

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
February 20, 2017
Terry Fox Elementary School**

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

Regrets: Nancy McBain

	AGENDA ITEMS
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting of the District Education Council to order at 5:40 p.m. at Terry Fox Elementary School.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed Council members that Nancy Boucher was unable to attend the meeting due to an illness. Her presentation on the 10-Year Education Plan will be rescheduled until the March 20, 2017 meeting. The members also agreed to add, "(c) Letter to Minister Re Policy 409 Sustainability Studies" under New Business.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Ron Ecker that the Agenda be approved with these changes. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Paula Chapman, Acting Principal, Terry Fox Elementary School</p> <p>After welcoming the District Education Council members to Terry Fox Elementary School, Ms. Paula Chapman, Acting Principal, turned the presentation over to three students of Terry Fox Elementary School. They explained that their school, which was named in memory of Terry Fox, is celebrating its 10th-year anniversary this year. They noted that the Grade 5 students were actually born during the year that the school opened.</p> <p>The students highlighted some of the school's various programs and activities. Buddy, a large cardboard mascot located in the cafeteria, serves as a reminder</p>

	<p>to students to follow the HERO Code of Conduct. Students are rewarded for doing their best at school and for following the code of conduct. Students also help others in the school and community. The Grade 4 French Immersion class, for example, is currently collecting items for the local SPCA. The Grade 2 class has organized a movie and a lemonade sale to help raise funds for the “Help Lesotho” campaign. Students, who participate in the Kinder Coats program, help K-2 students get ready for outside play time. Peace Pals help students solve problems on the playground. There is also a Compliment Board which is used to compliment students on their achievements.</p> <p>The computer lab has recently been equipped with new student laptops, and the school participates in the Artist-in-Residence program. Terry Fox Elementary School also has an active student council, intramural sports program and chess club. Students have participated in musical productions during the past four years. This year, they are preparing for the production of “The Little Mermaid”. The school is also participating in a Healthy 60-Minute Kids Club Challenge to promote healthy eating and an active lifestyle. The school is currently ranked eleventh in Canada for this challenge.</p> <p>As a token of appreciation for hosting the District Education Council meeting, Mr. Mortlock presented Ms. Chapman and the three students with a book for their school library.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the minutes of the January 16, 2017 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>There was no business arising from the 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) EL-4 – In Compliance - See attached briefing notes <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Correspondence items were forwarded to the DEC members for their review prior to the meeting.</p>

H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Declaration of Surplus Property</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock asked Council members to consider declaring three former schools as surplus property. IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the former Harkins Elementary School, Harkins Middle School and Croft Elementary School be declared as surplus properties as of March 31, 2017. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock stated that the City of Miramichi is interested in purchasing an approximately 25m by 90m piece of property located in the area adjacent to the Lord Beaverbrook Arena. A photograph, which showed an aerial view of this property, was distributed to the members. IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Ron Ecker that this property be declared as surplus property in order to allow the City of Miramichi the opportunity to purchase it. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(b) Financial Report – 2016-2017 Fiscal Year</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reviewed the Financial Report for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, as of January 31, 2017. This report revealed a projected deficit of \$17,572.00, a decrease in the deficit since the last quarter and a huge decrease since the beginning of the fiscal year. Mrs. Stymiest outlined several factors which contributed to this decrease, including savings in bus operation costs due to storm day cancellations, savings in minor repairs, savings in electrical costs and a decrease in the projected deficit for Educational Assistants' wages. Mrs. Stymiest also distributed a list of various programs and initiatives in the district that received funding since December, 2016.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the Financial Report for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED. The members requested that Mr. Tim Dunn and his team be congratulated for their work in continually monitoring the budget.</p> <p>(c) Letter to Minister Re Policy 409 Sustainability Studies</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock noted the District Education Council's decision at the beginning of the term to conduct Policy 409 sustainability studies during the 2016-2017 school year. He noted, however, that the work involved in implementing new programs, such as Grade 1 French Immersion, the Priority Unit, and the Integrated Service Delivery, has resulted in extra demands on staff. IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Joe Petersen that the District Education Council request the Minister's consideration in absolving the Council from conducting any Policy 409 sustainability studies for a period of two years. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
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I.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He attended the Budget Lockdown meeting in Fredericton on February 7, 2017. • He attended a High School Focus Group session at Bonar Law Memorial School on February 9. • On February 17, he attended a Provincial Literacy Strategy meeting. He thoroughly enjoyed this meeting and learned about strategies for early childhood, Grades K-2, and strategies to prepare high school students more effectively for their entry into the work force following graduation. • Mr. Mortlock attended the Naming Ceremony for the new Miramichi East school. The members of the Sistema Group played their instruments, and students sang a song at the end of the ceremony using American Sign Language. He noted that the students did a fantastic job, and he was extremely pleased with the ceremony. • On February 21, Mr. Mortlock, Mrs. Stymiest and Mr. Ecker will meet with the High School Focus Groups at Blackville School and North & South Esk Regional School. These meetings will conclude the sessions for all of the high schools in the district, and Mrs. Stymiest will be preparing her final report. • Mr. Mortlock accepted an invitation to attend a meeting with the Multi Cultural Association in Restigouche County. This meeting focused on strategies to retain immigrants in Restigouche County. Mr. Mortlock noted that retaining these immigrants would also result in an increase in the student population in Restigouche County, which includes both the Anglophone and Francophone school districts. • Mr. Mortlock read a letter from Mrs. Beth Stymiest, stating her intention to retire as Superintendent of Anglophone North School District, effective June 30, 2017. Due to the illness of the district's Director of Human Resources, the District Education Council will seek assistance from another school district in posting this position and forming a hiring committee. Mr. Mortlock noted that the ASD-N District Education Council members will be involved in the hiring process. Mr. Mortlock anticipates that the hiring of the new Superintendent will take place in April, 2017.
I.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported on the following:</p> <p>Nominations for "Outstanding Volunteers" were received for Jennifer Maher at St. Andrew's Elementary School, and Juanita Cormier at Terry Fox Elementary School. IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Joe Petersen that Certificates of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to each of these volunteers. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

Starfish Awards were recently presented to Paul Mourant, Principal, Carol Davis, Vice-Principal, as well as Laura Ketch, Megan Gallagher, Rob Woodburn, Nick Fullerton and Julie Hudson of Bonar Law Memorial School; as well as Lisa Sullivan, a teacher at Nelson Rural School.

Mrs. Stymiest commented on the far-reaching effects that the recent ice storm had on the communities. She acknowledged the accommodations that schools made for some students who had difficulty getting to school to write exams due to power outages. She was also very impressed with everyone's willingness to help each other after the storm, including the schools that opened their doors to allow staff to have access to showers.

Mrs. Anne Heckbert, Director of Human Resources, is currently sick in the hospital. Mrs. Jill Flanagan, a retired Human Resources Officer, has agreed to return to work to assist the Human Resources Department during Mrs. Heckbert's absence.

Mrs. Stymiest reported that a meeting was recently held with the Office of the Superintendent and Miramichi Education Center staff to follow up on the Gossip 2017 campaign. She received favorable comments from the staff as well as their commitment to interact professionally with each other. She noted that schools have also expressed an interest in adopting this program for their staff.

Interviews were held for the position of principal for the new Miramichi East school. Ms. Paula Hache has been named to this position, and she is looking forward to her new role.

Mrs. Stymiest provided an update on the Grade 1 French Immersion program by stating that 8 teachers are still needed to fill the vacant positions. Education and Early Childhood Development will be helping with the recruitment process.

Mrs. Stymiest reported on the administrators' meeting held on February 15, 2017 to address culture transformation in the district. She described this as a fantastic meeting and a time for reflection and construction of new ideas. She received excellent feedback from the principals. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2017.

Principals have been asked to nominate an individual or organization for the "Celebrate the Spirit Award".

Mrs. Stymiest concluded her comments by reflecting on her educational career. She stated that she has a passion for education. She informed members that she will continue to be involved with the Literacy Bridges program in Bathurst following her retirement. She is excited about her future and she thanked the members for their support.

L.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Raymond Murphy stated that he will regret seeing Mrs. Stymiest leave her position. He appreciated that fact that she was always up front with every issue, and he felt very confident knowing that any advice that the District Education Council received from Mrs. Stymiest was good, solid advice. He wished her all the best as she moves forward.</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook was not able to attend a Parent School Support Committee meeting scheduled at Miramichi Valley High School due to a storm day cancellation. She congratulated Mrs. Stymiest on her impending retirement.</p> <p>Ron Ecker reflected on Mrs. Stymiest's intention to retire. He stated that he was always impressed with the fact that she always strived to do better. He concluded by saying that her kind heart, passion and caring attitude will be missed.</p> <p>Sheila Rogers reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has a PSSC Cluster meeting scheduled in Bathurst for March 14. Mrs. Stymiest will be the guest speaker. • She attended a PSSC meeting at Janeville Elementary School. She noted that Ms. Ellen Lee is a wonderful principal who has new projects underway that focus on literacy. • She reported on the District Health Advisory Committee Meeting she attended in February. • Mrs. Rogers informed Mrs. Stymiest that she will be missed after she retires. <p>Andy Flanagan reported that the naming ceremony for the new Miramichi East school went very well. He also reported that the PSSC groups for both Ian Baillie Primary School and St. Andrew's Elementary School will meet in March to discuss the transition into the new school. There are fundraisers underway to raise money for the new playground, including an auction of memorabilia and a gala in May.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock confirmed that any PSSC members who would like to attend the DEC Symposium in May should submit their name to him, and he will make a selection based on the number of requests he receives. Mr. Mortlock noted that this symposium is an excellent opportunity for PSSC members to be exposed to the work of the District Education Council.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock attended a PSSC meeting at Lord Beaverbrook School. This school is doing great work in getting parents involved in what they perceive education to be and what education should be. Mr. Mortlock's next PSSC meeting is at Campbellton Middle School on February 22.</p>
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M.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held on March 20, 2017 at Max Aitken Academy. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. in order to allow the members enough time to tour the new school building. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on a motion by Raymond Murphy.
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Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC