

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – January 8, 2025

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Ginny Hooper(on-line), Jonathan Barry, Matthew Martin, Jennifer Sheils(on-line), Wayne Spires, Shane Borthwick(on-line), Sarah Craig, Amanda Henderson-Matthews(on-line), Kelsey-Ann Peterson and Ché Greene.

Absent Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Teresa Sewell

ASD-S Staff:

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

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Ms. Hamm, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. She advised that she received regrets from Roger Nesbitt.

Ms. Hamm 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.

Sub-District #6 Representative – Kelsey-Ann Peterson was sworn in as a new council member.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Hamm 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. Martin requested an additional item to the Agenda under new business. Mr. Spires moved that the amended Agenda be approved. Seconded by Mr. Greene. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hamm referred to the Minutes of the December 13, 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 Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

Ms. Hamm opened the floor for public comment and asked if anyone wished to address Council. The first member of the public to address council was Amy Hoyt. Ms. Hoyt came in to express her wishes about establishing a memorial policy in the schools.

The second member of the public to address council was Patty Borthwick. Ms. Borthwick came to express her wishes about the importance of a memorial policy in schools.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

He began his report by introducing Matt Bedard the Principal of Millidgeville North School who has been seconded to an acting director of schools in Melissa Savoie's absence.

He mentioned the 2-day intensive training for 23 school administrators "Fierce Conversations" which took place late December.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the Witness Blanket which was on display in the Millidgeville North School Cafeteria. This wooden display was interactive allowing individuals to see and hear the insightful stories conveying the reality of Indigenous racism, colonialism and genocide.

He commented on the 116 teachers who have expressed interest in the Leadership Academy which will begin in February and September.

He concluded his report by indicating he had a meeting with one of our partners, the Team Resource Center as well as he visited several schools: St. Stephen Middle, St. Stephen High and M. Gerald Teed Elementary.

4. Presentation

4.1 2023-2024 Provincial Assessment Results

Mr. Ryan Price presented to the DEC members the Provincial Assessment Results 2023-2024. He highlighted the results compiled from Grades 4 to 12 in English, Scientific Literacy, Mathematics, French Immersion Reading, Post Intensive French Reading, and Oral Proficiency Interviews.

He reviewed the Provincial comparative data in the 15 assessment areas from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 and that ASD-S is ranked 1st in 6 of the assessments and identified 9 areas for improvement. He referred to each of the assessment results from the four districts pointing out ASD-S measurements.

Mr. Price concluded his presentation by indicating that it would be good to keep pressure on the Education Department to maintain the assessments as they are currently and continuing with the comparative data which provides a picture of the trends and note any changes.

Ms. Hamm referred to the presentation 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 Presentation be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Craig. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Sub District #6 DEC Representative

Ms. Amanda Hamm welcomed Kelsey-Ann Peterson as a new member of the District Education Council for Sub-District #6.

6. New Business

6.1 Council-Staff Relationship

Ms. Hamm reviewed:

- CSR-1.2 – Accountability of the Superintendent
- CSR-1.3 – Delegation to the Superintendent
- CSR 1.4 – Monitoring Superintendent Performance
- CSR 1.5 – Reappointment of the Superintendent

Ms. Hamm referred to the four Council-Staff Relationship policies 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 policies be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

6.2 Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Statement

Mr. Matthew Martin made a motion that a formal equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility statement be developed. The statement will serve two purposes to broadcast our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion to students, staff, families, community, and stakeholders, as well as be a guiding principle for operations, policies and community.

Ms. Hamm referred to the motion and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. There were questions and concerns regarding this motion and after discussions an amended motion was brought forth.

Mr. Martin amended the motion. He moved that a sub-committee be formed to oversee the development of an equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility statement. There being no other questions or concerns it was seconded by Mr. Greene. Motion carried.

The sub-committee will consist of the DEC Chair or Vice-Chair, Mr. Martin, Ms. McQuinn-Nixon, Mr. Greene and Ms. Sheils.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Greene indicated he would like to take this opportunity to suggest that the memorial guidelines draft in place be finalized into a clear and actionable policy informed by mental health professionals, school staff, students and families, potentially including other stakeholders.

Other members of the DEC indicated their support to the district and to encourage the government to provide a provincial policy/guideline regarding memorials.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Ms. Hamm indicated she did not have anything to present at this time in the absence of the Chair, Mr. Nesbitt.

She did point out that the sessions to be held on Saturday, January 11th is cancelled.

7.3 Correspondence

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Hamm thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary