

# **ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)**

## **DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Meeting – May 14, 2025**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, May 14, 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, Matthew Martin, Wayne Spires, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, Matthew Martin, Jennifer Sheils, Kelsey-Ann Peterson, Jon Barry and Ché Greene.

#### **Absent Members:**

Teresa Sewell, Shane Borthwick 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; Matt Bedard, Acting Director of Schools, Jennifer Grant, Acting Director of Education Support Services, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools; Melissa Savoie, Director of Schools, and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. 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 April 9, 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. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Sheils. Motion carried.

##### **2.3 Public Comment**

There were no 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 recognizing the upcoming retirement for Allan Davis, Director of Schools – Hampton Education Centre. Allan has been a tremendous colleague and member of the team here at Anglophone South and has been a great contributor to our organization. Allan has a great reputation across the province as he was a lead for the school review process where he looked at school improvement and reviewed the school and provided them very constructive feedback. Allan also experienced a number of our schools here in anglophone south over his career and as of late working as the Director of Schools in the Hampton Education Centre. Allan knew the policies inside and out and any time we had a question about policies he would be able to tell the team where to find. Mr. O'Brien acknowledged Allan's knowledge and unwavering support for the Superintendent and our team.

Mr. O'Brien highlighted the continuing work, particularly around supporting the employees in their roles.

He spoke about the work around our goal for strengthening inclusiveness mentioning the ASD-S Pride Week and the impact across the district. There has been some negative feedback, but it has not outweighed or overshadowed the positive feedback. He pointed out the continuing implementation with our Antiracism and Equity policy. He mentioned the Annual Inspire Awards which recognize exceptional students nominated by staff in our middle and high schools. These awards affirm and encourage students recognizing their resilience during pivotal times.

Mr. O'Brien pointed out that the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion team are continuing to organize a summit to help develop an inclusion statement for the District Education Council. The team has postponed their summit until the fall.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by indicating that he continues to be involved with the Minister's Awards Planning Committee Meetings, and over the past few weeks planning has been done on the 2025-2026 Budget. He attended the Regional Heritage Fair earlier in May which was hosted by the University of New Brunswick Saint John. The Saint John Community Schools Task Force continues to meet and talk about the new schools and what the community spaces will look like. He updated the members regarding the Norton School, and it continues to be on schedule with renovations on the inside and outside and that the students will be settled into the school in September. He mentioned that Hampton Elementary School experienced some significant roof leaks and the repair work will begin immediately to rectify the problem. He visited the following schools, Apohaqui Elementary, Hampton Elementary, Dr. A. T. Leatherbarrow Primary, Sussex Middle and Kennebecasis Valley High.

#### **4. Presentation – ENDS Policy 2.3 Empowered Employees**

Mr. Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, began the presentation explaining the Ends Policy 2 which ensures that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles. He spoke about action items for new teachers' professional growth and what the next steps are in continuing to promote participation and attendance and moving forward with new teacher learning.

Ms. Jennifer Grant, Acting Director of Education Support Services, spoke about identifying measurable improvements in teacher competency in planning for students with learning exceptionalities. She reviewed seven measurable improvements.

Ms. Melissa Savoie, Mr. Mark Blucher, and Ms. Rosemary Southard, Directors of Schools, highlighted some of the ways in which this policy builds leadership capacity in systems' leaders through personalized professional support. Cluster meetings, new administrator supports, aspiring leaders through NB Lead and a Vice Principal conference through NB Lead are ways in which the administrators are receiving this professional support.

Mr. Price talked about how to action a plan to supervise learning in schools. Some actions would be to develop a plan for school visits, have a strategic conversation with staff leadership, conduct school check-ins to gauge morale and address system challenges along with adding a fourth director of schools.

Ms. Savoie and Ms. Southard spoke about how to action new administrator professional growth through personalized professional support. Some ways to develop professional growth are through superintendent meetings with new administrators, support from retired administrators, attending NB Lead sessions, having three- and five-year administrator reviews to discuss progress, school improvement meetings and administrators meeting with Directors of Schools to discuss their own personal goals.

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

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

Mr. Martin reported that the Sub-Committee was planning to meet with the High School students in May but have decided to connect with them in September for their input.

##### **5.2 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee**

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the survey document is out to the council members for their feedback. The evaluation will be a part of the June meeting.

#### **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Draft Council Meeting Dates & Location (2025-2026)**

Mr. Nesbitt advised the council meeting dates and location had been posted last week for Council to review. Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hamm moved that the Council Meeting Dates/Location be approved as posted. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

### **6.2 Executive Limitations Monitoring Reports**

#### **EL 3.5 – Property Management**

#### **EL 3.6 – Stakeholders and Public Relations**

#### **EL 3.0 – Global Executive Constraint**

Mr. O'Brien presented 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 reports as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

## **7. Information Items**

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

Mr. Greene indicated that he co-hosted the St. Stephen Education Centre Inspire Awards and what an amazing event it was. He mentioned that Elisa Gaudette has been voted on to be the new Student DEC Member for 2025-2026.

Ms. Hooper spoke about the amazing information tool that was created by the Education Support Services Department around Pride Week for the schools. She commented that any negative comments on the Facebook page were responded to accordingly and well written. Ms. Hooper sits on the District Health Advisors committee, and they have a new nurse in place after the retirement of Ann Hogan. She sits on the Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee and indicated there are positive changes coming. She mentioned she visited some schools, and the parents of Seaside Park are still contacting her about space once the housing development is complete.

Mr. Barry mentioned that today was Purple Day for Food Allergy Awareness. He spoke about the school program that was launched in the Anglophone South schools. With the help of Food Allergy Canada, it has now been approved for curriculum across Canada. We should be proud of the district and that the program started here in our schools.

Ms. Peterson spoke about a main stairwell at Centennial school which is deteriorating and will need to be replaced.

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

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the DEC Symposium arrangements are being finalized and will be held May 30-31, 2025. There are four PSSC members who will be attending from our district.

He mentioned there are two Inspire Awards coming up next week, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Lily Lake for the Saint John Education Centre and then on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the QPlex for the Hampton Education Centre.

### **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 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

