

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES  
December 19, 2016  
Office of the Superintendent**

Present: Micheal Mortlock, Chair  
Ron Ecker  
Andy Flanagan  
Carmel Hambrook  
Nancy McBain  
Raymond Murphy  
Joe Petersen  
Sheila Rogers  
Beth Stymiest, Superintendent  
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

	<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>
<b>A.</b>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></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.</p>
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Andy Flanagan and seconded by Ron Ecker that the Agenda be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>C.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Sheila Rogers and seconded by Raymond Murphy that the minutes of the November 21, 2016 meeting be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>D.</b>	<p><b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p>There was no business arising from the minutes.</p>
<b>E.</b>	<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</b></p> <p><b>Policy Monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) GP 1,2,3,4,5,7 – Meeting Review Form</li> <li>(ii) C/SR 4 – Meeting Review Form</li> <li>(iii) EL 1,7 – Meeting Review Form</li> <li>(iv) E-10, C/SR-2, EL-11, EL-12 – In Compliance - See attached briefing notes</li> </ul>

	<p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Andy Flanagan and seconded by Raymond Murphy that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>F.</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>Correspondence items were forwarded to the DEC members for their review prior to the meeting. Mr. Mortlock also shared a card he received from Mrs. Vivian Kierstead, Principal of Dr. Losier Middle School, thanking the members for the vegetable trays that were recently delivered to the schools.</p> <p>A letter was received from Mr. Robert McKay requesting the District Education Council's consideration in preserving the history and legacy of Croft Elementary School, Harkins Elementary School and Harkins Middle School by naming various parts of the new Max Aitken Academy after these schools. The members agreed that, based on past practices, this letter should be referred to the principal and Parent School Support Committee of the new Max Aitken Academy for their consideration and decision. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Ron Ecker and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the District Education Council reply to Mr. McKay's letter stating that his request will be referred to Mr. Mark Donovan, Principal, and the PSSC of Max Aitken Academy. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>G.</b>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>(a) Surplus Property Behind Blackville School</b></p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest informed members that two property owners, who live adjacent to Blackville School, have expressed an interest in purchasing a 12m by 115m parcel of land behind Blackville School. Mrs. Stymiest noted that these owners have been maintaining this particular property for a number of years. She also confirmed that Mr. Rodney Buggie, Principal of Blackville School, is agreeable to its disposal. A map, showing this particular property, was distributed to Council members. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Raymond Murphy and seconded by Joe Petersen that the parcel of land behind Blackville School be declared as surplus property in order to give the neighboring property owners an opportunity to purchase it. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>H.</b>	<p><b>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed members that there have been numerous conference calls during the past month with the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister with regard to ongoing planning for the 10-Year Education Plan.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock gave Mr. Raymond Murphy an opportunity to report on his attendance at the Early Childhood Education seminar held in Fredericton on December 17-18, 2016. Mr. Murphy noted that there were many stakeholders from across the province at these meetings to discuss early childhood education and its proposed integration into the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Ms. Melanie Cortes, Acting Regional Director</p>

	<p>of Early Childhood Education for Anglophone North School District, was among those who attended the sessions. Mr. Murphy expressed concern that Superintendents, District Education Council chairs and school stakeholders were not called to these meetings, as many questions were raised by the early childhood educators concerning their integration into the school system.</p> <p>Ms. Tiffany Bastin, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, will attend the January 16, 2017 meeting of the District Education Council to discuss the next steps for the 10-Year Education Plan and to solicit input from District Education Council members. Mr. Mortlock stated that a survey will be forthcoming, and it will be shared with Council members and Parent School Support Committee members.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock congratulated Mrs. Stymiest and district staff who are involved in making decisions about storm day closures. He acknowledged that this can be a difficult task, considering the varying weather systems across the district. He noted, however, that accurate decisions have definitely been made.</p>
I.	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported on the following:</p> <p>Nominations for “Outstanding Volunteers” were received for Louise Brophy, Mary Ellen Sturgeon and Peggy McLaughlin of Blackville School, and Reverend Paul Legere and Eulah Oliveira of Harcourt School. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen and seconded by Andy Flanagan that Certificates of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to each of these volunteers. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p>Starfish Awards were recently presented to employees who have gone above and beyond in their regular duties. The recipients include Loretta Gorbett, Administrative Assistant II at Blackville School; Dale Worrell, ASD-N Maintenance Department; Cheryl Russell, Administrative Assistant II at James M. Hill Memorial High School; Pattie Furlotte, a teacher at Parkwood Heights Elementary School; Meaghan Wilbur, Tracy MacDonald and Patrick McLaughlin, teachers at Terry Fox Elementary School; and Darren Oakes, Subject Coordinator for Guidance/Positive Learning Environment/Phys. Ed. and Health.</p> <p>The “Dragonfly Project” will be rolled out to all district employees on January 9, 2017. Mrs. Stymiest explained that she is working on this district-wide project with a team of administrators, principals, vice-principals and teachers to identify areas in the school district that require cultural transformation. Mrs. Stymiest showed a video that she prepared, in which she compared the transformation of the dragonfly to the transformation of the school district towards increased maturity, adaptability and flexibility. The script that Mrs. Stymiest used in her video will be distributed to all employees in the district. Each District Education Council member also received a copy of the script.</p>

Principals will be provided with the resources they will need to promote the Dragonfly Project in their schools. Mrs. Stymiest noted that she will be making a presentation on this project at an upcoming PSSC Cluster Meeting at Millerton School, and she offered to visit other schools to promote it. She believes that this project will expose a great deal of untapped potential within the school district.

December was “Excellence” month. “Excellence” is one of the school district’s Core Values, and it focuses on the commitment to strive for excellence, taking ownership of decisions and working towards achieving the district’s priorities.

The second “Teacher Think Tank” was held on December 8, 2016. At a previous meeting, the teachers and administrators identified six areas that require attention. At the December meeting, “mobilizing educators for innovation” was the main focus. Mrs. Stymiest noted that innovation not only applies to technology, but also to finding ways of being innovative.

Darlene MacDonald, Public Health Nurse, will retire on December 23, 2016. Among Mrs. MacDonald’s responsibilities, she has been very involved in the district’s Mental Fitness and Resiliency program and the Roots of Empathy program. Mrs. Stymiest stated that it was a privilege to have had such a vibrant and caring person working with Anglophone North School District. Mr. Dwayne Matchett will be replacing Mrs. MacDonald, and he has been working with Mrs. MacDonald during the transition period.

Provincial meetings are being held for K-2 principals on literacy and numeracy. At the last meeting, principals felt a sense of urgency for K-2 literacy. Mrs. Stymiest noted some of the tools and resources that are in place to improve literacy achievement.

A new six-month project will be starting in January, 2017 designed to help build morale and make the workplace a happier environment. She referred to a video presentation which was recently shown to district staff. The speaker addressed some of the issues that can negatively affect an organization, such as backbiting, gossip, etc. District staff members will participate in this project and will meet at the end of the six weeks to monitor their progress.

Mrs. Stymiest and Mr. Mortlock will meet with five high school focus groups in January and with the other three groups in February.

Mrs. Stymiest reported on recent decisions to close schools in some areas of the district due to weather conditions and to leave other schools open. She, along with the Transportation Manager and Assistant Transportation Manager, received very hurtful phone calls and emails about these decisions. She explained to the District Education Council members the procedures that are followed when contemplating school closures. Members agreed it is always best to err on the side of caution. As well, Mrs. Stymiest noted that if parents

	do not feel comfortable sending their children to school on days when the weather does not warrant a school closure, they have the option of keeping their children home. In these situations, students are not marked absent.
<b>L.</b>	<p><b>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Ms. McBain reported that the community of Eel River Bar invited the ISD (Integrated Service Delivery) group to give a presentation on their program. Ms. McBain expressed her appreciation for this presentation.</p> <p>Ms. McBain thanked Mrs. Stymiest for following up on a request to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development about early childhood education services for First Nation children. Ms. McBain noted that currently, referrals can be made for speech and occupational therapy for these children.</p> <p>Mr. Murphy reported that Santa's Helpers will be wrapping Christmas gifts again this year. This program was spearheaded by Anne Robichaud, a retired teacher, to help needy families in the Rexton area at Christmas time. This group of helpers includes teachers, retired teachers and spouses.</p> <p>Mr. Murphy congratulated Mrs. Stymiest on developing the Dragonfly Project. He stated that this is a prime example of leadership at the district level.</p> <p>Sheila Rogers reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The December DHAC (District Health Advisory Committee) meeting was cancelled due to the weather. She acknowledged Mrs. Darlene MacDonald's retirement and the fact that Mrs. MacDonald will be missed on the committee.</li> <li>• Students at Superior Middle School are preparing for the Science and Heritage Fairs. Six students recently attended the WE Conference in Halifax. As well, students at this school donated canned fruit for the Spirit of Christmas campaign.</li> <li>• Bathurst High School students collected 374 boxes of Kleenex and 63 boxes of hot chocolate for the Spirit of Christmas campaign.</li> <li>• Janeville Elementary School recently held their Christmas concert.</li> <li>• Students at Parkwood Heights Elementary School participated in a Holiday PJ Party. Santa joined these students for a special evening.</li> <li>• Terry Fox Elementary School held its Christmas Concert at Bathurst High School.</li> </ul>

- Mrs. Rogers noted the significance of “communication”, one of the district’s Core Values, and how the public can access the district website for pictures and videos of student work. She particularly mentioned seeing the amazing work being done by the Grade 2 class at Terry Fox Elementary School.

Mr. Ecker reported that the PSSC Cluster Meeting, that was scheduled for November 30, 2016, was cancelled due to the weather. It has been rescheduled for January 31, 2017.

Mr. Petersen noted that one Parent School Support Committee meeting in his subdistrict was cancelled as it did not have a quorum.

Mrs. Hambrook reported on her recent attendance at the Tabusintac PSSC Meeting:

- Members at this PSSC meeting expressed concern that French Immersion may not be available to the students at Tabusintac Community School due to the school’s small population. Mrs. Stymiest confirmed that although French Immersion will not be offered, there may be other options available for these students.
- The PSSC members stated that because of the distance, they will not be able to attend the PSSC Cluster Meeting in Millerton. Mrs. Stymiest, who will be the guest speaker at the cluster meeting in Millerton, offered to make her presentation in Tabusintac.
- The PSSC at Tabusintac Community School will pay for school signs that will be posted at the end of the road.
- Mrs. Hambrook noted that the PSSC and Home & School Association at Tabusintac Community School combine their meetings. She explained to those members how these meetings should be kept separate.

Mrs. Hambrook also reported on an attendance incentive program at Miramichi Valley High School. Mr. Ashley Hallihan, Teacher, also has a project underway at this school which allows students the opportunity to make signs. Millerton School and Gretna Green School have already placed an order for signs.

Mr. Mortlock reported on school activities in his subdistrict:

- He attended a PSSC meeting recently at Campbellton Middle School. He noted that this was a phenomenal meeting with all members working together really well.
- Tide Head School will be holding its Christmas Concert on December 21.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Restigouche County Volunteer Action Association held its annual telethon at Sugarloaf Senior High School. A total of \$32,500 was raised at the telethon with the goal of \$40,000 being reached following the telethon. This money will be used to fill 585 baskets for needy families in the Restigouche area.</li> </ul>
<b>M.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held on January 16, 2017 at North &amp; South Esk Regional School.</p> <p>Prior to adjournment, Mr. Mortlock wished the members a very Merry Christmas.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on a motion by Raymond Murphy.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by Brenda Dunnett*

Brenda Dunnett  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC