

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
April 18, 2016
Jacquet River School**

Present: Micheal Mortlock, Chair
Mike Coster
Ron Ecker
Andy Flanagan
Joe Petersen
Sheila Rogers
Beth Stymiest, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Nancy McBain
Raymond Murphy

	AGENDA ITEMS
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting of the District Education Council to order at 6:00 p.m. at Jacquet River School.</p> <p>Due to inclement weather, the March 21, 2016 District Education Council meeting was cancelled.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Joe Petersen that the Agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Daniel Doucet, Acting Principal, Jacquet River School</p> <p>Mr. Doucet began his presentation by displaying the new logo for the school, and reviewing the school mission and school vision statements. Jacquet River School is a K-8 school with 118 students, 9 teachers, 0.5 guidance, 1 administrative assistant, 0.2 librarian, 7 educational assistants, 3 custodians and 4 bus drivers. He outlined various activities and programs at the school. Mr. Doucet stated that the middle school trips were redesigned to take place during a three-year rotation. Last year, the students went to Quebec, this year 40 students will visit Halifax and next year, students will travel to Montreal. He also indicated that students have been successful in representing the school at district and provincial Science Fairs and other events.</p>

	<p>Jacquet River School has had the opportunity to receive support from outside agencies. During the fall, the school received over \$16,000 in gift cards through Indigo's Adopt-a-School program. These funds will make it possible for the library to purchase new books, revamp seating areas and receive a fresh coat of paint. The upcoming Drive-A-Ford campaign has the potential of raising \$3,000 for the student council. Jacquet River School, a community school, also enjoys the support of the RCMP, which has an office set up in the school building. The RCMP members often take the opportunity to walk throughout the school to connect with students. They have also been involved in organizing a volleyball tournament for the students.</p> <p>Mr. Doucet reviewed and explained the goals of three provincial pilot projects that are underway at his school – classroom composition, K-1 Math pilot and the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies) pilot. The PBIS pilot, for example, will make it possible for students to take part in various sessions on conflict resolutions in order to promote anti-bullying and respectful encounters towards peers and teachers. It is also designed to help students with their organizational skills.</p> <p>As a token of appreciation for hosting the meeting, Mr. Mortlock presented Mr. Doucet with a book for his school library.</p>
D.	<p>Presentation: Sandra Pitre, Healthy Learners' Program – "Mental Fitness and Resiliency"</p> <p>Mrs. Pitre was a Public Health nurse for 20 years prior to her current role with the Healthy Learners' Program in Anglophone North School District. She is also a member of the District Health Advisory Committee (DHAC), which has 13 members, three of whom are Public Health nurses.</p> <p>A Mental Fitness Work Group was formed from the District Health Advisory Committee. Members reviewed various data and determined that many children feel disconnected and do not experience a sense of belonging. The work group was formed in September, 2014 and conducted focus groups in various schools to identify ways to improve the students' sense of belonging. Mrs. Pitre noted the importance of listening to students and allowing them to have a voice in this process. The members also recognized that staff, students and parents all have aspects of their lives that may impact their ability to participate and engage fully at school.</p> <p>The work group developed a Mental Fitness and Resiliency Strategy. Mrs. Pitre stated that there is a difference between mental illness and mental fitness. She defined "Mental Fitness" as a state of psychological well-being derived from our thoughts and emotions, and it drives positive lifestyle changes. "Resiliency" was defined as the ability to persist in the face of adversity and bounce back when challenges are encountered. Recommendations were made to ensure that there is a collective understanding of mental fitness and resiliency within the</p>

	<p>school district, that teachers and staff receive training in order to foster a culture of mental fitness and resiliency, that ongoing leadership is provided to the school district on the implementation of this initiative, and that programs are available to help schools deal with and break down the stigma that is often associated with mental illness.</p> <p>Mrs. Pitre shared some of the success stories. She noted that even a pleasant greeting from a bus driver or teacher each morning can have a powerful impact on the student's sense of belonging. When students feel connected, they are capable of achieving better academic scores and enjoying a healthier lifestyle.</p> <p>Mrs. Pitre stated that members of the Mental Fitness Work Group continue to be committed to this project, and they have unanimously agreed to continue on as members of a steering committee to monitor the implementation of this project and to act as a liaison with schools. As Mrs. Pitre concluded her presentation, Mr. Mortlock assured her that the District Education Council will continue to support her group's initiatives.</p>
E.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Ron Ecker that the minutes of the February 15, 2016 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
F.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>There was no business arising from the minutes.</p>
G.	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>(a) Policy Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) GP 1,2,3,4,5,7 – Meeting Review Form (ii) C/SR 4 – Meeting Review Form (iii) EL 1,7 – Meeting Review Form (iv) E-6, E-9, GP-4, GP-8, C/SR-1, C/SR-3, EL-2 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>(b) New Educational Hirings</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Mike Coster that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
H.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>All correspondence items were forwarded to the District Education Council members for their review prior to the meeting.</p>

I.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Superintendent's Evaluation</p> <p>Mr. Mike Coster, Chair of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee, was very pleased to present the Superintendent's Evaluation Report to the members. This report was prepared based on the evaluation forms that each of the Council members completed. He expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Beth Stymiest, Superintendent, for a job well done and for enabling the school district to run so smoothly.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Mike Coster and seconded by Joe Petersen that the Superintendent's Evaluation Report be approved and that the annual salary increase be implemented on July 1, 2016. MOTION CARRIED. A letter will be forwarded to Mrs. Anne Heckbert, Director of Human Resources, informing her of this motion.</p> <p>(b) Naming Committee Report for Miramichi West School</p> <p>Council members were given the opportunity to review the Naming Committee Report for the new Miramichi West School. IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Mike Coster that the District Education Council support the Naming Committee's report and that it be forwarded to Minister Rousselle for his decision. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
J.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed Council members that there will be a provincial District Education Council meeting held in Fredericton on June 10-11, 2016. There will be an orientation session on June 11 for all new and acclaimed District Education Council members who will be serving during the next four-year term.</p> <p>The dates for the Turnaround Achievement Awards have been scheduled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 10 – Restigouche • May 26 – Bathurst • June 7 – Miramichi <p>A list of high school graduation dates was distributed to Council members. Principals have been reminded that members will bring greetings on behalf of the District Education Council at the graduation ceremonies. Members of the district's Senior Admin Team will also be attending the ceremonies.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reported on the Canadian Mental Health Conference he attended on April 6-9 in Ottawa. He will prepare a report for the District Education Council members.</p>

K.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest received an "Outstanding Volunteer" nomination for Michael and Sheila O'Hara from Gretna Green Elementary School. IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Ron Ecker that a Certificate of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to Mr. and Mrs. O'Hara. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Starfish Awards were presented to the following teaching and non-teaching staff: Kim Doyle, Tim Dunn, Alana Fletcher, Tara Foran, Joan MacMillan, Aura McCarthy, Gail Craswell, Linda Dickson, Annette Hendry, and Bethany Creamer.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest met with principals to discuss her report on the student focus groups. She provided principals with questions to discuss with their staff in order to address issues that were raised by the students. She expects to meet with these students again in June.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest informed members about several recent deaths within the school district that have affected students and staff members. She stated that Darren Oakes, Subject Coordinator for Positive Learning Environment, along with his crisis team, have been on call and are doing a phenomenal job. Out of concern for their well-being, Mrs. Stymiest requested that representatives of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association meet with the members of the crisis team and debrief them following these tragedies.</p> <p>A "Teacher Think Tank" meeting will be held in Bathurst on May 24, 2016 to discuss education in the district as it is now and as it could be.</p> <p>A meeting will be held on June 27, 2016 to discuss the District Improvement Plan. Mrs. Stymiest is hopeful that the Education Plan will be available for review prior to this meeting.</p> <p>The Senior Admin Team will be holding deep discussions in the near future with regard to the geographical challenges that the school district often faces. Mrs. Stymiest stated that the team will attempt to find ways to make the district feel smaller. She noted that Anglophone North School District has the largest travel area in the province. This issue will continue to be a major focus again next year.</p>
L.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Ecker enquired about the letter that the District Education Council received from the chairpersons of the North & South Esk Elementary and North & South Esk Regional Parent School Support Committees. This letter addressed a concern in relation to the calculation of teaching stations that is currently used in determining the Policy 409 triggers. Mr. Mortlock will follow-up on this matter and will respond to the letter in the near future.</p>

	<p>Mrs. Rogers informed members that the Youth In Action Atlantic 2016 summit will be held on August 19-21. This is an event for students in Atlantic Canada who have disabilities. She also reported that the Lieutenant Governor was recently a guest at Terry Fox Elementary School.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers read her minutes of the Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting that she attended in Fredericton on February 19, 2016, as well as her minutes of the District Health Advisory Committee meeting that she attended on February 23, 2016. Mr. Mortlock thanked Mrs. Rogers for her reports and for her efforts in keeping Council members up to date on these meetings.</p> <p>Discussion was held concerning the vacancy in Subdistrict 4. The District Education Council will be advertising this vacancy and requesting nominations for this subdistrict. Three candidates will be chosen by Council members, and their names, along with background information, will be forwarded to Minister Rousselle for his decision. It is hoped that the representative for this subdistrict will be appointed by July 1, 2016.</p>
M.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held on May 16, 2016 at Tide Head School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. on a motion by Ron Ecker.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC