

ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – September 9, 2026

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:

Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Kristine Wickner, Vice-Chair, Amanda Hamm, Ginny Hooper (online), Fane Gallant, Justin Speight, Sara Cook, Mark Perry, Courtney Budgell, Mary MacKinnon and Nadia Dobbin.

Absent Members:

Matthew Hall

ASD-S Staff:

Derek O'Brien, Superintendent; Jessica Hanlon, Director of Communications; Rosemary Southard, Director of Schools, Angela Marr, Director of Schools, Mike Wilson, Director of Schools, Mark Blucher, Director of Schools, Shonna Martin, Acting Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ben Eagan, Director of Finance and Administration, Susan Moffatt, Director of Human Resources, 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. Mr. Nesbitt had regrets from Mr. Hall.

Sub-District #5 Representative – Mary MacKinnon was sworn in as a new council member.

Sub-District #12 Representative – Courtney Budgell was sworn in as a new council member.

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. Speight moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Wickner. Motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of August 12, 2026, and asked if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Ms. Wickner moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Gallant. Motion carried.

2.3 Public Comment

A member of the public was in attendance as an observer.

3. Superintendent's Report & Update

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

He began his report by mentioning the amount of summer professional learning opportunities that welcomed teachers to engage in subject specific professional development with our subject coordinators and coaches/leads.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned there were 32 competitions for school administrators, 240 "D" contract teachers were recalled and 48 new teachers hired to fill vacancies across the district. On August 25 there was an orientation session for those who are new to an administrator position and then on August 26 all the administrators met together. Administrator virtual sessions were also held on August 27 with training for Oracle Fusion and some housekeeping items to help get their school off to a good start. The Directors of Schools send administrators a monthly document with important dates and other important information.

He spoke about the transition days for Kindergarten, Grades 6 and 9. New students for kindergarten have a staggered entry in many of our elementary schools as those students generally need a lot of support on their first day. Some students came in on Tuesday, some Wednesday, and they were all together on Thursday. The Grades 6 and Grade 9 students were welcomed back to school on Tuesday to make an easier start and help those students connect to their new building without the other students.

Mr. O'Brien concluded his report regarding the provincial calendar pilot, including the names of our schools who are in their second year in the pilot. Most of the schools are high schools and there are two elementary schools and one middle school involved in the pilot. The objectives of the calendar pilot are to see the impact on students' achievement and provide opportunities for staff to collaborate and plan together. He also made note about the provincial lunch program. It has been a full summer as we have prepared for this program. There are 16 schools that were ready to go at the beginning of the school year. Others will be online depending on operations.

4. Presentation

4.1 Discussion – Proposed Strategies for the District Improvement Plan

Mr. O'Brien began by indicating the district is going to maintain the three goals as the focus for the district improvement plan for this year. We have identified and want to maintain our commitments and sharpen our focus on achievement, professional competence and belonging and equity.

He spoke about the 2026-2027 actions to help improve student achievement on provincial assessments through targeted professional support.

Mr. O'Brien then spoke about the 2026-2027 actions around ensuring that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles. These actions include EDGE (Early Development and Growth in Education)-South induction and mentorship, leadership capacity building, specialized practice training and AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Oracle Fusion training.

Mr. O'Brien continued to speak about the 2026-2027 actions to develop a culture of belonging & equity by addressing systemic racism and UDL (Universal Design for Learning). These actions include antiracism policy review, PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) expansion to all schools, inclusive resources (French Gender Guide) and District response protocol.

5. New Business

5.1 Policy Committee Report

Mr. Nesbitt indicated there was nothing to report at this meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Governance Policies

4.0 Governance Commitment

4.1 Role of the District Education Council

4.2 Governing Style

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Ms. Wickner mentioned she had reached out to the schools in her sub-district. She attended the meet the parent evening at Milltown Elementary. She attended the St. Stephen High School "parents are students tonight" event and she indicated the bus planner as a parent did not go very well this week.

Mr. Gallant mentioned the kitchen at Rothesay Park School is not close to being ready and there hasn't been any communication when it will be ready or to hear of any progress happening. Communication of what is outstanding would be helpful.

Miss Dobbin spoke about Policy 311 regarding the cell phones. She indicated the lack of student voices were not a part of this policy. She mentioned that technology for high school students is a tool and teaches the students to be independent. As President of the Student Council she spoke about the ways communication with the students is through technology (cellphones).

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

Mr. Nesbitt reported:

Onboarding Session in Moncton

By way of reminder, the provincial onboarding and training session is set for Moncton on September 18 and 19 at the Crowne Plaza. He understands there are 9 registered from ASD-S.

Minister's Announcement

Attended an announcement by Minister Johnson at UNB Fredericton on Thursday, September 3. It involved Department staff, UNB, St. Thomas and Crandall University personnel. These institutions have signed an agreement with respect to preparing future teachers and to better align the amount of time spent on literacy, in particular.

CDC Meeting

Attended the virtual meeting of the Council of DEC Chairs on Thursday, September 3. Items on the agenda dealt with final plans for the Onboarding in Moncton, Superintendent Evaluation Template and a proposed Minister's Forum scheduled for Fredericton on Friday, November 13.

Changes to Policy 311

All are aware of the changes with respect to devices in the classroom that have come into effect with the start of school for K-8 and in February for 9-12. He understands the ban on cell phones is of concern and will no doubt come up at PSSC meetings. It is a provincial policy and any requests for changes must be addressed with EECD.

7.3 Correspondence

Dealt with prior to the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nesbitt thanked all who attended this evening's Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Nesbitt, Chair

Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary