

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – November 12, 2025

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair; Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair (on-line), Jennifer Sheils (on-line), Ginny Hooper, Shane Borthwick, Jon Barry, Beth McQuinn-Nixon, Kelsey Peterson and Elisa Gaudette.

Absent Members:

Wayne Spires, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, and Teresa Sewell.

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools (on-line), Ryan Price, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Angela Marr, Director of Schools, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (on-line), Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services, Carolann Spear, Budget and Accounting Manager and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets

Mr. Nesbitt Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. He advised that he received regrets from Wayne Spires.

Mr. Nesbitt began the meeting respectfully acknowledging that New Brunswick is situated on the unceded and unsundered territories of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaw, 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. Ms. Hooper moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of October 8, 2025, and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hooper moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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 highlighting the activities of Ends #1 instructional and assessment practices. The Academic Support Teachers received professional learning sessions to support their work supporting teachers and learners. During the professional learning they received information about a new elementary math screening tool that is being piloted in our province.

Mr. O'Brien noted a number of items that ensure all employees are empowered to excel in their roles. 25 new principals and vice principals enrolled in Fierce Conversations training. 10 administrators enrolled in the 3N Cohort (New and Nearly New) with NB Lead. They will work with a retired administrator for support in their chosen area(s) of focus. We have accepted 18 candidates in the Leadership Development Program, and 8 administrators participated in Mediation Training. Our district hosted the Provincial Principals' Conference October 15 & 16 and we supported the Provincial Vice-Principals' Conference held October 21 & 22. These conferences provided key opportunities for leadership development and collaboration across the province. The Directors of Schools have also maintained a strong presence in their assigned schools through regular visits and a review of School Improvement Plans fostering connection. Supply Teacher Orientation sessions took place in October. There are 175 teachers in years 1-3 who are being supported by Early Development of Growth in Education. Each teacher is partnered up with the teacher mentor who supports goal development, planning and assessment, observations, and anything else that can help setup our new teachers to be successful.

He reported on areas related to a culture of belonging and equity for all learners with one being the Middle Level Gay Straight Alliance Day where students had an opportunity to build relationships with peers across the district. A Mental Health Youth Forum for high school students happened on October 28 with 13 of the 15 high schools. The guest speakers shared stories around the positive use of cell phones and social media. Egale Canada Summit was held November 12. Curriculum coordinators continue to focus on the use of provincially approved AI tools to support planning, instruction and assessment.

Mr. O'Brien had a chance to visit a couple of schools: Rothesay Elementary on October 28 and the Saint John the Baptist/King Edward, November 10.

He spoke about the School Calendar Pilot and how the Professional Learning Day for specific schools were focusing on topics ranging from the use of Canva, family communication, Professional Learning Community collaboration, Social Emotional Learning, and strategic planning at the high school level. The school staff complete surveys following each PL day and staff attendance is monitored closely. For the breakfast program, he reported that equipment (ie, microwaves, refrigerators, freezers, toasters, stoves, dishwashers, etc.) have been ordered and delivered to the schools who requested equipment. Smaller items have also been ordered (ie storage units, cutlery, cooking utensils, bakeware, etc.). A 25th Anniversary celebration was held for Partners Assisting Local Schools (PALS) and the Atlantic Education International Summit occurred on October 21.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report by mentioning the Minister is reviewing the recommendations for the new school location in the Grand Bay area. A new planning committee has been appointed to this new building. It includes Amanda Hamm, the DEC representative, Angela Marr, the Director of Schools, and Evan MacDonald a representative from the local steering committee.

4. Presentation

4.1 Assessment Results

Mr. Ryan Price presented to the DEC members the Provincial Assessment Results 2024-2025. He reported there were 15 assessments administered for Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10 and 12 in 2024-2025 in the areas of English Reading, Scientific Literacy, Mathematics, French Immersion Reading, Post Intensive French Reading and French Second Language Oral Proficiency Interviews. He reviewed the overall results along with the results from each of the assessments.

Mr. Price mentioned areas of celebration: Steady improvements in English reading, top results provincially on all elementary assessments, and solid overall results in scientific literacy.

He shared three areas to address and some strategies: improvement in mathematics with new K-5 curriculum, elementary screener, K-5 resources, prioritized curriculum funding and academic support teachers. The second area to address is French as a second language with the focus on teacher and learning retention, introduction of French academic support teachers, prioritize funding to support teacher capacity building through professional learning, funding to support post-entry transfers, and prioritizing teacher language proficiency. The third area to address is ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment) with students being able to re-write in Grade 10 and intervention positions to support Grade 9/10 learners in high schools with low ELPA results.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Sub District #5 & #7 Update

Mr. Nesbitt indicated we are continuing to wait for approval from the Minister of Education.

6. New Business

6.1 Quarterly Budget Report

Ms. Carolann Spear, Budget and Accounting Manager, presented the quarterly budget report. Ms. Spear reviewed the report outlining the categories and where the monies are designated. At this time the district is forecasting a deficit budget.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. McQuinn-Nixon moved to approve the Quarterly Budget Report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Borthwick. Motion carried.

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. There are no changes.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Hooper brought concerns from one of the schools regarding the overcrowding. Seaside Park School is full, and they have 2 portables. She has heard from the high schools who are participating in the pilot calendar and how staff are connecting with other high school teachers. She mentioned about the breakfast programs that the schools now have and although it has some challenges there are lots of good things going on. She will be meeting soon with the Curriculum Advisory Committee and will report at the next meeting.

Ms. Hamm attended three PSSC meetings since the last meeting. The first was Westfield School and they noted they have some concerns over the three years of poor math assessment results. She is confident that Mr. O'Brien and his team will support the PSSC and the School Improvement plan. She also attended the River Valley Middle School PSSC meeting and they have implemented a math intervention plan to help students. Another school she attended was the Champlain Heights PSSC and they are thankful for the additional teacher allocation. She attended the Centennial School Community Day which was attended by a large team of volunteers that worked to improve the school grounds.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Christmas Dinner

Plan now to attend with fellow DEC members and district staff along with significant others on December 10th at 7:30 P.M. at the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club.

CSR Policy Evaluations

If you have not already done so, please go online to complete the evaluation forms that you will find there. Remember, you are evaluating the performance of our DEC in relation to each of the policies. If you feel you do not have sufficient information for any one of them, please indicate such a go on to the next one.

Policy Committee

The policy committee met virtually on November 5 to consider the matter of the alignment between the Ends policies and the updated DIP. We will be continuing our discussions on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Executive Steering Committee

I attended the meeting of the ESC in Fredericton on Tuesday, November 4th. There was discussion to update the Terms of Reference, and the Guiding Principles. There was an update on the work being done on the Long Term Recommendations and the field testing being done in areas such as chronic absenteeism, class composition, outdoor education to name a few. Time was set aside for discussion and update on the new Education Plan.

7.3 Correspondence

Mr. Nesbitt received a letter from the PSSC Chair of Hazen White St. Francis School, Christina Barber, regarding a letter she received from Scott & Jessica Walton (McPherson) requesting the name of their field to be changed to "Dave McPherson Field".

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Barry moved to approve the renaming of the Hazen White St. Francis field to "Dave McPherson Field". Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

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 10, 2025 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