

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – June 11, 2025

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Ginny Hooper, Matthew Martin, Jon Barry, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, Beth McQuinn-Nixon (on-line), Shane Borthwick (on-line), Kelsey-Ann Peterson (on-line) and Wayne Spires.

Absent Members:

Teresa Sewell, Sarah Craig, Jennifer Shiels

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, Matt Bedard, Director of Schools, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Carolann Spear, Budget and Accounting Manager, Director of Human Resources, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (on-line) and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Nesbitt began the meeting respectfully acknowledging that New Brunswick is situated on the unceded and unsundered territories of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq, and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We seek to repair and rebuild meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples and honour these lands which hold the hopes of future generations.

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. Ms. Hamm moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

There were members present from CUPE 2745. Marilyn McCormick, Provincial Recording Secretary of CUPE 2745, presented a letter to the DEC regarding the recent lay off of the school library workers in Anglophone South School District.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

Mr. O'Brien began his report by recognizing Mr. Matt Bedard, who has been attending our DEC meetings since January. This year we needed some additional support, and he was ready and willing to step into an Acting Director of Schools role and executed the tasks to the very best of his ability. Mr. O'Brien mentioned that not only will he be leaving this acting position, but he is also retiring at the end of June. Congratulations Matt for your dedicated service to Anglophone South School District.

He reported that there are 105 others retiring this year and 88 staff across the district who were recognized for their 25 years of service. Each of the education centres held celebrations over the past few weeks.

Mr. O'Brien updated members on the continued renovations being completed at Norton Elementary School and the hope is the school will be ready for staff in August and students in September.

He noted the schools which are looking to participate in the calendar pilot for next year. The schools submitted their application and at this time we are looking for confirmation from EECD of the participating schools.

He spoke about the Canada Wide Science Fair which was hosted this year in Fredericton with 300 projects in total. Anglophone South School District had 5 projects qualified to attend and 3 earned awards: Hejin Wang, Grade 12 students at St. Malachy's Memorial High School; Arnav Samanth, Grade 7 student at Millidgeville North School and Willow Pass, Grade 12 student at St. Malachy's Memorial High School.

He concluded his report by mentioning the Minister's Awards for Excellence in Education and there were three strong nominations from Anglophone South School District who received their awards. He emceed the Saint John's Strings at their spring concert recently and he learned about one of our students who went through the Sistema program who was one of four students accepted into a music school in Toronto.

4. Presentation – Ends Policy 3

Mr. Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction began his presentation about the Ends 3 Policy which is focused on student achievement, zeroing in on implementation of curriculum, and supporting all teachers. He mentioned that the results of reading and numeracy are the two areas of concern.

He spoke about the Academic Support Teacher work where the primary objective is to work with teachers to build their capacity in the areas of literacy, research, data collection and analysis. Their work involves monthly data reporting which is tracked closely and used to inform our professional learning. Inevitably the goal is to improve our results on standardized assessment with gathering and analyzing data along the way.

Mr. Price mentioned the When Children Succeed project. The overall achievement on each reading Building Block pillar is measured quarterly. Numeracy achievement is measured three times per year. We compare When Children Succeed schools and the control group of schools.

He commented on the Assessment Academy which is working with teachers who are looking to build their ability as an assessment leader and to lead the work in their school. It is focused specifically with teachers and the work in the classroom. The assessment academy has five professional learning modules: plan, do, check, act and leading change.

Mr. Price continued his presentation on the second part: increasing system capacity to implement the holistic curriculum. There are coaches supporting language learners and classroom practices in all the curricular areas. Some areas of the holistic curriculum work are: embedding social studies and Wabanaki learnings into ELA curriculum, supporting FSL learners who experience reading difficulties, goal setting with new teachers focused on enacting the holistic curriculum in literacy instruction, and shared lesson planning in mathematics to address new skill descriptors in the curriculum. Another aspect of the curriculum work was supporting use of Artificial Intelligence. We are leveraging AI to enhance instruction and zero in on good assessment tools that can be used with learners.

He mentioned the Principal Holistic Walkthrough Pilot which is a platform for administrators to conduct and record their walkthroughs that can be used to track to see how we are doing implementing the holistic curriculum. There are Holistic Look-For data analysis which involve learners in the feedback process, clear articulation of learning, and positive communication practices.

He summarized the district ends 3 goals – improved achievement on provincial assessments in math and reading and he concluded the presentation outlining the next steps with regards to the holistic curriculum.

5. New Business

5.1 Final Expenditure Plan 2024-2025

Ms. Carolann Spear, Budget and Accounting Manager, provided Council with the breakdown of the Final Expenditure Plan for 2024-2025.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Final Expenditure Plan 2024-2025 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

5.2 New Budget Approval 2025-2026

Ms. Spear provided Council with the breakdown of the New Budget Approval 2025-2026.

There was discussion around the budget reduction, therefore this item will be brought forward to the August 2025 meeting.

5.3 Self-Sustaining Funds Updated 2024-2025

Ms. Spear provided Council with the report of the Self-Sustaining Funds 2024-2025.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Self-Sustaining Funds Report 2024-2025 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Matthews. Motion carried.

5.4 Evaluation – Derek O'Brien

MOVED THAT the ASD-S District Education Council commends and thanks Derek O'Brien for his successful administration of the school district during this year and assesses his performance as having met expectations in all areas.

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

MOVED THAT while Mr. O'Brien's salary is at a control point max, if/when re-earnable increments are unfrozen and the opportunity to back date is presented, he would be eligible for a 2 step re-earnable increment.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hooper moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Henderson-Matthews. Motion carried.

6. Information Items

6.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Spires indicated that Sistema will be at St. Stephen Middle School on Friday, June 13th.

Mr. Borthwick acknowledged the Fundy Mariners Awards Gala which took place recently. This event was a more inclusive awards night from sports, academics, attendance, rising star, community service, arts and culture to name a few. A highlight for the year.

Mr. Greene thanked all the students, education staff, and community members who he had the privilege of connecting with over the past year. He thanked the district staff for welcoming him and it was a pleasure learning and working alongside you.

Mr. Nesbitt thanked Mr. Greene for his involvement on the District Education Council as the student representative during the past year. His interest, enthusiasm and willingness to be involved was certainly noted.

Ms. Hooper mentioned she attended the Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee meeting recently. There will be updates coming with the curriculum and concerns over New Brunswick Standards compared to other provinces. She thanked the staff, parents, and students for their dedication and hard work during this busy time of year with ceremonies, talent shows, awards and graduations.

Mr. Barry pointed out the new principal announcement at Rothesay High School. He also mentioned the concern for Rothesay High School and the ability to maintain all of the advance placement courses. He pointed out that he was finally able to attend the Hampton Education Centre's Inspire Awards.

Ms. Henderson-Matthews commented she attended the DEC Symposium the end of May and participated in a couple of breakout sessions. The sessions were about artificial intelligence, change management and teacher retention and culturally and linguistically diverse schools.

6.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Nesbitt reported:

- attended the Inspire Awards for Saint John Education Centre and the Hampton Education Centre.
- attended the CDC meetings.
- attended an afternoon of District Appeals.
- unfortunately, was unable to attend the District Education Council Symposium on May 30-31, 2025.
- Attended the Minister's Excellence Awards in Fredericton where he presented awards to Katrina Lee from Rothesay Elementary School; Anne Marie Cusack from St. Rose School and Lynn Hayes from Westfield Elementary School.

6.3 Correspondence

Dealt with prior to the meeting.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary