

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – May 13, 2026

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Beth McQuinn Nixon (online), Ginny Hooper (online), Joe Cormier, Jamie Munroe, Wayne Spires, Amanda Henderson-Matthews, Jennifer Sheils (online), and Elisa Gaudette.

Absent Members:

Teresa Sewell, Shane Borthwick, Kelsey-Ann Peterson and Jon Barry

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, Mike Wilson, 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, 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 Shane Borthwick and Jon Barry.

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. 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 April 8, 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. Spires moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

He began his report by indicating the 2nd annual pride week: "Lead with Pride" was happening this week. He spoke about the achievement from the high school students who were involved in the skill trades competition.

Mr. O'Brien reported that recently the Academic Support Teachers had training with "MathUp!" This is a resource to support numeracy instruction for Kindergarten to Grade 5. He indicated that 98% of the Kindergarten to Grade 2 teachers completed their training for the "Building Blocks of Reading".

He mentioned the Vice Principals had meetings in April which focused on training to use Artificial Intelligence tools. There were 6 participants from our school district who were involved in the Principal's Pilot to use Artificial Intelligence tools in their work. Seven staff members attended the Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (CAPSLE) conference. The Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for school leaders happened at the end of April. Our Education Support Services team hosted a provincial meeting for Education Assistants in early May where they learned about Artificial Intelligence. Class Composition Pilot six Schools were celebrated for their creativity in meeting the needs of diverse learners. The Personal Learning Plans-Adjusted project built better partnerships between Curriculum and Education Support Services experts to create stronger plans for learners.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the 2nd Annual Pride Week, May 11-15 with the theme this year being "Lead with Pride". Egale Canada led a Change Agent Workshop with our high school students. There were three interactive workshops that prepared the participants to be active change agents in their school community and beyond. A Mosaic Project provided classroom materials and literature to support the areas of cultural inclusion, neurodiversity, anti-racism and diverse families.

He concluded his report by mentioning some activities that he was involved in: School Calendar Pilot Provincial Meeting, Saint John Business Community Anti-Poverty Committee Meeting, New Brunswick Teachers' Association Provincial Council Day and the District Heritage Fair. He had school visits to: Hammond River Valley Elementary School, Norton Elementary School, Sussex Middle School, Sussex Regional High School and Milltown Elementary School.

4. Presentation – ENDS Policy 2.3 Empowered Employees

Mr. O'Brien began the presentation signifying the importance of this Policy. He believed from when he was a principal at an elementary school he recalled reading somewhere that "when the staff are learning, the students are learning". This policy is not only about the teachers in our school that continue to learn, but every single person, and this is a leading value for us in that people are always continuously learning, and how we can focus on people's development and working on helping them improve their skills.

The first section of the presentation he spoke about the Early Development for Growth in Education (EDGE) Program. This program focuses particularly on our early career teachers in the system during their first to five years. These new teachers are supported by 12 retired teachers during the first 6 weeks along with a mentor teacher who is paired with them throughout the year. Some ways in which the new teachers are being supported: orientation and onboarding in August, release time for mentors and mentees, designated seats for new teachers in professional learning opportunities and creation of a new teacher sharepoint site. On average, EDGE South teachers reported a 27% increase in their capacity to teach literacy and numeracy. Some next steps are a monthly mentor newsletter with suggested topics to explore with mentee and resources to facilitate conversations, an organizational roadmap and coordinator and coaches dedicated to EDGE.

Mr. O'Brien continued with the second section: School Leaders. The Directors of Schools continue to work alongside school leadership teams to develop focused, evident-informed plans, establish clear district priorities and expectations to guide school improvement, provide ongoing feedback, monitoring, and problem-solving during implementation to name a few. NB Lead offers professional learning opportunities to principals and vice principals based on their indicated area of focus, leadership development – 24 new teachers are interested in administration. Three areas of instructional leadership and performance management are: expectations, consistency and growth and accountability.

Human Resources is our third section. This area is about having aligned human resource officers to improve responsiveness and foster consistency, refined and narrowed human resource officer portfolios in targeted areas of recruitment and continued professional learning and capacity-building initiatives for principals and managers, focusing on performance management, employee accountability and supervisory consistency.

He then continued with Facilities, Budget & Accounting and Transportation. Two training sessions for Manager and Assistant Managers and regular alignment and accountability meetings of Managers and the Leadership Team.

Ms. Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood Education & Development, spoke about the Early Learning focus from this policy. There are support for Quality Improvement Plans in early learning and childcare facilities, professional learning opportunities strengthen educator practices and capacity, 81% of quality improvement goals were successfully achieved and 80 of the 99 sessions were onsite coaching and mentoring.

Ms. Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services, spoke about the education support teachers and the collaborative work with the Curriculum team to build strong personal learning plans – adjusted plans, professional learning for resource teachers in developing individual behavior support plans and professional learning for resource teachers. School counsellors have received professional learning that supports dialectical behavior therapy, grief counselling and motivational interviewing. Behavior support teachers have received professional learning that help implement programming, accurate date collection, and group teaching.

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Ends 2.3 – Empowered Employees presentation 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 Ends 2.3 – Empowered Employees be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gaudette. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee

Mr. Nesbitt indicated the survey document is out to the council members for their feedback. The evaluation will be a part of the June meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Draft Council Meeting Dates & Location (2026-2027)

Mr. Nesbitt advised the council meeting dates and location had been posted last week for Council to review. He indicated the meeting dates & locations will be presented to the new council in August 2026 for final approval.

6.2 Executive Limitations Monitoring Reports

EL 3.5 – Property Management

EL 3.6 – Stakeholders and Public Relations

EL 3.0 – Global Executive Constraint

Mr. O'Brien presented the Monitoring reports. Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Spire moved to approve the monitoring reports as presented. Seconded by Mr. Cormier. Motion carried.

6.3 Kennebecasis Valley High School – KV Renaming of Theatre

Mr. Nesbitt shared with the council some background information regarding the impact Suzanne Doyle-Yerxa had at KVHS and the amount of support received for the renaming of the KVHS Theatre.

Moved that, the District Education Council of Anglophone South School District approves the request to name the theatre at Kennebecasis Valley High School, The Suzanne Doyle-Yerxa Theatre in recognition of her dedication, joy, sense of community, and broadening horizons for so many students. Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concern that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hamm moved to approve the motion as presented. Seconded by Ms. Sheils. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Munroe indicated he attended a PSSC meeting and he was pleased to hear the positive feedback with the implementation of the new lunch program.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Since Last Meeting

- Had the opportunity to attend a virtual meeting on April 16 that provided an overview of the online courses that the province currently has available as well as planned courses for the middle school level. In addition, the session dealt with the work currently underway in literacy at the K – 2 level.

- Attended the Council of DEC Chairs meeting in Fredericton on April 21 where among other topics planning for an orientation session for the new DEC's is ongoing.
- Attended appeal hearings on April 29.
- Attended PSSC at KVHS on May 5.

Election

Congratulations to those who were elected as of May 11.

Student DEC Member 2026-2027

Under our GP 4.8 policy, the Student Leadership Group have selected our new student member who, following appointment by the Minister, will join our Council in the new year.

Inspire Awards

You are encouraged to attend these awards, especially those that include your sub-district. The awards are scheduled for Hampton Education Center for May 14; Saint John Education Center May 20; and St. Stephen Education Center May 26.

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 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary