

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
February 15, 2016
Miramichi Rural School**

Present: Micheal Mortlock, Chair
Nancy McBain
Raymond Murphy
Joe Petersen
Sheila Rogers
Beth Stymiest, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Mike Coster
Ron Ecker
Andy Flanagan

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 Miramichi Rural School.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock requested that the agenda be amended to include “(b) Naming Committee Report for Gretna Green” under “New Business”.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Joe Petersen that the Agenda be approved with this amendment. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Zoella Vienneau, Principal, Miramichi Rural School</p> <p>Ms. Vienneau welcomed the District Education Council members to Miramichi Rural School. She stated that she has been the principal of this school for five years and for two years prior to that, she was acting principal. The school, which is located on the Miramichi Bay, has 70 students and 14 staff members. Students who attend the school live in the catchment area from Escuminac to the Black River Road. Many people from the community are either fishermen or work at the local fish plant. Ms. Vienneau noted that Miramichi Bay is a very welcoming community and one that is always willing to help the school when needed.</p>

	<p>A feature that is very unique to Miramichi Rural School is the observatory, which was built several years ago with the help of Innovative Learning Funds and community donations. She displayed a video which showed the planning stages during the observatory's construction. Ms. Vienneau noted that the observatory was built to allow students at Miramichi Rural School the opportunity to learn more about the stars and the galaxy. More recently, students had the opportunity to view the blood moon. There are plans to revamp the observatory to promote more student interest and participation.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock presented Ms. Vienneau with a book for her school library as a token of appreciation for hosting the meeting.</p>
<p>D.</p>	<p>Presentation: Attendance Policy</p> <p>Mr. Craig Caldwell, Director of Schools, and Mr. Darren Oakes, Subject Coordinator for Positive Learning Environment, presented the Attendance Improvement Plan that has been implemented in Anglophone North School District. The Attendance Improvement Plan (AIP) is based on the Lean Six Sigma Project, a business model that has been adapted to meet the needs of Education, and to provide teachers with strategies in dealing with student absenteeism. The Attendance Improvement Plan is designed to not only determine the causes of absenteeism but also to provide appropriate support for students.</p> <p>Mr. Caldwell explained that excessive absenteeism among students has been an ongoing concern, and he noted the impact that absenteeism has on student achievement. He stated that in 2014-2015, 36% of the district's high school students, which translates into over 1,000 students, experienced excessive absenteeism. Excessive absenteeism is defined as students who are absent for 12 or more classes in at least one subject per semester.</p> <p>Mr. Oakes compared the previous District Regulation 302: Attendance (K-12) with the thresholds and protocols that are now in place under the new Attendance Improvement Plan. This plan gives teachers the opportunity to intervene after 4 days, as compared to the 5 and 10 days in the previous regulation. Mr. Oakes stated that following the first semester of the 2015-2016 school year, there has already been a decrease in excessive absenteeism among high school students from 36% to 30.4%, which is at target. As well, the parental and student involvement in AIP meetings has increased from 44% to 71%, which is well above the target.</p> <p>Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Oakes indicated that they would be willing to return to a meeting of the District Education Council and provide members with a further update on the new Attendance Improvement Plan.</p>

E.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Joe Petersen that the minutes of the January 18, 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) EL-4 – In Compliance - See Attached Briefing Notes <p>(b) New Educational Hirings</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Sheila Rogers 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) Financial Report</p> <p>Mr. Tim Dunn, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2015. He reviewed the report with the members and explained the current deficit or surplus situation in each of the budgets. Mr. Dunn stated that because of a milder winter and a decrease in fuel costs this year, he is now forecasting a surplus in the Plant Operation and Maintenance budget, and the Pupil Transportation budget. He stated that otherwise, these two budgets would have been in a different situation, especially since there was a significant increase in the cost of snow removal contracts this year. He expressed concern about next year's budget, particularly if there is an increase in fuel costs.</p> <p>Overall, there is a deficit of \$43,442 that is forecasted for fiscal year-end on March 31, 2016. This deficit will be covered by the Special Purposes funds that were approved in August, 2015 to be used at the Superintendent's discretion.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Joe Petersen that the Financial Report, for the period ending December 31, 2015, be approved as</p>

	<p>presented by Mr. Tim Dunn, Director of Finance and Administration. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock expressed his appreciation to Mr. Dunn for his hard work with the district's budget.</p> <p>(b) Naming Committee Report for Gretna Green</p> <p>Council members were given the opportunity to review the Naming Committee Report for Gretna Green. IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Nancy McBain that the District Education Council supports the Naming Committee's report and that it will be forwarded to Minister Rousselle for his decision. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
<p>J.</p>	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed Council members that further to the motion that was approved on January 18, 2016 with regard to the First Nations representative, the District Education Council will forward letters to the First Nations communities requesting nominations for a First Nations representative. Members agreed to start this process with the hope that the First Nations representative will be in place when the District Education Council starts its new term in July, 2016.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock advised members that the deadline for nominations for the May 9, 2016 Municipal/District Education Council/Regional Health Authority Elections is April 9, 2016. He noted that 10-12 nominations are needed for each candidate. More information is available online under Elections NB.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock and Mrs. Stymiest held another High School Focus Group session with student council presidents and vice-presidents on February 15, 2016 in Bathurst. There was 100% participation from all of the high schools in the district. During discussions, students were asked about the kind of forum they would prefer in order to express their thoughts and ideas - whether they would prefer to have one student representative on the District Education Council, or whether they would prefer to attend student forums three times per year. There was a unanimous consensus among the students that they would prefer to attend student forums three times per year. Students were asked to forward a letter to Mr. Mortlock confirming their wishes in this regard, and he will pass them on to the Minister.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock confirmed that the District Education Council has not yet received the Minister's decision with regard to the recommendation for Tide Head School, Lord Beaverbrook School and Campbellton Middle School. However, he is expecting to receive this decision in the very near future.</p>

K.	<p data-bbox="310 268 873 300">SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p data-bbox="310 268 873 300">Mrs. Stymiest reported on the following:</p> <ul data-bbox="358 342 1421 1921" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="358 342 1421 520">• She received three nominations for “Outstanding Volunteers” – Jim Wry of Harry’s Variety, Pastor Mona Stephen and her Living Hope Church, and Kim Vandenbrand. IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Joe Petersen that Certificates of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to these volunteers. MOTION CARRIED.<li data-bbox="358 562 1421 636">• A Starfish Award was awarded to Elaine Foran, a teacher at North & South Esk Elementary School.<li data-bbox="358 678 1421 1035">• Mrs. Stymiest highlighted some of the information she included in her “Report on High School Focus Groups” that she prepared for the District Education Council following the January 2016 sessions. She stated that it was a pleasure to meet with these students and discuss issues and challenges that they often experience at the high school level. A copy of the report will be sent to Mrs. Karen Power, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, for her information while preparing the 10-Year Education Plan Report. Mrs. Stymiest also shared some of the ideas that were discussed among student council presidents and vice-presidents at the student forum on February 15, 2016.<li data-bbox="358 1077 1421 1329">• Mrs. Stymiest reported on the asbestos issue in some of the former District 15 schools. Council members were informed that the remediation at Bathurst High School and Dalhousie Regional High School has now been completed and that air quality testing results have been very good. One of the district’s maintenance staff has received asbestos and remediation training, and he will be conducting inspections in all of the district’s schools.<li data-bbox="358 1371 1421 1591">• Mrs. Stymiest noted that a bullying issue was recently reported in the media. She assured Council members that the Positive Learning Environment team continues to work tirelessly with regard to bullying, and that many strategies continue to be followed in the district. She stated that it is extremely challenging when issues arise through social media and carry over into the schools.<li data-bbox="358 1633 1421 1854">• The first refugee family arrived in Miramichi within the last week. Three children from this family will be enrolled in Anglophone North School District. Gail Craswell, Subject Coordinator for Literacy, is providing assistance, and a casual behavior mentor, who speaks Arabic, is also assisting them. The Bathurst and Edmundston areas will be receiving the next refugee families.<li data-bbox="358 1896 1421 1921">• The Integrated Services Delivery (ISD) will be implemented in 2016.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Stymiest indicated that at a meeting with the I.T. Governance Team in Fredericton on February 11, 2016, the “Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)” program was discussed. Anglophone North School District would like to extend this program beyond the two district high schools that already have this program in place. • Mrs. Stymiest recently attended a meeting at Eel River Bar First Nation with Matthew Sweezey, Subject Coordinator for First Nations. She noted that Mr. Sweezey is doing a fantastic job, and that the people at the meeting felt very satisfied that their needs are being met. • The Senior Management Team has developed “Core Values” for Anglophone North School District. Mrs. Stymiest stated that posters and bookmarks have been printed for the schools and employees in order to inform them about these core values. • Mrs. Stymiest regretted to inform Council members that a school bus driver from Bathurst recently passed away as a result of a sudden illness. Counselors were on hand at the Bathurst Education Center and at Terry Fox Elementary School to provide extra support. • Nominations for the “Celebrate the Spirit Award” continue to be received by Mrs. Stymiest. The deadline for submitting the nominations is Friday, February 19, 2016.
L.	<p>DEC MEMBERS’ COMMENTS</p> <p>Ms. McBain noted that she often sees First Nations photos in schools, but felt it is important that photos of all cultures should be included.</p> <p>Ms. McBain suggested the possibility of reaching out to post graduates and inviting them to visit their former schools to share some of their experiences from their post-secondary education, such as learning to take notes in class, etc. Council members noted that some post graduates have often been invited as guest speakers at high school graduation ceremonies.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers reported on activities at Terry Fox Elementary School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-Valentine’s Day was held on Friday, February 12. Remi Boudreau, an amazing magician, visited the school and performed in both official languages. • The school is looking forward to its oratorical event, “Straight from My Heart”, on February 25. Students are currently working on their speeches. • The staff has completed a survey on behavior in the school and is in the process of determining new behavior goals for the Positive Learning Environment Plan’s new template.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Fox Elementary School has booked Frisbee Rob and his dog, Davy, for a motivational show in March. He will speak about being unique and operating in kindness. He also delivers an anti-bullying message while displaying his Guinness World Book record skills with a Frisbee. He will be doing a book reading, sharing at an assembly and teaching Frisbee skills. • This school's student council recently held the grand opening of their student game room/lounge, which is being used as a reward for students who are in the sunny yellow zone at recess times.
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held on March 21, 2016 at Jacquet River School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. on a motion by Raymond Murphy.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC