



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Geary Elementary Community School, Geary, NB

Council Members Present:

- Sheila Gallagher – SD 01
- Norma Shaw – SD 02
- John Slipp – SD 03
- Miriam Grant – SD 04
- Andrew Corey – SD 05
- David Bowen – SD 06
- Ron Buck – SD 08
- Jane Buckley – SD 09
- Kimberley Douglas – SD 10 – Vice Chair
- Donald Gould – SD 11
- Elizabeth Nason – SD 12
- Mark Noël – SD 13 - Chair
- Tim Nicholas – First Nations

Council Member Regrets:

- Terry Pond – SD 07

ASD-W Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and DEC Secretary
- Philip Cliff, Facilities Manager
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration
- Daniel Wishart, Acting Transportation Manager
- Karen Morton, Director of Human Resources

Guests:

- Tony Weber, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

I. Call to Order / Comments by the Chair

- The District Education Council (DEC) Chair, Mark Noël called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the public meeting. The meeting began with a presentation by two grade 5 students from the Geary Elementary School about their recent trip to Ottawa in November 2014. These two students were selected to attend a “Keep the Promise 2014” campaign on Parliament Hill about Canadian children living in poverty. A promise was made by Government to eliminate child poverty in Canada but statistics continue to show this concern is on the rise.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- The agenda was approved with a recommendation to move the Bath School Community Group presentation after the Approval of the Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes. With this change, the agenda was approved by consensus.

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- John Slipp requested an update on the previous request he had made on April 23rd public meeting. John’s request was for communication to be made between the district and local farmers regarding the Superintendent’s Monitoring Report ASD-W-ER7 – Potato Harvest Program. The Superintendent reported that at this time, there were no updates available. John Slipp also asked if Tony Weber from The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development would be added to the agenda as he was in attendance. David McTimoney referenced the Fire Safety Report at Woodstock High School as being on the agenda and the reason for Mr. Weber’s attendance tonight.
- David Bowen requested the April 23rd minutes to reference the name of the high school with modular classrooms that is within close proximity of Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School. Leo Hayes High School is the school referenced to be added on page 3, section 7, 2nd bullet. With this change, the minutes were approved by consensus.

IV. Presentation

- The Bath School Community Group presented a power point to the District Education Council called “Doing it Right the First Time”. Handouts were provided by the group; Karen Guest, Scott Oakes and Sean Kilfoil from Bath Elementary School; Rachel Smith from Bath Middle School and Rebecca Derrah from the Step Ahead-Bath Family Learning Centre. This group requested to be placed at the top of the priority lists for the 2016 Major Capital Improvements. In addition to this requests, consideration be given to delaying the move from Bath Elementary School to Bath Middle School due to a lack of space and upcoming construction at Bath Middle School. The Councilors thanked the Bath School Community Group for their presentation, time and travel to Geary Elementary School.

V. Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming

- Two letters from The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Serge Rousselle, were reviewed by Mark Noël. These letters were written in response to the District Education Council’s recommendations to close the Coles Island School and to Consolidate Stanley Elementary and Stanley High Schools. Upon careful review of the

information provided, Minister Serge Rousselle was satisfied that procedural fairness had been followed and he had approved both recommendations.

VI. New Business

- A new Selection Committee was established for the Minister of Excellence in Teaching Awards. This committee will meet to review the nominations and discuss three recommendations for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. Councilors selected for this committee are of Jane Buckley, Andrew Corey and Kimberley Douglass.
- The fire safety at Woodstock High School was discussed by Tony Weber, from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Mr. Weber acknowledged that the fire safety was not up to code at this school following the major renovations and immediate action was needed. Originally the improvement estimate was \$600,000.00, and the District Education Council had agreed to pay \$200,000.00, from the Capital Improvement Budget. In order to bring the fire safety up to code the projected cost was exceeded and a cost of 1M was needed. A mid-life upgrade was also needed for the Fredericton High School and the Geary Elementary Community School became immediate once repairs began to the old structure and mold was discovered. Tony reviewed the impact these three projects would have had on the Capital Improvements Budget; therefore, all three projects were approved and funded through other sources. Councilor David Bowen requested clarification on how these projects were chose. Mr. Weber responded that the Province of New Brunswick prepared a structural review of all schools below a certain age (1980) for mid-life upgrades, and Fredericton High School was selected. Geary was on the list for upgrades but a new building was required once renovations began and Woodstock High School was on the list from a previous government. John Slipp thanked Mr. Weber for his attendance and for overseeing the successful Woodstock High School project.
- John Slipp asked to understand how the new scoring model would affect the Councils recommendations for future Capital Improvement Projects. The new Quadruple Matrix Scoring Module is available for District Education Council to use if so wished, but not recommended as it takes away the autonomy and debate of the Councilors. Jane asked Mr. Weber if the Francophone Schools had the same amount of standards and regulations to follow as the Anglophone Schools. Mr. Weber confirmed that the same process was used for all schools in the Province of New Brunswick with a planning committee that consisted of District Education Council, The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Parent School Support Committee, Staff and Community Members. Councilor Jane Buckley requested to review the specification documents for the new French School being built on the Neill Farms land on the Northside of Fredericton as well as the specifications for the Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School.
- David McTimoney acknowledged his recent phone call from the City of Fredericton (Mr. Forest) offering a population forecast for the city of Fredericton. The Superintendent plans to meet with Mr. Forest this summer and once this information is accessible, David will share this with the District Education Council.
- Provincial Policy 409 was revised this spring by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The revised Policy 409 can be found on the District Education Council Portal. The Superintendent provided a presentation outlining the list of trigger schools identified for Anglophone West School District. Subsection 6.6.2 refers to the timeline for Sustainability Studies has shifted from reporting prior to May 31st to the end of January. Subsection 6.4.1 identifies an enrollment of 100 students or less and a functional capacity of 30% or less as the two triggers. The functional capacity refers to the space occupied which does not include pools, gyms, cafeterias, resources, libraries or work rooms.
- Twelve Schools were identified in our school district as trigger schools; Bath Middle School (recently studied and recommendations were made), Burton Elementary School, Chipman Forest Avenue School, Coles Island School (recently studied and approved for closure), Debec Elementary School (closed), Doaktown Elementary School, Gagetown School, McAdam Avenue Elementary School, McAdam Elementary School, McAdam High School, Millville Elementary School, and Upper Miramichi Elementary School. The Superintendent asked the Council to make a motion to begin a Sustainability Study or request a potential exemption from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- The Superintendent was asked if a school could be studied that was not identified as a trigger school. Confirmation was given that this could happen.

Motion

.....Bath an exemption based on current study, CFAS an exemption based on recent study at Coles Island School, Coles Island School an exemption based on recent study, Debec Elementary School based on a recent closure, Doaktown Elementary an exemption based on location and previous understanding, Gagetown School an exemption based on recent closure of Browns Flat and enrollment, McAdam Avenue Elementary School an exemption based on no place to send students at this time, Upper Miramichi Elementary School an exemption based on the same reason as Doaktown Elementary School. This motion is based on the information provided in the Superintendent's presentation and is for a one year period.

Moved: Jane Buckley

Seconded: Kimberley Douglass

Motion Carried

- Andrew Corey suggested that the motion be amended to read:

Amended Motion

.....the McAdam High School is added to the list of schools for exemption.

Moved: Andrew Corey

Seconded: Norma Shaw

Motion Carried

- The Superintendent agreed to prepare a letter, on behalf of the District Education Council, to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development identifying the schools listed in the motion for exemptions based on the information provided in his presentation. Minister Rousselle will then need to decide if he is in agreement with the District Education Council's motion. The letter will describe the request in greater detail.
- Jane continued with the Sustainability Study discussion to study the Millville Elementary School that has a population of approximately 40 students. The Superintendent was asked to provide information on the geographical area and the impact on busing if the school was studied and recommendations were made for close. David responded that the Millville Elementary School is located in a geographical area close to the Village of Nackawic. The distance of the three Nackawic Schools are an approximate distance of 500 yards between each other. The Millville Elementary School is approximately 15 minutes away from the Nackawic Schools. Daniel Wishart, Acting Transportation Manager confirmed that the longest bus ride would be approximate 75 minute from the Millville School zone to a Nackawic School. John Slipp announced that the Millville school had been previously studied and the Minister at that time overturned the recommendation.

Motion

.....to study Millville Elementary School and the three schools in Nackawic (Nackawic Elementary, Nackawic Middle and Nackawic High) as a cluster.

Moved: Jane Buckley

Seconded: John Slipp

Motion Carried

- John Slipp asked if we could group schools, such as Upper Miramichi with Doaktown and the Millville School with Nackawic Schools. Ron suggested that there are schools that are identified on the trigger list of schools but that they could be grouped, if so, he would support that motion. The Superintendent confirmed that a group of schools could be studied that were not on the list. Elizabeth Nason asked if there was an enrollment factor for the Burton Elementary School as the school could not sustain 100 students. Councilors felt that this would be determined during the sustainability study. Ron Buck then moved the next Motion to consider the Burton Elementary School based on enrollment and other schools within close proximity.

Motion

.....to consider the Burton Elementary School for a sustainability study based on their enrollment and other schools located within a close proximity.

Moved: Ron Buck

Seconded: Jane Buckley

Motion Defeated

- Elizabeth Nason provided information on the previous study that had been done on the Burton Elementary School and that a decision was made for this school to remain status quo. Burton Elementary can only house 63 students and they are at a functional capacity of 93%. The Superintendent was asked if another school would be able to accommodate these students and he responded that there are 4 elementary schools (Assiniboine Avenue K-2, Gesner Street K-2, Hubbard Avenue grades 3-5, Summerhill Street grades 3-5) in the Town of Oromocto. There is capacity to house the Burton students.

- A show of hands were asked for this motion, the Chair identified the vote to be a tie vote, with the Chair voting to break the tie with his vote to not study the Burton Elementary School. A request was made to re-count the vote, the Chair denied this requests.

Motion

.....I move that the Burton Elementary School be added to the exemption lists.

Moved: John Slipp

Seconded: Elizabeth Nason

Motion Carried

Motion

.....I move to conduct a sustainability study on McAdam Elementary School

Moved: Kimberley Douglass

Seconded: Jane Buckley

Motion Carried

- The Superintendent confirmed that if the McAdam Elementary School were to be studied, then one of three recommendations would need to happen; to maintain status quo, a request to the Minister to repair the building or a request to the Minister to move the students to another location. With a logical location of McAdam High School, making that school a K-12 school. A recommendation could also be made to move the students to Harvey Elementary School or Vanceboro, Maine. Vanceboro would not be a logical solution.

VII. Superintendent's Report

- **ASD-W-EL3 – Employment, Compensation, and Benefits** – the Superintendent presented a report called **ASD-W-EL3 – Employment, Compensation, and Benefits** as per the Annual Planning Cycle. This report is also posted publically on the ASD-W website. ASD-W employs 2962 permanent Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees as of Sept 30, 2014. We are the 2nd largest employer in the Province with respect to staff with 24 various bargaining and non-bargaining groups in the Province. Benefits are provided such as sick leave, vacation leave maternity leave, pensions, as per collective agreements. Our Human Resources Department with Karen Morton as Director, all work very hard to ensure agreements are followed, competitions are posted, and personnel issues are supported and addressed. David reported that ASD-W Family Assistance Program had changed to a new provider called In-confidence. This new support is in place for staff in our system. David reported that there are 8 outstanding grievances in ASD-W at the current time.
- **ASD-W-EL5 – Asset Protection** – the Superintendent presented a report called **ASD-W-EL5 – Asset Protection** as per the Annual Planning Cycle. This report is also posted publically on the ASD-W website. The Superintendent identified Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration as providing his expertise with this report where Human Resources, Money, Building and Transportation are reported on. Individuals are expected to show proper care and regard for the property of the Crown, utilizing resources for the purpose of carrying out ASD-W business.
- **Major Capital Construction and Capital Improvement Projects** were reviewed and a presentation was provided by David McTimoney. ASD-W currently has 74 schools with Woodstock Middle School (closing), Coles Island School (closing) and the recent approval to combine the two Stanley Schools to make our school count to 71. Historical data on school buildings and enrollment was presented with some schools dating back to the 1920's and enrollment now with 23,000 students. The cost per square meter was identified for each school in ASD-W and a detailed school by school report was provided by our Facilities Manager, Philip Cliff. Policy 409 states that a submission of projects be given to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The 2016-2017 Major Capital Construction ideas were identified as Leo Hayes High School study, Bath Middle School expansion, Oromocto High School mid-life upgrade and the Connaught Street School mid-life upgrade. A list of Capital Improvement Projects was provided with approximately 450 projects identified for all schools within ASD-W.

Motion

.....that we submit a Major Capital list with Bath as #1, LHHS as #2, and OHS as #3.

Moved: John Slipp

Seconded: Norma Shaw

Motion Carried

Amended Motion

.....to add Connaught Street School as #4 on the Major Capital lists.

Moved: David Bowen

Seconded: Elizabeth Nason

Motion Carried

- A discussion followed about the Leo Hayes High School with 8 modular classrooms to accommodate the number of students attending this school. In addition, there is no additional space on the property to house additional modular classrooms.
- A discussion followed about schools identified on the Trigger List that are also included on the Capital Improvement Lists. There is a potential of one school that may get funded.

Motion

....adopt this list (Capital Improvement Lists) as presented.

Moved: Jane Buckley

Seconded: Ron Buck

Motion Carried

Motion

..... to move ASD-W-ER2 and ASD-W-EL5 move to June 2015 Public Meeting.

Moved: John Slipp

Seconded: Sheila Gallagher

Motion Carried

Move

..... to move ASD-W-GP10 to June 2015 public meeting.

Moved: Miriam Grant

Seconded: John Slipp

Motion Carried

VIII. Committee Reports

- David Bowen requested to form a new committee for the potato harvest. Sheila and Norma volunteered to be a part of this committee. A suggestion was made for an ASD-W staff member and local farmers to also be a part of this committee.

Motion

.....to form a committee for the potato harvest to assist with the decline of enrollment.

Moved: David Bowen

Seconded: John Slipp

Motion Carried

IX. Public Comment

- Bath representatives requested to delay the move date for the Bath Elementary students to the Bath Middle school. The Superintendent explained that the Sustainability Study process had ended with the District Education Council recommendations submitted to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. We now await the response from Minister Rousselle.
- It was asked if during the Millville School Sustainability Study and the three Nackawic school cluster, is there any risks of the Nackawic schools being shut down? David McTimoney confirmed that all four schools would be studied and all four schools would fall into the school closure, financial investment or remain status quo would apply to all these schools. It was asked if school boundaries would be re-visited as several Keswick students attend Leo Hayes High School. If so, they should be zoned for the Nackawic Schools. The Superintendent confirmed that boundaries are something that is on our radar to look at.

X. Private Session

Motion

..... to move into a private session.

Moved: Ron Buck

Seconded: John Slipp

Motion Carried

Motion

..... to move back into session.

Moved: Ron Buck

Seconded: Kim Douglass

Motion Carried

- Mark Noël, Chair announced that a motion was passed during the private session to renew the Superintendent's 5 year contract. The Evaluation Committee will meet with the Superintendent to review his evaluation.

Motion made during Private Session

.....I move that Mr. McTimoney be offered a 5 year contract with performance expectations attached.

Moved: Jane Buckley

Seconded: Sheila Gallagher

Motion Carried

X Closing Comments:

Date for Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2015 at Central New Brunswick Academy

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



Mark Noël, Chairperson, DEC

June 11, 2015
Date



Carol Clark-Caterini, Secretary, DEC

June 12, 2015
Date