

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

## **DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Meeting – October 16, 2024**

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

#### **Council Members:**

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

#### **Absent Members:**

Amanda Henderson-Matthews

#### **ASD-S Staff:**

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Allan Davis, Director of Schools, Hampton 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 (on-line), Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood Education & Development, John MacDonald, Director of Finance & Administration 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 Amanda Henderson-Matthews was 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.

#### **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. Greene. Motion carried.

##### **2.2 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the September 11, 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, Ms. Hooper moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried.

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

No members of the public were present.

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

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

He highlighted the new teachers training in Education Support Services and Curriculum and Instruction. The goal for this training was for teachers to learn foundational information around relationship building with students, their families and their colleagues, basic principles of classroom management and who are the people that can support them when they are struggling, both with the academic piece as well as their own mental health.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned the district created branded respectful workplace signage for visitors, which was distributed to all the schools. This was a request of school principals.

He spoke about the Mental Health Youth Forum for our high schools which took place October 15, 2024. There were 15 high schools participating with 3-4 student representatives from each school. These students will return to their schools to lead the implementation of initiatives that support positive mental health. The district will collect data on activities and outcomes.

Mr. O'Brien indicated that 23 people attended the Day of the Dead Professional Learning where they learned about the history and culture of the Saint John Day of the Dead Festival.

He mentioned the Youth Check-in Surveys for the Middle and High School students. This is a survey that and measures student mental health and support, school relevance, and school relationships.

He spoke about 32 schools who have signed up to use the "Kick Up" platform to conduct walk-through and track teacher data. This walk-through test is linked to the dispositions in the Holistic Curriculum and is linked to Danielson's Framework for Enhancing Professional Practice. This will allow us to track the implementation of the Holistic Curriculum and provide principals with meaningful data to complete teacher performance reviews.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by indicating the schools he visited in the last few weeks: Saint John High School, Sussex Regional High School, Sussex Corner Elementary School, Apohaqui Elementary School, Beaconsfield Middle School, Barnhill Memorial School, Princess Elizabeth School and Glen Falls Elementary School and the opening of the Rise and Shine Room.

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **4.1 Early Childhood Update**

Ms. Lissa McNaughton-Dicke, Director of Early Childhood Education & Development, began the presentation by talking about the Early Childhood Education Report which is conducted by the University of Toronto. New Brunswick ranked number in Canada. This report is conducted every 3 years.

She reviewed the Strategy Map for Canada Wide Action Plan. She referenced the four Goals which are to ensure equitable access to high quality, affordable and inclusive early learning and childcare; bolster the quality of the learning environments to support children's healthy development and growth; support the provision of an inclusive and flexible learning environments and stabilize and strengthen our early childhood education workforce.

She spoke about the Early Years Family Navigator who strengthens collaborative relationships with community partners by attending parent/child groups and events in order to serve families when they are in need of support. The Early Years Family Navigator is also supporting the Marking Friends Learning Together projects, which enable children the year prior to school to participate full time in an early learning facility. The results of which support a smooth transition into Kindergarten.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie mentioned the Transition and Literacy Consultant who met with 18 Elementary School Principals for feedback on current transition to school processes. She mentioned the literacy project where 24 Early Years Educators are being supported to become Literacy Mentors in their facilities.

She commented on the New Brunswick Curriculum Framework-English: Initiatives which are Collaborative Assessment Tool Validation; Quality Improvement plans; On-site support and Professional Learning Opportunities.

She remarked on the Inclusion Support Program which has onsite support that is being well received, children receiving the right amount of support for the right amount of time, inclusion PL supporting the needs in ASD-S and inclusion Lending Library.

Ms. McNaughton-Dickie concluded the presentation by speaking about Talk with Me which is currently serving 525 individual children/families. Over the past year, close to 500 hours have been spent on education offered to early learning and childcare facilities. Due to the demands of this program, an additional Speech Language Pathologist has been hired.

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

### **5.1 Sub District #6 Update**

Mr. Nesbitt indicated there were two applicants for this Sub District. The names have been forwarded to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development who makes the appointment.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Governance Policies:**

4.3 Chairs Role

4.4 Council Committee Principles and Structure

4.5 Annual Council Planning Cycle

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials.

## **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.

Ms. Hooper spoke about the Beaconsfield new gym floor and how active their PSSC members are. She also mentioned that the PSSC at Barnhill is small, however, they have produced a flyer celebrating things going on at the school, specifically this month they have Socktober where they gather socks for those in need.

Mr. Spires mentioned how impressed he was with the new PSSC video that was created with clarity and understanding for new members.

Ms. McQuinn-Nixon mentioned that she has heard many good things about how well Sussex Elementary School and Norton Elementary School are doing under one roof.

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

September 18, 2024 – Webinar; Inclusion NB

September 25, 2024 – Appeals

October 1, 2024 – PSSC at Chris Saunders Elementary

October 2, 2024 – Council of DEC Chairs virtual meeting

October 10, 2024 – DEC Chairs virtual meeting

October 16, 2024 – Appeals plus meet superintendent and DEC meeting

#### Election

A reminder to vote on or before next Monday, October 21.

#### Student Leadership Conference

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fredericton on Friday, October 25, 2024. Chairs have been asked to meet at 9:30 am before the conference starts at 10:30 am.

#### Spring Symposium

The Council of DEC Chairs is in discussion and planning for a provincial symposium open to all DEC members and possibly a limited number of PSSC members in May in Moncton. Look for further information to follow as planning proceeds.

#### DEC Teach-In

Planning is underway for a Saturday "teach-in" session that will follow-up on topics from the "retreat" held in April.

### **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, November 13, 2024 beginning at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary