

## **Minutes of Meeting – August 15, 2012**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 in the upper conference room of the Office of the Superintendent, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

### **Council Members:**

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

### **ASD-S Staff:**

Zoe Watson, Derek O'Brien, Kate McLellan, Stewart Stanger, Jenny MacDougall, Debbie Thomas, Paul Smith

Absent: Mark Fisher

The media was present.

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

Zoe Watson Superintendent called to order the first public meeting of the new DEC. Ms. Watson welcomed members of the media and introduced the Directors and Management Team.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. Watson reviewed the Agenda with Council and advised that if there were no questions regarding the Agenda that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved, as presented. Mr. Boudreau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **3. New Business**

#### ***3.1 Selection of Chair / Vice Chair / Term of Office***

Ms. Watson advised Council that the first order of business would be the selection of a Chair & Vice-Chair and to reach a consensus regarding the length of term of office. This meeting also provided Council members the opportunity to express their interest or to put forward a nomination for both positions. Ms. Watson consulted with Stacey Brown, the provincial DEC Manager, regarding the voting process in the event that there was a tie. This information was communicated to Council members prior to the vote.

The length of term for both the Chair and the Vice-Chair was discussed and many members expressed their thoughts on a two versus four year term.

Mr. Spires moved that the length of term of office for both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson be set at four years. Mr. Boudreau seconded the motion. Ms. Watson asked for a vote, with a show of hands, to approve the motion. Four Council members supported the motion with eight members against. The Motion was defeated.

Mr. Ross moved that the length of term of office for both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson be set at a two year term and that at the end of the two year term, both the Chair and the Vice Chair would have the opportunity to reoffer should they wish. Mr. Mabey seconded the motion. Ms. Watson asked for a vote, with a show of hands, to approve the motion. All twelve Council members were in favour and none opposed. Motion Carried.

Ms. Watson advised Council that voting for the Chair and Vice Chair would be conducted by a secret ballot and that Ms. Vallis, Recording Secretary and Mr. Stanger, Director of Human Resources would count the votes. Mr. Spires advised Ms. Watson that *Roberts Rules of Order* stated that in the event of a tie, Ms. Watson could break the tie. Ms. Watson stated that she would not vote to break a tie because it would be a conflict of interest since she is an employee of the DEC. Mr. Crossman moved that in the event of a tie, Council would continue to vote until a majority vote had been reached. Mr. Boudreau seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Ms. Watson asked for an expression of interest for a two-year term for the position of Chairperson. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Nesbitt put their names forward. After three calls for nominations, Ms. Watson requested that a motion be put forward that nominations cease for Chairperson. Mr. Boudreau moved that all nominations for Chairperson cease. Mr. Cullinan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Both Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Fowler were afforded the opportunity to address Council. After the ballot vote, Ms. Watson asked Council if everyone had voted and then announced that the polls were closed. After the ballot count, Ms. Watson announced that the newly elected Chairperson was Mr. Fowler.

Mr. Fowler addressed Council and thanked them for their support. Mr. Fowler advised Council that Mr. Nesbitt's experience as a former Chair of District 6 would be of great benefit to this Council moving forward.

As the official Chairperson, Mr. Fowler asked for nominations and expression of interest for a two year term for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Boudreau nominated Mr. Spires who accepted the nomination. Mr. Nesbitt put forward his name for this position.

After three calls for nominations, Mr. Fowler requested that a motion be put forward that nominations cease for Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Campbell moved that all nominations for Chairperson cease. Mr. Cullinan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Both Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Spires were afforded the opportunity to address Council. After the ballot vote, Mr. Fowler asked Council if everyone had voted and then announced that the polls were closed. After the ballot count, Mr. Fowler announced that the newly elected Vice-Chairperson was Mr. Nesbitt.

### ***3.2 Name of District***

Ms. Watson reviewed the Education & Early Childhood Development memo regarding the legal name of the new district. There is a provision in the memo that stated that Council could adopt a local name that reflects the character and culture of the region but that this local name must be used in conjunction with the legal name. Any local name submissions would require a consultation process which could prove quite lengthy. Ms. Watson requested that, in the interest of time, Council make a decision this evening so that the district could move forward with decisions regarding rebranding.

Mr. Nesbitt stated that there were more pressing issues currently on the table at this point in time and that, in the interest of time, Council should move forward. Others agreed but felt that the DEC should speak with other Councils in the province during their meeting in September to see what their decision has been.

Mr. Nesbitt put forward a motion that Council move forward with the district's legal name. Mr. McDevitt seconded it. Motion carried.

### ***3.3 Meeting Schedule and locations***

Ms. Watson reviewed a schedule of Council meetings for the school year 2012-2013 and advised that locations were rotated so that meetings would be held in various parts of the district as per Council's wishes. The September meeting would be held in the Hampton Education Centre.

### ***3.4 Process for DEC Policy Review***

Ms. Watson advised Council that governance policies for the amalgamated district would need to be established and suggested that a sub-committee be formed to look at all policies of former Districts 6, 8 & 10. New policies would need to be drafted and finalized for adoption. Ms. Watson suggested that this subcommittee would be a good learning experience for new members. The following Council members volunteered to sit on the Policy Sub-committee and report back to Council during September's meeting: Mr. Spires, Mr. Boudreau, Mr. Nesbitt, and Mr. McDevitt.

### ***3.5 Annual Agenda Planning Calendar***

Ms. Watson asked Council if they wished to meet with Members of the Legislative Assembly, community partners, students, and members of the Parent School Support Committees. Ms. Watson stated that an annual agenda planning calendar could be prepared and presented to Council.

There was a discussion about new members and ideas included a question and answer for new members or having experienced members share their experiences. Other ideas included the Provincial DEC website or have a new member sit next to a seasoned member during council meetings.

### ***3.6 PSSC Elections***

Ms. Watson informed Council that each school Principal will receive the name of their DEC member along with contact information. Principals will be reminded to invite their DEC member to their open houses and PSSC elections.

### ***3.7 DEC Member for MACTE***

Ms. Watson asked if there were any Council members interested in submitting their name to sit on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Testing and Evaluation (MACTE). This committee examines the provincial literacy and numeracy assessments and is comprised of a variety of partners. The level of commitment is usually two or three meetings per year which are held either via conference call or a meeting in Fredericton. Both Ms. McGill-Pierce and Mr. Boudreau submitted their names for consideration for this committee.

### ***3.8 Major Improvement Projects for Summer 2013***

Ms. Watson stated that the deadline to submit the list of priority projects for summer 2013 would be September 30, 2012. The facilities staff within the three education centers is currently prioritizing this list. Ms. Watson stated that this list would be submitted to Council during September's meeting. Ms. Watson stated that she would provide Council with a status report on the priority items prior to September's meeting and that facilities staff, Craig Jones, Jim Connors and Bob Price would be invited to answer any questions that the DEC may have. The Superintendent will also provide a status update of summer 2012 capital improvement projects.

**Break at 8:30 p.m. – 5 minutes**

## ***4.0 Information Items***

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

Ms. Watson reviewed upcoming events and calendar items. All Principals and Vice-Principals of ASD-S would be meeting on Tuesday and Thursday, during the week of August 20th. On Wednesday, the three Senior Education Officers will be organizing three Education Centre meetings for the Principals and Vice Principals of their respective centres.

On Friday, Derek O'Brien and Paul Smith will be hosting an orientation session for new administrators. The Office of the Superintendent is currently working on back to school advertisements in local newspapers (Sussex Herald, Valley Viewer, Hampton Herald, Wes Tides, and St. Croix Courier). The Information Technology Department is preparing to launch a new website. All employees within the district are aware that the students start on

Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and Principals will utilize talk mail to communicate with parents. School calendars have been sent home and posted on the websites.

Ms. Watson noted that facilities staff, custodial and maintenance staff worked hard all summer long to prepare the schools for the coming school year. She commended them for their hard work and dedication.

Ms. Watson updated Council on the number of meetings with community partners held throughout the summer months; Big Brothers/Big Sisters, YMCA, PALS, Turning Points, el Sistema, BCAPL.

#### ***4.2 Correspondence***

No Correspondence for Council at this time.

#### ***5.0 Adjournment***

Mr. Fowler thanked all staff who were present and attended this evening's Council meeting. The next staff meeting will be held at the Hampton Education Centre, on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Fowler, Chairperson

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Tina Vallis, Recording Secretary