

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – June 10, 2026

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met in-person on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Amanda Hamm, Vice-Chair, Beth McQuinn Nixon, Ginny Hooper, Joe Cormier, Jamie Munroe, Wayne Spires, Jon Barry, Amanda Henderson-Matthews (online), 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, Mike Wilson, Director of Schools, Mark Blucher, Director of Schools, Angela Marr, Director of Schools, Shonna Martin, Acting Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources (online), Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications, 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 7:04 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. Spires moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Cormier. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of the May 13, 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, Ms. Hamm moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

There was one member of the public present at the meeting but did not comment.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

He began his report speaking about the meeting with High School Principals and the Directors regarding English Language Proficiency Assessment Results and actions for the Schools and District Improvement planning. The Directors of Schools worked with Principals for planning and staffing. He mentioned the work of School Psychologists and our Resource Specialists in Assessments and Interventions. 14 of our students presented their mentorship experience through the Horizon Promote 150 Student Co-op Program. He spoke about the Skills Canada National Competition which was held May 30 & 31, 2026 and congratulated Camden Morell a Grade 12 student at Hampton High School who won Gold in Cabinetry.

Mr. O'Brien commented that our team supported employees by attending the 3 Celebration of Service and Retirement events across the district recognizing contributions and fostering staff morale. He also shared our Speech Language Pathologists attended their association's national conference in Halifax in May which featured many sessions around their role in the schools.

He mentioned that during PRIDE week, EGALE Canada hosted 3 Change Agent sessions to 100 students from high schools across the district. This session was a hands-on workshop where students were faced with a social problem and used critical thinking to address concerns around Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity inclusive education.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the number of events that he attended including the Student Leaders Council, 3 Inspire Award celebrations, the 3 Celebration of Service events, a meeting with the UNB Dean of Education, Provincial Education Partners Council meeting, a Public Health Meeting, the Minister's Excellence in Education Awards and the Saint John Strings Concert.

He concluded his report with the schools that he visited: Prince Charles School, Millidgeville North School, Kennebecasis Valley High school (50th Anniversary), Saint John High School (Tribute Concert) and Sussex Regional High School.

4. Presentation – ENDS Policy 2.2 Student Achievement

(Please note the posted presentation indicated Ends Policy 3 when it is now Ends Policy 2.2).

Ms. Shonna Martin, Acting Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Ends Policy 2.2. The policy statement: Student success is a shared responsibility involving the Minister of Education, District Education Council, Superintendent, teachers, parents and students, all with defined roles as expectations as outlined in the Education Act and Regulations.

She highlighted ways that ASD-S will use research-based opportunities so that all students experience high level achievement; an academic support teacher model where students who require additional instruction in literacy and numeracy and the academic support teacher work alongside the classroom teacher; an academic support teacher will also identify STIPS – Short Term Intervention Plans so needs are identified early, supports are targeted, and progress is monitored. Another opportunity is the itinerant academic support teacher who provides flexible, responsive support across multiple schools. EGLA (Early Grade Literacy Assessments) collect data monthly and indicates the learner progress, percentage of growth by month, comparison between schools, district and projects and trends. DEMA (Digital Early Math Assessment) collects data 3 times a year, learner progress, percent of growth 3 times a year and comparison between school, district and projects. When Children Succeed shows the overall achievement on each building block of reading pillar which is measured quarterly, and numeracy achievement on the EMA (Early Years Math Screener) are measured 3 times a year. Another opportunity is the assessment academy which is professional learning that helps teachers and leaders strengthen their understanding and use of assessment to improve student learning, the model used is Plan-Do-Check-Act.

Ms. Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services, spoke about how ASD-S employees are empowered to excel in their roles resulting in quality learning for all students. Professional learning for resource teachers, school counsellors, training for behaviour support teachers, staff presentations around secondary trauma and supporting school staff to name a few.

Ms. Martin then alluded to the holistic curriculum work, supporting embedment of artificial intelligence in the classroom and the continuation of the school calendar day pilot. Some of the next steps are new teacher support plan and coordinator, hiring an AI coach, supporting teachers with embedded digital literacy and having itinerant academic support teachers.

Ms. Rosemary Southard, Director of School concluded the presentation by speaking about how to build instructional leadership capacity across the continuum with aspiring leaders as well as new and nearly new administrators and by having a collective efficacy network to strengthen collaborative leadership and psychological safety. The professional learning themes they focused on were leadership through relationships, through collaboration, through evidence and through change.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Cormier moved to approve Ends Policy 2.2 as presented. Seconded by Ms. McQuinn-Nixon. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. New Business

6.1 Year End Report 2025-2026

Ms. Carolann Spear, Budget and Accounting Manager, provided Council with the breakdown of the Final Expenditure Plan for 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 Final Expenditure Plan 2025-2026 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hamm. Motion carried.

6.2 Self-Sustaining Funds update 2025-2026

Ms. Spear provided Council with the report of the Self-Sustaining Funds 2025-2026.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Barry moved to approve the Self-Sustaining Funds Report 2025-2026 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Cormier. Motion carried.

6.3 Expenditure Plan 2026-2027

Ms. Spear provided Council with the breakdown of the Expenditure Plan 2026-2027.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Cormier moved to approve the Expenditure Plan 2026-2027 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

6.4 Minister's Excellence in Education Award

Mr. Nesbitt congratulated the recipients of the Minister's Excellence in Education Award.

These awards were presented Saturday, June 6 in Fredericton to: Heidi Stoddard, Quispamsis Middle School; Jamie Murphy, Sir James Dunn Academy and Kerri Titus, Harbour View High School

6.5 Evaluation – Derek O'Brien

MOVED THAT the Anglophone South District Education Council commends and thanks Derek O'Brien for his successful administration of the school district during this year and has assessed his performance as has exceeded expectations in most areas.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Sheils moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Hooper. Motion carried.

MOVED THAT while Mr. O'Brien's annual salary is at a control point max, if/when re-earnable increments are unfrozen and the opportunity to back date is presented, he would be eligible for a 3 step re-earnable increment.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Hooper moved that the motion be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spires. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Spires mentioned that he was at the PSSC meeting at Vincent Massey Elementary School and he was so pleased with this little school and how they go the extra mile for their students. He received a card signed by all the students from the school on his leaving the District Education Council. He stated that it was a delight to serve over the last 25 years as the representative for sub-district one. A parting word for the other DEC members were to attend the PSSC meeting and without question be there and be a good listener.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Since Last Meeting

- May 14, 2026 – Inspire Awards Hampton Education Centre
- May 20, 2026 – Inspire Awards Saint John Education Centre
- May 22, 2026 – NBTA AGM Dinner in Fredericton
- May 26, 2026 – Inspire Awards St. Stephen Education Centre
- May 28, 2026 – Met with Derek on Teams
- May 29, 2026 – Provincial Education Partners Council meeting in Fredericton
- June 2, 2026 – Council of DEC Chairs met virtually
- Attended appeal hearings on April 29.
- Attended PSSC at KVHS on May 5.

Inspire Awards

These awards are always the highlight of the year and a pleasure to attend. Each year these awards recognize students in the middle and high school grades who have risen above challenges in their lives and showing success in their school work.

Minister's Excellence Awards in Education

These awards were presented last Saturday, June 6 in Fredericton to:

- Heidi Stoddard, Quispamsis Middle School
- Jamie Murphy, Sir James Dunn Academy
- Kerri Titus, Harbour View High School

These awards recognize outstanding educators in each of the school districts. Thank you to Derek who presented them for ASD South in my absence, as I was unable to attend.

Provincial Education Partners Council (PEPC)

This group which consists of representation from many different groups and organizations was previously known as the Executive Steering Committee. Had originally been struck to work on the recommendations from the original 10 year Education Plan and now turns to continue the collaborative work on these. Presentations included ongoing work on retention and recruitment of staff as well as updates on the progress of the classroom composition project. It was noted that the work on the long-term recommendations is seeing success. We have 100% of schools tracking chronic absenteeism. This data is fully accessible to the public. There has been an increase in schools offering daily Physical Education, 763 Education Assistants have completed an Inclusive Practices course. 724 teachers have been mentored and 88 schools have participated as collaborative sites.

The new Education Plan

"Strong Basics, Bright Futures" was released to the public on June 1st. The plan presents a 12-year vision with a 3-year action cycle, with specific measures and yearly targets for the next three years, plus long-term 12 year targets. The new plan contains an overall vision, specific goals, and concrete actions to achieve those goals and prioritize the development of strong fundamental skills in literacy and numeracy.

This plan was developed collaboratively and EECD consulted extensively and listened carefully to educators, students, families, and communities.

The plan focuses on strong foundations for the future, well-being, collaboration for success, continuous improvement and innovation, a stable and strong work force, and accountability and transparency. The plan also recognizes artificial intelligence as a catalyst for curiosity, confidence, and opportunity.

Thank You

A sincere thank you to all those who are completing your term on the DEC and thanks to those who are returning, along with the new DEC members to continue this important work. The work you do and have done as a DEC councillor is important and valuable to the education of the children of this province. Thank you for volunteering your time.

7.3 Correspondence

Posted for this meeting and dealt with prior to 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 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary

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