ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD-S)
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – October 14, 2026

The District Education Council (DEC) for Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) met on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. The following Council members and staff were in attendance:

Council Members:
Roger Nesbitt, Chair, Kristine Wickner, Vice-Chair, Amanda Hamm (on-line), Ginny Hooper (on-line), Matthew Hall, Fane Gallant, Justin Speight (on-line), Sara Cook (on-line), Mark Perry, Courtney Budgell (on-line), Mary MacKinnon and Nadia Dobbin.

Absent Members:

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 (on-line), Amy McClure, Director of System Improvement, Jennifer Grant, Director of Education Support Services, Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Director of Early Childhood Education and Development and Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary.

1. **Call to Order/Welcome/Regrets**

   Mr. Nesbitt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

   Mr. Nesbitt began the meeting respectfully acknowledging that New Brunswick is situated on the unceded and unsurrendered 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. Mr. Gallant moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Perry. Motion carried.

   2.2 Approval of Minutes
   Mr. Nesbitt referred to the Minutes of September 9, 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 Ms. MacKinnon. Motion carried.

   2.3 Public Comment
   There was no public present.

3. **Superintendent's Report & Update**
   Mr. O'Brien advised that his report had been posted last week for Council to review.

   He reported that Principal Meetings were held in September and the focus was on the School Improvement Plans. Our Assessment Academy is a group of teachers who are interested in exploring better practices for student assessment. Recently cohort 3 and 4 completed a module in the Plan-Do-Check-Act series. We have 70 Kindergarten to Grade 5 teachers who began their work on a yearlong writing project.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the 2026-2027 Leadership Development Program. This year there are 24 emerging leaders who have begun their professional learning journey. He mentioned there were 30 educators and community partners who attended the ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Training) September 16th and 17th. The New Brunswick Lead Program, our professional learning program for principals and vice principals, has started. The use of NB LEAD opportunities encourages the administrators to continue networking, sharing effective practices and learning from colleagues across the district. He spoke about the book study, "Humanity at Work" which the leadership team is completing. There was first aid training on September 18th for the Skill Trade and Physical Education teachers. During the first 6 weeks with students, he spoke about the coaches who are working with our 90 first year teachers and they are working on getting each of them a school-based mentor. Teachers who are in their 2nd and 3rd years are working with our Early Career Teacher Coaches with a focus on literacy, numeracy, wellbeing and classroom management.

He indicated that we are collecting information around racism and discrimination in our schools, since we have had a policy in place now for two years. We are beginning to monitor the implementation and seeing if it's having the intended outcomes that we had hoped. Also, lots of work around universal design for learning, which is our approach to making sure that we provide accommodations for all students in the class depending on their learning needs. Prince Charles School had a great opportunity when the Minister of Veteran Affairs visited them this past month. Truth and Reconciliation Day was on September 30th and prior to this day all of the schools were doing something to recognize the importance of this day.

Mr. O'Brien visited some Sussex Elementary School on September 23rd to celebrate their new partnership with UNB Promise Partnership/McKenna Institute STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Learning Centre. In early October he visited Vincent Massey Elementary School, Sir James Dunn Academy and then attended the theatre production at Harbour View High School.

He mentioned he toured the new south-end school with Ministers Hickey, Johnson and Chiasson, had partnership meetings with Atlantic Education Internation and the Saint John Learning Exchange. There was a north-end community/family meeting, the Portage Atlantic Recognition Ceremony, Saint John learning exchange graduation, Inclusion New Brunswick Awards, where one of our administrators, Christina Barrington, Principal at Saint John High School received an award and some government members visited Hampton Elementary School to see the Provincial Lunch Program in action.

Mr. O'Brien congratulated Kerri Titus of Harborview High School, Tanisha Thompson, who is at Fundy Shore School, and Avril Wood Toner, who is from part of the Y program and one of our early learning educators who received Prime Minister's Awards this week.

Included in his report were the strategy updates for the 2026-2027 District Improvement Plan. He reviewed the goals and the strategy updates.

Mr. Nesbitt referred to the District Improvement Plan 2026-2027 and asked that if there were no questions or concerns that a motion be put forward to approve. Mr. Gallant moved that the District Improvement Plan be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hall. Motion carried.

4. **Presentation**

Provincial Assessment Results

Ms. Shonna Martin, Acting Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented to the DEC members the Provincial Assessment Results 2025-2026. She reported there were 15 assessments administered for Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10 and 12 in 2025-2026 in the areas of English Reading, Scientific Literacy, Mathematics, French Immersion Reading, Post Intensive French Reading and French Second Language Oral Proficiency Interviews. She reviewed the overall results along with the results from each of the assessments.

5. New Business

5.1 Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee was tasked with the re-wording of Ends Policy 2.2 Student Achievement, to better clarify and increase understanding of its meaning.

The committee met on two occasions and has arrived at a DRAFT of the wording for consideration by Council as accompanying this report and proposes the following motion:

MOVED THAT the current wording of Ends Policy 2.2 be repealed and replaced with the new wording as contained in the document that accompanies this report. Moved by Mr. Gallant as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hall. Motion carried.

6. New Business

6.1 Governance Policies

4.3 Chair's Role
4.4 Council Committee Principles and Structure
4.5 Annual Council Planning Cycle
Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the Governance Process Policies which were posted as part of the meeting materials.

6.2 North-end School Naming Committee/Process

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the Briefing Notes for the Proposed Community and Student Engagement Process for Naming a New School which was posted last week for Council to review.

MOVED THAT the District Education Council approve the proposed community and student engagement process for the naming of the new school and direct the Superintendent to undertake the consultation process and report the results and recommendations to Council for consideration in accordance with EECD Policy 409. Moved by Ms. Wickner as presented. Seconded by Ms. MacKinnon. Motion carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 Member's Notebook

Mr. Gallant indicated he attended the PSSC meetings at Rothesay Elementary School and Rothesay Park School. He mentioned that Rothesay Elementary are having water and sewage issues.

Mr. Perry reported that he attended the PSSC meeting at Sussex Corner Elementary School recently. He was really impressed by the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) they are receiving. He also mentioned there was talk about the matrix mascots and how they can use the acronyms for branding and everything to teach students about behavior in school.

Ms. Wickner mentioned she attended the Lawrence Station PSSC meeting. She indicated that they had a power outage in the beginning of the year and she wondered if this school should have a generator for this kind of situation specifically for cell service and for safety reasons. She was unable to attend the St. Stephen Elementary or Milltown Elementary Schools PSSC meetings. The concern she has is that the deadline to have the PSSC names into the District Office could be lengthened to the middle of October.

7.2 Chair's Report and Update

<u>Onboarding Session</u>

Thank you to all who attended the session in Moncton on September 18 and 19. It was certainly a full day on Saturday the 19th but one that he hoped was worthwhile.

<u>PEPC Virtual Meeting</u>

Attended a virtual meeting of the Provincial Education Partners Council (PEPC) on Wednesday, September 3rd. The purpose of this meeting was to inform and remind council members of their role going forward i.e. the Council's focus is on the implementation of the new Education Plan *Strong Basics, Bright Futures*. We were reminded of the "Collaborative Sites" (schools) from the previous school year and that they will continue their work on such areas as: class composition, leveraging technology, middle level philosophy, and outdoor learning.

<u>December Meeting and Christmas Dinner</u>

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Looking ahead to our December 9 meeting. The public meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. on this date and run for no more than one hour. We have a reservation for Christmas Dinner at Lilly's Café for 7:30 P.M. All DEC members and senior staff are invited to attend along with a significant other. Susan will be in contact as the time draws closer regarding numbers who plan to attend. He hopes most of you will be able to attend as it is always a nice time.

Provincial Student Council Conference
You may have noticed this item in the Annual Council Planning Cycle document. For those not familiar with it, it occurs each year usually in early November. High schools across the anglophone districts send delegates (usually 4) to represent their student council at this conference that usually runs Friday and Saturday at a hotel in Fredericton. DEC members are invited to attend as observers on Friday – usually late morning into early afternoon. It is a good opportunity to hear what students are thinking and what their concerns are.

DEC Questionnaire
The two observers from last meeting marked a "Yes" response to all questions at the September meeting. A couple of comments were made in support of the participation of council members at that meeting and that the swearing in of the newest members was not on the agenda.

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, November 18, 2026.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger Nesbitt, Chair

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Susan Cunningham, Recording Secretary

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