

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – September 3, 2025

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

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

Absent Members:

Teresa Sewell, Sarah Craig, Jennifer Sheils, Kelsey Peterson

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, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Grant, Acting Director of Education Support Services 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. Mr. Borthwick moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of June 11, 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 Mr. Borthwick. 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.

He began his report about the Early Development for Growth in Education (EDGE) – our early career teacher orientation which had two sessions in August. Support for this program came from retired teachers, school-based mentors, lead teachers and subject coordinators. Also, in August retired educators received mentorship training. This training is to support new teachers as needed for the first six weeks of the school year. Orientation for new administrators and the school administrators' meetings were held in August.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned there was work going on over the summer around the Policy 368 Antiracism and Equity Policy with the Principals sharing with their staff and specifically the SharePoint site of resources with their new teachers. Summer professional learning focused around NB Black History with various events.

Mr. O'Brien talked about the Assessment Academy which Mr. Price initiated last year and they have just finished their second module. An NBTA professional learning day had district led curriculum sessions covering all subject areas available. The Education and Early Childhood Department also led a curriculum and professional learning day highlighting the rollout of an updated Kindergarten - Grade 5 math curriculum.

He spoke about the three slides in his report regarding the Calendar Pilot. The first slide lists four objectives of these changes which are to increase student achievement, increase staff collaboration and planning, and improve staff well-being. The second slide focused on the evaluation framework where the school districts will be working with a UNB researcher to analyze data of: provincial assessment data, report card data, perception surveys, staff and student attendance rates, student wellness survey and focus groups with staff, families and students. The final slide focused on what will happen on the Professional Learning Days of the pilot schools.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned the number of changes across the district in terms of new administrators. Some of the administrators received a 5-year contract while other administrators are in acting positions for a one-year term.

He mentioned a few more items not recorded in his report. There will be a couple of virtual consultation meetings regarding the provincial education plan on October 27, 2025 and November 4, 2025 and in person meeting on November 5, 2025. He encouraged the DEC members to flag these dates with their PSSC members. He spoke about the news from the premier announcing the food program which will focus on the breakfast program this year. Feed New Brunswick (formerly Food Depot) will be responsible for purchasing and shipping the breakfast items to the schools. The library workers are back into their positions and looking on how they can contribute to student learning in the building. The Norton Elementary School work is complete and welcomed all the students back on the first day of school. The transportation department indicated to Mr. O'Brien that it was one of the smoothest starts to the school year. Communication to families over the summer helped with the start up. A larger number of District Appeals are happening with the majority being transfers/placements to a different school other than their zoned school.

4. Presentation – Proposed District Improvement Plan

Mr. O'Brien noted that this was not the final draft of the plan. The final plan will be brought back to the October meeting for approval.

Mr. O'Brien noted that we remain focused on leading, learning and growing and we want an engaging, equitable and high achieving learning environment for all students. He spoke about the four principle themes: achievement, belonging, professional competence and equity.

He mentioned the three goals of the district improvement plan which are: improve student achievement by enhancing instructional and assessment practices, ensure that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles and finally develop a culture of belonging and equity for all learners by addressing systemic racism and ensuring universal design for learning.

Mr. O'Brien continued with the 2025 District Improvement Plan Goals and Strategies and one area of focus will be on provincial assessment for improving student achievement by enhancing instructional and assessment practices with academic support teacher model, coaching model, assessment practices and instructional leadership. Another strategy will be to ensure that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles by early development for growth in education, school leader support with school improvement plans, support for instructional leadership/performance management, human resource service delivery, facilities, budget and accounting, and transportation services, support for quality improvement plans in the early learning facilities and support for education support teachers. The third strategy is to develop a culture of belonging and equity for all learners by addressing systemic racism and ensuring universal design for learning. In this strategy the focus will be on the district antiracism policy, planning for students with exceptionalities and leveraging artificial intelligence to personalize student learning and assessment.

He concluded his presentation of the District Improvement Plan by outlining specific measures. Student survey data (Grades 4-12), teacher perception survey data, assessment data, school improvement framework data, attendance data and performance management data.

5. New Business

5.1 Draft Annual Planning Calendar 2025-2026

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the planning calendar for 2025-2026 year.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Draft Annual Planning Calendar 2025-2026 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

5.2 New Budget Approval 2025-2026

Mr. Nesbitt reported a virtual meeting of the Council was called for Wednesday, July 30, 2025 to approve the Expenditure Plan for 2025-2026. However, there was not a quorum in attendance for this meeting. For information purposes, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. MacDonald outlined the Expenditure Plan, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Those in attendance gave **tentative approval** to the Expenditure Plan for 2025-2026. Following the meeting a poll of members not in attendance was taken and resulted in **final approval** being given to the plan as proposed.

5.3 PSSC Budgets 2025-2026

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the PSSC Budgets 2025-2026 which was presented at the August 16, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Borthwick. Motion carried.

5.4 Policy Committee Report

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Borthwick moved to approve the Policy Committee Report that involved new wording for GP 4.8.1(b) which was presented at the August 16, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

5.5 Ends Policy 2.1

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hamm moved to approve the Ends Policy 2.1 presentation made at the August 16, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

6. New Business

6.1 Resignation letter from Matthew Martin

Mr. Nesbitt reported he received a letter of resignation from Matthew Martin.

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

6.2 Governance Policies

4.0 Governance Commitment

4.1 Role of the District Education Council

4.2 Governing Style

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. Spires mentioned he attended the open houses for Milltown Elementary School and St. Stephen Elementary School and was delighted to see how the children were glad to see their friends.

Mr. Barry mentioned an issue surrounding the Arthur Miller Sports Fields in Rothesay but feels it is resolvable.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Nesbitt reported:

DEC Self-evaluation

As explained at the August meeting, the process for DEC self-evaluation is changing this year. The monthly approach of evaluating our performance as it is tied to one or two policies has not resulted in as much participation as he had hoped. He thanked the same few that have taken the time to respond each month. However, he feels this is very important and warrants more being involved. Soon you will receive a covering memorandum along with the full set of CSR policies for completion **on or before December 10th**. **Please be sure to look for this in your emails.**

2026 Election Year

The term of this council ends on June 30, 2026. It is important to think about who will sit in the chair you now occupy for the August 2026 meeting. Some important dates: **Nominations open March 23, 2026, Nominations Close April 10, 2026, Election Day is May 11, 2026 and Advanced Polls prior to this. Length of term is 4 years.**

CDC Meeting

The Council of DEC Chairs will be meeting in Fredericton the evening of Monday, September 8, 2025. He plans to attend.

New Education Plan

You may recall the session we had with the folks from EECD at our March 29th teach-in, regarding the development of this plan which is intended to replace the current plan that ends in 2026. You may also have seen the recent email from the Deputy Minister regarding input and ways to have input into the new plan. Also, we will have an opportunity at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 when the folks from EECD will return to share with you what has happened so far and get input from you. He encouraged you all to make it a priority to be here for this meeting.

7.3 Correspondence

Dealt with prior to the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary