

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

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

Council Members:

Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Ginny Hooper (on-line), Beth McQuinn-Nixon (on-line), Shane Borthwick (on-line), Elisa Gaudette, Jennifer Sheils (on-line), and Wayne Spires.

Absent Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Teresa Sewell, Sarah Craig, Kelsey Peterson and Jon Barry.

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, Angela Marr, Director of Schools, Mike Wilson, Director of Schools, Mark Blucher, Director of Schools, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (on-line), Jennifer Grant, Acting Director of Education Support Services, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood 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.

Ms. Hamm 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

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

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hamm referred to the Minutes of September 3, 2025, and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Barry moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gaudette. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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 indicating that lots of activities have been going on with the first Academic Support Teacher data collection. There are a number of full-time positions dedicated to supporting learner growth in reading and numeracy. There have been several retired teachers who are taking time to mentor early career teachers for the first six weeks of school. Structured literacy training is being offered to our Kindergarten-Grade 3 teachers who are new to the profession or district. The district Education Support Services Team is looking at the data of how many requests for support are coming in from Curriculum and Instruction with Adjusted Personal Learning Plans. A couple of student highlights are; Willow McGrath, from St. Malachy's Memorial High School has been invited to be a student speaker representing Canada at the World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi and Sarah Smith from Harbour View High School, is invited to the global climate conference in Brazil.

He mentioned the 2 days of professional learning that took place in September and October for the school counsellors on Secondary Trauma and reviewing our Anti-racism Policy ASD-S 368 and EECD Policy 713 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. There have been 3 retired resource teachers who are supporting teachers who are new to in a resource position or new to the resource assignment. He mentioned that some leads are supporting 14 teachers completing their school counselling internship in our schools.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the Artificial Intelligence Guidelines for ASD-S focusing on system capacity building and responsible use are currently in draft form. There has been professional learning to support AI use in the classroom and will be provided throughout the year. Our Equity Diversity and Inclusion Leads have been working with the Bridging Program to ensure that their resources are more culturally diverse.

Mr. O'Brien advised the DEC that he visited the following schools: St. Stephen High School; Princess Elizabeth School and Milltown Elementary School. He mentioned about the School Calendar Pilot which had their first Professional Learning day on September 19, 2025. He also mentioned of the EECD dates for Education Plan Consultation.

He shared that teacher, Shannon Hodder, of Loch Lomond School has been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence: Shannon's biography is located under Certificate of Achievement at this link: <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/ised/en/programs-and-initiatives/prime-ministers-awards/recipients/2025-teaching-excellence/biographies>. He also noted that one of our DEC members, Ginny Hooer, was honoured with the Council of the Federation's 2025 Literacy Award for her dedication to adult learners.

4. Presentation – Early Childhood Update

Ms. Lissa McNaughton-Dickie began the presentation introducing the New Brunswick Quality Framework with is a new initiative that just came out in September for all the administrators and educators at the Early Learning Facilities. She introduced Lindsay Devost, who is an early learning consultant, and she is the resident expert at this point with the quality framework.

Ms. Devost started with What is meant by Quality? She indicated there are two main types of quality, the first being structural quality which referred to center facilities/resources, staff-to-child ratios, and staff qualification what are more easily measurable for cross-sectional observation purposes in determining quality. The second is process quality which focuses on the nature of interactions, as well as the nature of center leadership and pedagogical skills. Process components influence the everyday nature of ELCC settings and directly impact the quality of a child's day-to-day experience.

She spoke about What is the difference between a Quality Framework and a Curriculum Framework? The Curriculum Framework defines that children should be learning and offers educators support and guidance for planning meaningful learning experiences and Quality Framework focuses on teamwork, communication, and strong relationships among educators, families, and community partners. She spoke about the 4 guiding principles: children's rights, diverse identities, high expectations and a continuous cycle of quality improvement.

Ms. Devost concluded the presentation by recapping that the NBQF builds on the NB Curriculum Framework to improve early learning and childcare quality through the context of quality, quality areas and collaboration and continuous reflection and improvement.

5. New Business

5.1 District Improvement Plan

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the District Improvement Plan.

Ms. Hamm asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Borthwick moved to approve the District Improvement Plan as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

Ms. Hamm put forward a motion to send the District Improvement Plan to the policy committee so the Ends policy can be updated and brought forth to the DEC. Ms. Sheils moved to send the District Improvement Plan to the policy committee to update the Ends policy. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

6. New Business

6.1 Resignation letter from Sarah Craig

Ms. Hamm reported the Chair received a letter of resignation from Sarah Craig.

Ms. Hamm asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved with regret the resignation of Sarah Craig. Seconded by Ms. Gaudette. Motion carried.

6.2 Governance Policies

4.3 Chair's Role

4.4 Council Committee Principles and Structure

4.5 Annual Council Planning Cycle

Ms. Hamm put forward a motion to approve Governance Policies 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Governance Policies 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 as reviewed. Seconded by Ms. Gaudette. Motion carried.

6.3 White Head Elementary School

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the briefing notes regarding White Head Elementary School which were part of the meeting package.

He provided the background of White Head Elementary School and recommended a sustainability study according to EECD Policy 409.

Ms. Hamm asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved that the Superintendent conduct a sustainability study according to the EECD Policy 409 sections 6.5 and 6.6 and that the DEC inform the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development as per session 6.5 and 6.6. Seconded by Mr. Borthwick. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Spires mentioned he visited Milltown Elementary, St. Stephen Elementary, Vincent Massey Elementary and St. Stephen Elementary Schools and was pleased to see the great startups and how they are beginning to work on their school improvement plan.

Mr. Borthwick mentioned he was pleased with the smooth start up to the school year and the engagement with the PSSC at Fundy Middle/High School. He was in touch with Back Bay and Blacks Harbour Schools as their PSSC members have not met yet. He mentioned some concerns regarding the New Brunswick Breakfast program and the limited food options for those with special dietary restrictions.

Ms. Hooper reported that she received an email from St. John the Baptist/King Edward school and were concerned about the services at the new school and would like to have some input. She attended Saint John High School

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Christmas Dinner

You are asked to note that the December DEC meeting is scheduled for the 10th and will be for one hour only 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. Following the meeting there will be an opportunity for all members and staff along with a guest to join us for a Christmas dinner which will be held at the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club as it was last year. I hope all will be able to attend.

DEC Self-evaluation

As previously explained, the DEC self-evaluation is being done differently this year. Susan has brought all the CSR policies together in one document and you are asked to complete it online by the time of the December 10th meeting.

Council of DEC Chairs

The CDC has undertaken a review of the symposium that was held at the end of May and comments have been positive. Because of the elections scheduled for May of 2026 there will not be a provincial symposium at that time. In addition, The CDC is preparing for the first Minister's Forum this school year and this work will continue when the Council meets in Fredericton on October 14th.

November Meeting

You are reminded that our meeting schedule for November 12th will begin at 6:00 P.M. with an in-camera session with the ADM Dr. Tiffany Bastin for consultation in the development of the new 10 year education plan.

7.3 Correspondence

Dealt with prior to the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Hamm thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary