

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

Notes of Meeting – November 13, 2024

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Jennifer Sheils, Ginny Hooper, Ché Greene, and Beth McQuinn-Nixon.

Absent Members:

Wayne Spires, Shane Borthwick, Matthew Martin, Jon Barry, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, Sarah Craig, Teresa Sewell

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, Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (on-line), Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services, 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 he received regrets from Wayne Spires, Shane Borthwick, and Matthew Martin.

Mr. Nesbitt indicated that there weren't enough members present to form a quorum.

2. Approvals

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

To be approved at the December meeting.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

To be approved at the December meeting.

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.

Mr. O'Brien began his report sharing the learning opportunities for Resource teachers to focus on the essentials of writing Individual Personal Learning Plans and additional planning to help develop skills that align with the job responsibilities. He spoke about the Violent Threat Risk Assessment refresher training for administrators, school counsellors and our community partners to focus on new language that is more trauma centered. He noted the Provincial Vice Principals' Conference, an initiative that included sessions on dealing with difficult people, supporting early career teachers, instructional leadership and professional self-care; the Early Career Teachers who had release time to meet with curriculum experts in learning areas of their choice with the focus on curriculum priorities and planning. He referred to the New Administrator Orientation training which focused on Finance and Administration (budget and accounting, facilities and health and safety).

Mr. O'Brien spoke on the Middle Level Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) session where 16 schools from across ASD-South participated in a day of learning. He mentioned the 3rd annual anti-racism summit which was held on November 12th that included presentations from Saa Andrew Gbongbor as well as our EAL Coordinator Melissa Gavin.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned the pilot for Grade 4 & 5 students from St. George and Hampton Elementary schools to participate in an elementary youth check in survey. He spoke about the Academic Support Teachers who are supporting classroom teachers (K-8) and the first data submissions highlighting the initial impact of their work. The co-teaching model is making a difference on learning and achievement in math and literacy. Currently there are 11.5 FTE for Academic Support Teachers in middle schools and 36.5 FTE for elementary schools.

He spoke about the NB Student Leaders' Conference which he attended in October as well as the Employee Engagement Focus Groups which met the end of October.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by mentioning the schools which he visited: Simonds High School, Norton and Sussex Elementary Schools, Milltown Elementary School, Princess Elizabeth School and Millidgeville School.

4. Presentation

4.1 District Improvement Plan Update

Mr. O'Brien began his presentation by speaking about the four principle themes: belonging, achievement, professional competence and equity.

He referenced the District Improvement Plan for 2024-2025 diagram which outlines the three goals: ensure that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles, strengthen our inclusive systems to be anti-racist, affirming, and equitable; to honor diversity and welcome all students, and improve student engagement and achievement by enhancing best instructional and assessment practices through implementation of the Holistic Curriculum.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about a variety of supports that are taking place in the first goal by ensuring that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles. Examples include the Provincial Vice Principals' Conference, resource teacher professional development, new school counselling framework and scope of practice, and support for new guidance teachers and counsellors.

He pointed out several events relating to the second goal: strengthen our inclusive system to be anti-racist, affirming, and equitable; honor diversity and welcome all student. Such initiatives include the middle level GSA day, the anti-racism summit, the change agents student workshop and leaders summit with Egal Canada. Ms. Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services spoke about the change agent student workshops where 30 educators will be invited to be part of the network identifying district level support for students and staff. Mr. Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, shared about the bridging project which consists of 7 schools and 7 early learning facilities along with 12 teachers who come together to learn from each other and share practices.

Mr. O'Brien spoke to the third goal: improve student engagement and achievement by enhancing best instructional and assessment practices through implement of the Holistic curriculum. This goal focuses on the work of the academic support teachers, teacher walkthroughs, mental health youth forum for high schools, youth check-in surveys (grades 6-12) and piloting with two schools (grades 4 and 5) and Mr. Price shared about the assessment academy which will begin in February 2025 where it will be an opportunity for teachers to learn about assessment and become assessment leaders in our district.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his presentation by speaking about the specific measures that are in place with a student survey, teacher perception survey, assessment data both district and provincial and the attendance data. These will measure the impact of our work.

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 Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. John MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration presented the quarterly budget report. Mr. MacDonald reviewed the report in detail outlining each of the categories and where the monies are designated. At this time the district is forecasting a break-even budget.

Mr. Nesbitt indicated that a motion will be made at the December meeting.

6.2 Governance Policies:

4.6 Effective Communication

4.7 Public Comments and Presentations

4.8 Student DEC Member

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials. Mr. Greene gave recommendations for rewording parts of the policies.

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 reported that she attended 7 PSSC meetings of the 8 schools she represents. The highlights she spoke about were the PBIS Video which St. Rose School made, the career fair at Barnhill, the grant the Hazen White/St. Francis received for swimming lessons and a teacher at Beaconsfield who is qualified to teach students wood working and home economics. A concern she mentioned is the need for 50-60 lunches at Beaconsfield School for those in need.

Ms. Sheils shared that Hampton High School has the return of their hockey team after being on a six-year hiatus.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Dates Since Last Meeting

Friday, October 25, 2024 – Student Leadership Conference, Fredericton.

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 – PSSC at Lakefield Elementary

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 – PSSC at Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary

Election

The election of October 21st produced a major change in government with the Liberal Party winning the vast majority of seats in the NB Legislature. He looks forward to working with the new Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Hon. Claire Johnson for the betterment of education. Mrs. Johnson is a university professor on leave from Universite de Moncton. She has a PhD in Public Health Management and undergrad work in nutrition. She hails from Dalhousie, NB.

Student Leadership Conference

The annual Student Leadership Conference was held on Friday, October 25, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fredericton. Students representing all the high schools in the province were in attendance. He thanked Wayne Spires, Beth McQuinn-Nixon, Matthew Martin and Che Greene who attended along with him.

Christmas Dinner

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th. The public meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. and will be limited to one hour as we have a Christmas Dinner planned immediately following. This dinner will be for DEC members, staff and their significant others and hope that all will be able to attend as we usher in the Christmas Season.

DEC Teach-in

He had hoped that we could do something this Fall but Stacey Brown is not available until January 11, 2025 so we have booked her for the morning. She will be focusing on the "metrics" for measuring our policies. There will be one more session after lunch on Artificial Intelligence. Coffee and muffins will be available before 9:00am which is our proposed start time and lunch will be provided. A formal agenda will follow.

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, December 11, 2024 beginning at 6:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary