

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – April 8, 2026

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

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair (online), Ginny Hooper (online), Jonathan Barry, Jamie Munroe, Joe Cormier, Wayne Spires, Jennifer Sheils (online) and Elisa Gaudette (online).

Absent Members:

Teresa Sewell, Shane Borthwick and Kelsey-Ann Peterson.

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, Mark Blucher, Director of Schools, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (online), Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood and Development (online), Shonna Martin, Acting Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Angela Marr, Director of Schools, Jennifer Grant, 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. He advised that he received regrets from Beth McQuinn-Nixon and Amanda Henderson-Matthews.

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. Munroe. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. There being no questions or concerns, Mr. Cormier moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

No public was present.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

Mr. O'Brien advised that his report had been posted for Council to review.

He began his report by bringing everyone's attention to the display around the room which recognized Black History Month. He wanted the members to see what our schools had been working on not only in February but throughout the school year. He also spoke about the 2027-2028 Capital Improvement Projects which included a ventilation project for Grand Bay Primary. This project has been withdrawn from the capital projects, given that Grand Bay Primary will be closed in the near future and a new school to be built in the Grand Bay area. He updated briefly about the provincial food program. The breakfast program is continuing, and our team at the District Office are in the process of implementing the lunch program at the schools.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about receiving the first round of data on reading achievement from the Grades 3-5 Early Grades Literacy Assessment pilot. He mentioned that the Curriculum and Instruction and Education Support Services teams facilitated a session with three schools focused on supporting students with the adjusted Personalized Learning Plans. The Education Support Services coordinators completed some kindergarten transition meetings to understand the students with needs coming into our elementary schools.

He indicated that 12 Principal/Vice Principal 5 year renewal meetings were completed and 29 Principal/Vice Principal 3 year renewal meetings were completed between December 2025 and February 2026. He mentioned that all the Managers and Assistant Managers participated in two days of training focusing on leadership, management, performance management and district supervisory responsibilities. He stated that the interview process has begun for school administrators, a session was held for new administrators (August 2025), a group of elementary literacy leaders had a session on the importance of writing as a way to deepen learning, and a session for teachers who are hosting student interns.

Mr. O'Brien reported some middle school teachers participated in a session to support racialized behaviours and how it gave them a chance to partner with the curriculum team to see how the anti-racism policy and conversations about racism could be embedded into daily lessons.

He concluded his report indicating the provincial team lead focus groups with students, staff, and parents of schools which were part of the school calendar pilot. He attended planning committee meetings for the new Grand Bay school; he also attended the Saint John Business Community Anti-Poverty Committee meeting as well as the parents for Bilingual Education New Brunswick meeting.

4. Presentation

4.1 Ends 2.1 – Affirming, Safe, Healthy, and Welcoming Environments

Jay Nickerson, EDI Lead, Caleigh Dunfield, EDI Lead and Therese Trofimencoff, Antiracism Lead presented the work update on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, and Inclusion for ASD-S.

Mr. Nickerson and Ms. Dunfield spoke about a road map they are accountable for. Some of the areas this Ends policy commits them to provide are a safe, welcoming and inclusive school for all, respect for diversity and human rights, strong relationships and sense of belonging and culturally responsive and equitable practices. Their focus is moving from intention to consistent, system-wide practice. They mentioned some areas they are working on, cultural shift across schools, student voice and belonging, building adult capacity, district improvement plan alignment, systemic leadership and alignment, as well as community equity and impact.

Ms. Trofimencoff spoke of the uncertainty of anti-racism which evaporates when communication is made clear. She highlighted the data which came from a 2-question survey: How does our anti-racism policy play a role in student daily life and how did reviewing this policy make you feel. She was able to collect data from different groups to be able to see what is actually happening. The largest response from the first question was safety. The second question from the student response was that they feel the most positive about the fact we have this policy to protect them and to provide guidance.

Mr. Nesbitt thanked the presenters for their update on the Ends 2.1 policy and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Cormier moved to approve the presentation as presented. Seconded by Mr. Munroe. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee

Mr. Nesbitt indicated that the survey document will soon be out to Council members for their feedback. (The student member is exempt from this process.)

6. New Business

6.1 Executive Limitations Monitoring Reports

EL 3.3 – Information to Council

EL 3.4 – Financial Administration

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the monitoring report EL 3.3. Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the monitoring report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the monitoring report EL 3.4. Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Sheils moved to approve the monitoring report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barry. Motion carried.

6.2 Educational Specifications Grand Bay School

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the Executive Summary Education Specifications for Grand Bay/Inglewood School Replacement (K-5). Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spires moved to approve the Executive Summary as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Cormier mentioned that he met with Prince Charles School and St. John the Baptist/King Edward. These two schools have asked him to facilitate a joint parent meeting to start talking about the new school. He spoke about Saint John High School and St. Malachy's Memorial High School regarding the functional capacity and how to get room reassessed. The question that arose was could the cafeteria be considered a classroom during the off times?

Mr. Barry mentioned the consternation or noise around the new lunch program from his sub-district schools. He commented about the calendar pilot and that the schools are doing with their staff is really positive during their Professional Learning days. He spoke about AI in schools. He talked about what it may look like if one school would commit to implementing AI into the existing curriculum and how it can contribute positively to the learning areas.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Spring Election

A reminder that all nominations are due this Friday, April 10, 2026 by 2:00 P.M. When last checked only 5 of the 12 subdistricts in Anglophone South have candidates nominated.

Budget 2026-27

It seems that despite warnings of cuts, ASDS has done well. Efforts are being made to make reductions at the department level. Additional monies are being provided for educational assistants, school lunch program, recruitment and retention of staff, as well as academic support, resource and guidance positions.

ESC/PEPC

He attended a meeting of the Executive Steering Committee on March 31st. It was intended to be a meeting in Fredericton but got changed to a virtual meeting due to weather concerns that day.

The name of the group is being changed from the Executive Steering Committee to the Provincial Education Partners Council to reflect the advent of the new education plan. The new name emphasizes the importance of partnerships as the committee's success has demonstrated the power of collaboration. Going forward, members will encourage broader participation, advocate for the education system, and help build a province-wide continuity and trust through their consistent involvement.

DEC Self-Evaluation

A reminder that you have been asked to complete the online self-evaluation forms for the GP policies as they relate to the operation of this DEC. Your input is due by the May 13th meeting of the Council.

Superintendent Evaluation

The forms will be coming out soon after this meeting to all DEC members, with the exception of the student DEC member. Please complete these forms either electronically or by printing it off and return them to me by the May 13th DEC meeting.

7.3 Correspondence

Posted for this meeting and dealt with during the meeting.

8 Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary

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