3 NBSLA Student Conference

Mrs. Watson reminded Council that the New Brunswick Student Leadership event will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Fredericton. DEC will meet on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, late morning through lunch with the students and there will also be a session after lunch for those who may be able to attend. She advised that the 4 Superintendents cost share the lunch and that we have received a request again this year for Council to cover the cost of one supply day for our teacher advisors attending.

Mr. Spires moved that Council cover the cost of one supply day for ASD-S teachers attending the NBSLA Student Leadership Conference using self-sustaining funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tinker. Motion carried.

Mr. Mabey recommended Council members attend. He stated that ASD-S consistently has the largest number of students attend and it is very encouraging to hear them speak. Mr. Fowler added that we usually have the best DEC representation as well.

Ms. Sherbo asked if we could promote the Legislative Visits Program which is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) **Canada 150 initiative** to support education for citizenship; in particular, an understanding of how the provincial government functions. This was promoted in Southern Exposure today and Mrs. Watson advised that Principals indicate if they are interested or not. Mrs. Watson will have Greg Patterson check on any uptake.

Ms. Sherbo also asked if Council can attend an October 26<sup>th</sup> event at Harbour Station – also a Canada 150 NB initiative – My/Mon NB 150. It will combine the energy and buzz of live events with solutions journalism and student-led storytelling to facilitate and nurture ongoing connections among people of all ages interested in driving change in their communities, organizations and institutions. Mrs. Watson advised that we don't have too many details as yet (funding, how many schools will buy in, etc.) but will update Council at our next meeting.

## 7. Information Items

### 7.1 Superintendent's Report and Update

Mrs. Watson advised that we may see a slight increase in enrolment; however, numbers are unofficial at this time as changes will continue to occur.

This year saw the launch of a new transportation system, “Bus Planner”, and as expected, we had a few hiccups and a number of calls. This system strictly implements the 1.5km rule. Staff will meet to debrief and review the process.

This year we were happy to CELEBRATE the official opening of Seaside Park Elementary School with an enrolment of 466 students (475 had been projected). A special thank you to all of the staff, teachers, custodians and facilities for their hard work given the tight timeline to get everything up and running. During the Open House there were hundreds of people through the new school and on the first day of school, the Premier stopped in for a visit. CBC did a walking tour of the new school and focused on safety features within the new building.

September 20<sup>th</sup> will be the first half-day professional learning session for teachers. Early dismissals will be between 11:00 am - 11:30 am for elementary/middle and 12:30 for high school. We will monitor this and make adjustments if necessary. The school calendar with professional learning dates was posted in June on the ASD-S website and was included in the June report cards.

Open House events are taking place across the District and Council members are encouraged to attend. Mrs. Watson thanked administrators and teachers and all who work to make these events happen for their school communities.

10 Year Education Plan posters have been received from the Department and have been distributed to all elementary schools. Mrs. Watson wanted to acknowledge the work of the Literacy/Numeracy Leads in their work with the K-2s over the past year.

Mr. Boudreau asked whether a bus driver would drive their route prior to school opening. Mrs. Watson responded not necessarily. She advised that new drivers would have time with their bus coach and sometimes there are meetings with special needs drivers.

Ms. Sherbo noted that she had read about literacy and numeracy assessments in Southern Exposure and asked if it can be specified what is happening at the middle and high school levels. Mrs. Watson noted that Council heard from staff last year through their ENDS #1 presentation which was on literacy and numeracy initiatives.

## **7.2 Chair’s Report and Update**

Mr. Fowler advised Council that self-sustaining funds are monies the District receives from tuition paid by foreign/international students, cafeteria, rentals, etc. Prior to amalgamation, each district had their own funds; monies are now all in a common pot for ASD-S.

These funds belong to the District – not the province. Mr. Fowler has received assurances that the province will not look to these funds in order to balance budget shortfalls.

Motion was made by Mr. Nesbitt to delegate the spending authority of self-sustaining funds to the Superintendent and that she report annually to the DEC on the fund. Seconded by Mr. Regenbogen. Motion carried.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

None; all correspondence posted on the portal for Council's information.

### **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held at Seaside Park Elementary School on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chair

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Clare Murphy, Recording Secretary