

**ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**  
**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting – March 12, 2025**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

**Council Members:**

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

**Absent Members:**

Jennifer Sheils, Teresa Sewell and Sarah Craig.

**ASD-S Staff:**

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration; Mark Blucher, Director of Schools and Data & Accountability; Rosemary Southard(on-line), Director of Schools, St. Stephen Education Centre, Susan Moffatt(on-line), Director of Human Resources, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, 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 7:04 pm. He advised that he received regrets from Jennifer Sheils and Sarah Craig.

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. Greene 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 February 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. Martin moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

**2.3 Public Comment**

There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting. Jill Layton, Chair of the new school steering committee, spoke on behalf of the new school for Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood.

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

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

He began his report indicating a group of administrators participated in a 2-day Trauma Threat Risk Assessment with Kevin Cameron. The Violent Threat Risk Assessment sessions are ongoing and continue to help build the capacity of more groups receiving the training. He pointed out the Education Support Services coordinators have been meeting with schools to plan transitions for next year particularly with the students who are now

registered for kindergarten. These meetings are vital to ensure that we provide accurate information about the students so the schools can plan their arrival accordingly.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned the work our district has done on the Anti-Racism Policy which is continuing with implementation. The principals have now received a session on the new policy which was well-received, and they have had a chance to work through scenarios using the Pathways to Human Rights Discourse. The district will host our first Pride Week. A committee will meet in March to review and develop activities and lessons that are age and developmentally appropriate. He also spoke about the work that Laura Taylor is doing by leading indigenous studies across our district and the ongoing work she continues to lead with the Summer Seminar series.

He attended a meeting of an enthusiastic group of PSSCs in the Grand Bay Area who are engaged and want to be involved with a new area school and they are ready to partner and be part of the process. He attended the Hidden Histories Project at St. Malachy's Memorial High School which focused on the black history of New Brunswick. He mentioned the Buzz on Energy Drink and how the district Health Advisory Committee is working on different initiatives around health and healthy practices in our schools. He spoke about the movement of one Principal to a position with PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools).

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by updating the DEC on the Norton Elementary School. The abatement has been completed on all four sides and they are working on two sides for repair and insulation which is 80% complete. They will sheathing and reported they are ahead of schedule. He mentioned that the district has been given permission and support from the department to work on something called the Ridership Program. This will be a security and safety measure for students should they board the incorrect bus.

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **4.1 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Ms. Jennifer Grant, Acting Director of Education Support Services, began her presentation by indicating the great work around the district by the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion team. She spoke about how this team has come together to present workshops for schools, district staff or for any sort of professional learning opportunities around EDI. The statement they are following is about improving student engagement and achievement by enhancing evidence-based practices.

She indicated there was a Mental Health Youth Forum in October where they met at Meenan's Cove which is a great space, accessible to nature, and it has a gender-neutral washroom which provides safety for the participants. The forum allowed the participants to dig into what is going on in their world at school and give input about the safety, access to services and barriers to services and what kinds of things they are looking for.

Ms. Grant mentioned that the Department of Education has been doing a Youth Check-In Survey for schools which house Grades 6 – 12. In the fall of 2024 there were 7359 students who participated in the survey. She reviewed the results from the Mental Health Index, School Relevance Index and the School Relatedness Index. Great things are happening at our schools.

She spoke about the Elementary Youth Check-In and two of our schools are part of this pilot. The objective of the elementary youth check-in is designed to gather students' perspective related to their well-being, their engagement and relationships within the school environment.

Ms. Grant indicated the Middle Level GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Day which was held in October 2024 at Meenan's Cove was an energized group of middle school students who were excited to be together. It was the first time they are meeting other students who are like them that have similar interests where they can come and be themselves.

She mentioned the Egale Workshops which took place in December 2024 and we are the first district in Atlantic Canada to have a group of educators and staff members who meet once a month. These meetings are voluntary, but it is an opportunity to come together and connect about current situations and do some problem solving.

She indicated there will be a Pride Week in the month of May and have invited some educators and school staff at all levels to come and make sure that what is planned is age appropriate.

She mentioned the Antiracism Summit which took place in November 2024. This summit was good not only for our students to hear the information, but also the educators in the buildings to see the population growth and for them to realize how many newcomers are arriving to their schools. A new antiracism policy has been developed for our district.

Ms. Grant concluded her presentation by sharing the antiracism data and how Anglophone South School District is a leader on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion work.

## **5. Business Arising from Minutes**

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

Mr. Martin reported the Sub-Committee met and reviewed some terms of reference to help guide them as they are collaborating to create a statement. We will be moving forward with next steps.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Capital Projects & 2025 Summer Improvement Projects**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Capital Improvement List 2026-2027 (10 projects) that are slotted to be completed in the summer of 2026 and the Major Capital Projects (5 projects).

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no other questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Capital Improvement List 2026-2027 Improvement Projects List and the Major Capital Projects as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion carried.

### **6.2 Grand Bay Primary School – Inglewood School K-5 Rationalization Project**

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the briefing notes noting this project has been approved. The next step is to proceed with the recommendation for the general location of the new school. Following much discussion, Mr. Spires moved that we accept the recommendations as presented. Seconded by Mr. Greene. Motion carried.

### **6.3 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee**

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there would any members who would take part in the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee. The committee will be represented by Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Wayne Spires and Jon Barry.

## **7. Information Items**

### **7.1 Member's Notebook**

Ms. Hamm spoke about the School Steering Committee meeting that took place at River Valley Middle School on February 25<sup>th</sup>. An informative presentation to the committee related to what the town would like to see happen for the new school in Grand Bay-Westfield.

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

Dates Since Last Meeting:

February 24, 2025 – Pre-budget Consultation Meeting (virtual)

March 5, 2025 – EDIA Sub-committee meeting (virtual)

March 10, 2025 – Names submitted for the Minister's Excellence Awards in Education

March 11, 2025 – Council of DEC Chairs meeting in Fredericton (Main areas of discussion, May symposium plans, updates to provincial policies, and school calendar pilots)

### Student Representative

In accordance with policy GP4.8 I have contacted Kyle Peters, Coordinator who works with the Student Leader's Council and requested that they begin the process for selecting the Student DEC Member for the 2025-26 school year.

### DEC Teach-in

A reminder of and a notification of a change to the agenda for the day scheduled for Saturday, March 29. You will note on the agenda that the morning is the same, but the afternoon session has been changed. EECD has

requested that time and that they will supply a facilitator for the purpose of soliciting input regarding a new education plan as the current one expires next year.

#### DEC Symposium

A reminder, the DEC Symposium is scheduled for the Fredericton Inn on May 30 (Friday evening) and Saturday, May 31 (all day). Mr. Nesbitt polled the group for participation.

#### School Calendar

PSSC's are being made aware of and asked to give support for schools to put their name forward for possible changes to the school calendar for next year. The province will select some schools from across the province to participate.

### **7.3 Correspondence**

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

### **8. Adjournment**

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary