

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – August 21, 2024

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Ginny Hooper, Matthew Martin, Jon Barry (on-line), Teresa Sewell (on-line), Ché Greene, Beth McQuinn-Nixon and Wayne Spires.

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration, Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton Education Centre; Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Saint John Education Centre, Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Mark Blucher, Director of Schools and Data & Accountability, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He advised that Christine Eruokwu, Shane Borthwick, Sarah Craig, Jennifer Sheils were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

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.

Student Representative – Ché Greene was sworn in as a new council member.

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 Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the June 12, 2024 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. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

One member of the public was present.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

He highlighted various professional learning opportunities that took place over the summer months for staff. These included Violent Threat Risk Assessment training, Applied Suicide Intervention Support training, Non-violent Crisis Intervention training, Education Support Services sessions, Leadership Development, a one-day session with Dr. Justin Baeder for administrators, integrating AI tools, Powerteacher pro, and sessions on the holistic curriculum.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report noting the work done with recruitment and hiring of educational assistants, teachers, bus drivers, principals and vice principals.

4. Presentation

4.1. Human Resources Annual Report

Ms. Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, presented the Annual Human Resources Report. She began by reviewing the HR staffing and their roles.

Ms. Moffatt spoke about the various challenges with the volume and complexity of issues along with supporting principals, managers, and supervisors with difficult conversations. Work continues preparing for a new Gestion system for payroll and the continuous recruitment of casual employees.

Ms. Moffatt mentioned the employee breakdown of 3643 permanent employees throughout the district and 1066 casual employees.

She noted the number of grievances and complaints from the past year; WorkSafeNB claims; paid and unpaid sick leave days per month comparing back to 2019; Homewood health – Employee Family Assistance Program and the use of the service; the number of vacancies in 2023-2024 from teaching and non-teaching positions; the volume of recruitment for casual and permanent postings; and finally the new leadership job postings which were posted and filled for the 2024-2025 school year.

4.2 District Improvement Plan – Ends #3

Mr. Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction began his presentation by reviewing the goal itself which is around increasing student achievement and engagement through the holistic curriculum and best instructional and assessment practices with two strategies, with the first one focused on assessment. The second strategy focused on the implementation of the holistic curriculum. Simply, we are personalizing student learning to collect and use data to properly identify student goals and student needs and priorities.

He outlined the outputs related to the K-5 Academic Support Teachers with literacy in grade 2 and numeracy in grade 3. Each of these outputs were measured in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024.

Mr. Price explained the outputs for When Children Succeed (literacy). We can look at how much growth within a school year and the reason we did that specifically for the When Children Succeed project was because we noticed that our learners had significant gaps in their learning. We are beginning to close the gap and actually gaining over a year's worth of skills in the specific area so that they can catch up. We also worked on chronic absenteeism and we also wanted to work on our learner's perception of their experience in school, whether or not they feel cared for and safe.

Mr. Price concluded his presentation by outlining the next steps for 2024-2025 with the continuation of K-5 initiatives, formal expansion of academic support teachers, roll-out of Holistic Curriculum look-fors, and a platform to measure teacher implementation to name a few.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Welcome Student DEC representative

Mr. Nesbitt welcomed Ché Greene who has been appointed as the new student DEC member.

5.2 Policy Committee Report

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned the committee met with respect to the ends policies and doing some work on them. The committee arrived at the decision with Ends 2.0 Vision, Mission and Values Statement; Ends 2.1 Affirming, Safe, Healthy and Welcoming Environments; Ends 2.2 Student Engagement and Ends 2.3 Empowered Employees.

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the new Ends policies. Discussion revealed the need for clerical changes. The policies will be modified and brought back to the September meeting for approval.

6. New Business

6.1 Draft Annual Planning Calendar (2024-2025)

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the planning calendar for 2024-2025 year.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were any suggestions for presentations the District Education Council would like to hear about. A topic that was suggested: Safety and Security Around School Property and Personnel.

6.2 PSSC Orientations

Mr. Nesbitt mentioned one of the responsibilities as a DEC is to provide some kind of orientation for the PSSC groups across the district. Amanda Hamm is chairing a sub-committee that is expected to report at the September meeting.

6.3 PSSC Budgets (2024-2025)

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the PSSC Budgets (2024-2025) which had been posted last week. The budget is based on \$2.40/student or minimum of \$500.

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

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were any members who wanted to share about things going on in their sub-district. Nothing at this time.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

DEC Self Evaluation

He drew our attention to the evaluation report that was sent to you in your materials. Some work has been done regarding a more efficient way for you to evaluate polices and an online format is in development

Appeal Hearings

He attended hearings on July 10 and August 7. A quieter summer in this area than in the past.

CDC Meeting

The Council of DEC Chairs met virtually on Monday, July 29. Council President Joe Peterson had received an invitation for us from our francophone colleagues. The invitation involved a video they had prepared and for us to have a translation done at a cost of \$5,000.00. This video overviews the role of DEC's and the francophones hope to release it before the October election. The CDC has not as yet decided to participate in this venture. Some members are concerned that it could be seen as us being partisan and attempting to influence the vote.

Term of Office

As you may be aware, this DEC was elected in 2021 for a term of 4 years. However, since the next municipal elections are not scheduled to take place until 2026, the term for all DEC's is being extended until then to coincide with the municipal elections for mayors, councils, etc.

7.3 Correspondence

Mr. Nesbitt reported that correspondence was dealt with prior to the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting and reminded Council the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary