

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
August 17, 2020
Office of the Superintendent**

Present: Micheal Mortlock, Chair
Joe Petersen, Vice-Chair
Andy Flanagan
Carmel Hambrook
Rev. Albertine LeBlanc
Sheila Rogers
Mark Donovan, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Nancy McBain
Absent: Brittnee Gallant

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting of the District Education Council to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Office of the Superintendent on August 17, 2020.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc that the Agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Mr. Mark Donovan, Superintendent</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Annual Report to ASD-N District Education Council</p> <p>Mr. Donovan highlighted the following information during his review of the Annual Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a slight decline in ASD-N's 2019-2020 student enrolment, compared to the previous year. • Due to Covid-19 and the closure of schools, some provincial assessments were cancelled. • The Grade 9 English Language Proficiency Assessments were completed in January. The report included a comparison of ASD-N's results with other Anglophone school districts.

- Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency interviews were conducted in both Semester 1 and 2 of the 2019-2020 school year. There were dismal results provincially in reading and writing. ASD-N students performed well with conversational French results, with 88% of the students being successful in Semester 1 and 96% in Semester 2.
- The results of the 2019-2020 Student Perception Surveys were reviewed. Socio-economic situations in rural and vulnerable communities had an impact on the results for certain questions. However, there were positive results from questions relating to the school environment.
- The four Anglophone school districts agreed to focus on a one-year District Improvement Plan due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020-2021 plan will focus on social-emotional learning, a safe return to school, and digital learning.
- The subject coordinators' reports are also included in the annual report.

(b) 2019-2020 Annual First Nation Education Report

Mr. Donovan presented the First Nation annual report, which was prepared by Matthew Sweezey, Subject Coordinator for First Nation Education. Mr. Donovan commended Mr. Sweezey and his team on their excellent work. ASD-N has the largest population of First Nations students compared to other school districts in the province. Ten percent of ASD-N's student population is comprised of First Nation students.

Anglophone North School District is committed to providing educational opportunities that respond to the needs of First Nation youth and their communities. Priority is given to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, as well as Objective 6 of New Brunswick's 10-year Education Plan. District Education Council Policy E-11 was developed to ensure that First Nation education remains a priority in ASD-N. Mr. Donovan reviewed the sections of the First Nation annual report, including the Enhanced First Nation Agreement, the ICE Centre, Orange Shirt Day, the screening of "Indian Horse", land-based education, the Elders in Schools program, promoting Mi'kmaq language, and Spirit Bear.

Mr. Donovan stated that he is looking forward to bigger and better things to come in Anglophone North School District.

Council members unanimously agreed to table the motion to approve these two annual reports until the September 21, 2020 meeting. This will allow members an opportunity to review the reports in more detail.

D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>In the June 22, 2020 minutes, the motion to approve the Capital Improvement Projects, that was included on Page 2, under New Business, Item (c), was corrected to state that the motion was seconded by Sheila Rogers.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the minutes of the June 22, 2020 meeting be approved with this correction. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>There was no business arising from the June 22, 2020 minutes.</p>
F.	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>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-1, E-8, E-11, CS/R-4, EL-3, EL-4, EL-9, EL-13 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>There were no new correspondence items.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) PSSC Budget Allocations – 2020-2021</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the PSSC budget allocations for schools be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
I.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Donovan reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglophone North School District received its 2020-2021 budget, and it is similar to the budget allocated during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. • There were savings in the 2019-2020 budget due to the Covid-19 closure of schools.

- The 2020-2021 Expenditure Plan will be deferred for all four Anglophone school districts until September or October.
- ASD-N is maintaining a tally of Covid-related expenses, which will be incurred by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- The construction of the new K-8 school in Campbellton has been placed on the list of Major Capital Projects as Number 4. The link to the QBL Metric PowerPoint was forwarded to the District Education Council members. It is also posted on EECD's website. This link explains how each new capital project is rated.
- The "Return to Schools" document will be posted on the ASD-N website. Highlights of this document are as follows:
 - Every school must have an Operational Plan to ensure the safety of students and staff. Each plan will be approved by the Superintendent in consultation with Barbara McFarlane, Health and Safety Coordinator. The Operational Plans will be monitored each month.
 - Parents wishing to visit schools must make an appointment by contacting the school office.
 - The return to schools will be based on "classroom bubbles".
 - Staff and students are required to have their own masks. It is highly recommended that they wear their masks if they are unable to maintain a physical distance, or if they are outside their classroom bubble. A contingency of masks will be on hand for students who do not bring a mask to school.
 - Other personal protective equipment that will be available to schools include face shields, desk-top barriers, and hand sanitizers. Water fountains are also being retrofitted to become water-bottle filling stations. A clear plastic curtain will be installed around the school bus driver as another safety feature.
 - There will be a soft launch when schools open on September 8. Schools, especially larger schools, will have the option of staggering their entry of students during the first week to ensure that students clearly understand health protocols.
 - Three high schools have smaller enrolments and can allow students to attend school every day – Blackville School, North & South Esk Regional School and Dalhousie Regional High School. Students at larger high schools will attend every second day.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anglophone North School District will receive eight new school buses and eight new bus drivers to accommodate the Covid-19 health guidelines. ○ School bus transportation will not be available for the Sistema program this year. Parents will be responsible for picking up their children. ○ Schools will receive an increase in custodial hours or new permanent custodial positions, depending on the size of the school. ○ The “Bring Your Own Device” program is available in all high schools. A subsidy program is available to assist families in purchasing laptops for their children. The district expects some challenges and delays in putting laptops into the hands of all high school students. ○ Parents, who opt to keep their children home, will be responsible for home-schooling. If parents keep their children home due to health issues, ASD-N will assist with their learning. ○ Sports that have minimal physical contact will be permitted in ASD-N, with a limited number of spectators at sporting events. ○ The New Brunswick Interscholastic Athlete Association has not yet released its decision on interscholastic sports. ○ Public Health will determine the course of action to be taken when an outbreak occurs. It will be communicated to parents of a specific classroom bubble, school, etc. Confidentiality will be maintained. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anglophone North School District will continue with Parent School Support Committee elections this year, although PSSC meetings may require a different format, ie. online meetings, etc. ● Fire and lockdown drills must be conducted as usual, while maintaining Covid protocols. Fire Safety presentations, school photos and assemblies will not occur until further notice. <p>Mr. Donovan concluded his remarks by indicating that there are still some questions to answer, but information will continue to be communicated on an ongoing basis.</p>
J.	<p>DEC MEMBERS’ COMMENTS</p> <p>Joe Petersen participated in two conference calls for updates on school start-up and several other topics.</p>

	<p>Sheila Rogers announced that the Retired Teachers' Association presented a scholarship to a Bathurst High School graduate in her mother's name to commemorate her mother's 100th birthday.</p> <p>Due to the current Public Health protocols, the location of the upcoming District Education Council meetings may change. The schedule of DEC meetings will be reviewed monthly. The meetings may be held at the Office of the Superintendent or they may be held online, depending on the pandemic.</p>
K.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock expressed his disappointment over the province's lack of consultation with District Education Councils during the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that information would often be shared with Council members after action was taken. Since District Education Councils report to parents, Mr. Mortlock considers Councils as being a valuable part of the educational team.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock asked members to review and familiarize themselves with the "Return to School" document, and to take the opportunity to stress the important role of District Education Councils with candidates who are running in the September election.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock acknowledged that the "Return to School" document was well done, and that it will help to ensure that all staff and students are safe when schools reopen.</p>
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on September 21, 2020 at the Office of the Superintendent.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. on a motion by Joe Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC