

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – April 9, 2025**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Beth McQuinn Nixon (on-line), Ginny Hooper (on-line), Matthew Martin, Wayne Spires, Amanda Henderson-Matthews (on-line), Matthew Martin, Jennifer Sheils (on-line), Kelsey-Ann Peterson and Ché Greene.

**Absent Members:**

Teresa Sewell, Jon Barry, Shane Borthwick and Sarah Craig.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent (on-line); Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration; Mark Blucher, Director of Schools; Matt Bedard, Acting Director of Schools, Jennifer Grant, Acting Director of Education Support Services, Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He advised that he received regrets from Shane Borthwick.

Mr. Nesbitt began the meeting respectfully acknowledging the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We strive for respectful relationships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation and honour this beautiful land together.

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Agenda for the meeting and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the March 12, 2025 meeting and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Greene moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

There were 5 members of the public present at the meeting.

**3. Superintendent's Report & Update**

Mr. O'Brien advised that his report had been posted for Council to review.

He began his report mentioning the 23 leaders who have now completed the School Improvement Planning module. He also pointed out the 2024-2025 3-Year and 5-Year school administrator meetings have been completed.

Mr. O'Brien commented about the continuing implementation of our ASD-S Policy 368 Antiracism and Equity. It has been shared with the Principals and Vice Principals for their staff along with the video which was created by Jessica Hanlon. He mentioned that Jennifer Grant and her team are working diligently on the Pride Week that

will be May 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. He spoke about the Unified Teams increasing across the district. These teams bring neurodiverse and differently abled students together with mentors to promote social inclusion through sports.

He mentioned the 35 participants of the first Assessment Leadership Cohort have completed module#2. This module was to focus on how to support all three tiers of learners with sections about the Holistic Curriculum to best practices in assessment, supporting multi-language learners, accommodated learners, and more.

He concluded his report mentioning he was involved in a variety of meetings since our last meeting and was able to visit a number of schools, Prince Charles, Seaside Park Elementary, Sir James Dunn Academy and the "Footloose" theatre production at Sussex Regional High School.

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

##### **4.1 Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Sub-Committee Report**

Mr. Martin reported the Sub-Committee is moving forward by connecting with some high school students for inputs ranging from a diverse group as well as engaging community organizations for input.

##### **4.2 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee**

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the survey document is out to the council members for their feedback.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5.1 Functional Capacity Report**

Mr. John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration was in attendance to update Council on the functional capacity of each school in the district.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Functional Capacity Report as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion Carried.

##### **5.2 Executive Limitations Monitoring Reports**

EL 3.3 – Information to Council

EL 3.4 – Financial Administration

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the monitoring reports. Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the monitoring report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

#### **6. Information Items**

##### **6.1 Member's Notebook**

Mr. Spires mentioned he attended a PSSC meeting at Vincent Massey Elementary School and wanted to share that families were very supportive with Principal O'Leary regarding the proposed changes to the school hours even though this proposal is no longer an option.

Mr. Greene spoke about the Student Leaders Council where there are 6 student candidates who have entered their name to become the next Student Representative for the District Educational Council.

Ms. Hamm mentioned an inspirational project that happened at River Valley Middle School. They wanted to wrap the school with gratitude and had each student write down something they were grateful for. At the end of the initiative, they were able to wrap the inside of the school with a chain of gratitude.

Ms. Hooper indicated the parents of Seaside Park School are concerned about the number of students and the lack of space with the potential of more students due to the new construction of apartments going up in the area.

##### **6.2 Chair's Report and Update**

Mr. Nesbitt reported the DEC Teach In was held on March 29th. It was a good day with Stacey Brown who spoke about how to measure and monitor our policies. There were several take aways from this session and what can be done to evaluate and implement our policies.

He mentioned the DEC Symposium which will be held the end of May and wanted to thank the principals for sharing the information with the PSSC Chairs about attending.

##### **6.3 Correspondence**

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary