

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE SCHOOL DISTRICT-NORTH**

**MINUTES
February 28, 2022
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present: Joe Petersen, Chair
Sheila Rogers, Vice-Chair
Gilbert Cyr
Carmel Hambrook
Rev. Albertine LeBlanc
Nancy McBain
Paul Mourant
Mark Donovan, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Andy Flanagan

| AGENDA ITEMS | |
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| A. | <p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Joe Petersen, Chair, welcomed the District Education Council members and the public to this virtual meeting, and he acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on unceded territory. He called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.</p> |
| B. | <p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>The following items were added to the agenda under New Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Letter from Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant (b) DEC Retreat to Review Policies <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to approve the agenda with these additions. MOTION CARRIED.</p> |
| C. | <p>PRESENTATION: Michael Graham, Principal, Campbellton Middle School</p> <p>Mr. Graham began his PowerPoint presentation, "The Journey Is the Reward", by reviewing Campbellton Middle School's mission statement, vision, and profile. The school's enrollment is currently 155, with students attending from the communities extending from Robinsville/Upsalquitch to Dalhousie Junction, and they also attend from the Listuguj First Nation community in Quebec.</p> <p>Mr. Graham discussed some of the challenges CMS students experienced during the global pandemic, including learning gaps, mental health issues, anxiety, student engagement, student attendance, lack of sports, activities, and</p> |

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| | <p>opportunities to socialize with friends outside class bubbles. He noted that 60 teaching days were lost from March 2020 to June 2020.</p> <p>During periods of at-home learning, the school provided students with learning packets and on-line learning opportunities. Mr. Graham noted that some classes experienced more participation than others. He attributed this to a lack of internet connection, a lack or limited use of devices in homes, sharing devices with siblings, parents working, illness, and periods of self-isolation due to COVID-19 cases in the Campbellton region.</p> <p>Mr. Graham stated that the staff is happy to have the students back in school. They have been working hard to engage students and get them back on track. Mr. Graham reviewed the many literacy and numeracy interventions that are currently in place, as well as the mental fitness programs and presentations that are being planned to help students control their emotions, anxiety, and behaviour.</p> <p>Mr. Petersen thanked Mr. Graham for his presentation. He indicated that a book will be sent to the Campbellton Middle School library as a gift from the District Education Council.</p> |
| D. | <p>PRESENTATION: Mrs. Connie Daley, Director of Education Support Services – “Psychologist Recruitment”</p> <p>Mrs. Daley explained that 6.4 FTE psychologists are allotted to Anglophone School District-North. However, there is currently only one psychologist in ASD-N, and that person serves the Bathurst, Dalhousie, and Campbellton schools. Vacancies are due to the lack of school psychologists. Mrs. Daley stated that the dilemma with psychologist recruitment started five years ago for two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College of Psychologists of New Brunswick changed the required background from a Masters degree to a Ph.D. This takes an additional 4-6 years to complete, and it results in a bigger commitment for a candidate to become a psychologist. • The school psychologists were placed with the Child and Youth Teams, as part of the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) program, and this resulted in a change in the nature of their work. <p>Despite the school district’s efforts to advertise for psychologist positions on a regular basis, there are no applicants. The shortage of school psychologists is common across the province. Mrs. Daley stated, however, that following consultations with the provincial recruitment committee, members were able to address some of the psychologists’ concerns. For example, they were given a raise, additional vacation days, and flex time. It is hoped that this will help entice more individuals to become psychologists.</p> |

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| | <p>At the present time, ASD-N backfills the vacant school psychologist positions with social workers, which allows the school district to meet the counselling needs in schools. Psycho-educational assessments, that are needed in the Miramichi and Rexton areas, are contracted out to private psychologists due to the lack of school psychologists.</p> <p>Mrs. Daley stated that following the passing of Bill 35 in New Brunswick, new “resource specialist” positions were created. ASD-N will receive two of these positions – one for the Miramichi/Rexton region and one for the Bathurst/Dalhousie/Campbellton region. These positions will be advertised in conjunction with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. These teachers will receive extensive training, which will allow them to conduct Level C testing. This should help to reduce the number of psycho-educational assessments being contracted out to private psychologists.</p> <p>District Education Council members had the opportunity to ask questions about the allotment of school guidance counselors and meeting student mental health needs. Mr. Donovan noted that a recent article in the New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate Report mentioned that one of the programs that was implemented in Anglophone School District-North should be replicated in other school districts. The members commended and expressed their admiration to Mrs. Daley for her work as Director of Education Support Services in ASD-N.</p> |
| E. | <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Sheila Rogers to approve the January 17, 2022 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.</p> |
| F. | <p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>(a) PSSC Appreciation Dinner</p> <p>There was discussion about a potential location for the PSSC Appreciation Dinner.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Paul Mourant to schedule the annual PSSC Appreciation Dinner at the Gowan Brae Golf & Country Club on Thursday, May 19, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(b) Publicly Acknowledging Recipients of District Awards</p> <p>Mr. Donovan stated that the recipients of the January Starfish Awards were publicly acknowledged in his February 7, 2022 weekly update to all staff. The Director of Communications will also include this information on other public platforms.</p> |

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| G. | <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 Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Sheila Rogers to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.</p> |
| H. | <p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>There were no correspondence items.</p> |
| I. | <p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Letter from Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant</p> <p>Mr. Donovan acknowledged Mrs. Brenda Dunnett’s letter, dated January 22, 2022, stating her intention to retire on June 30, 2022. The Human Resources Department will be posting the advertisement for the position of Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and District Education Council in the near future. Mr. Donovan will keep the members up to date on further developments in this regard.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Paul Mourant and seconded by Gilbert Cyr to accept Mrs. Dunnett’s letter of retirement. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(b) DEC Retreat to Review Policies</p> <p>Following a brief discussion, District Education Council members agreed to table the DEC Retreat until their next regular meeting on March 21, 2022. The purpose of this retreat is to review all district policies, and it was agreed to hold this event prior to the end of the current school year.</p> |
| J. | <p>CHAIR’S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Petersen will be attending a PSSC meeting at L. E. Reinsborough School on March 3.</p> <p>Mr. Petersen also reported that the Council of DEC Chairs, from the Anglophone and Francophone school districts, made their presentations about the new government model to Mr. David Coon of the Green Party, Mr. Roger Melanson of the Liberal Party, and Ms. Connie Keating, President of the NBTA. The Council of DEC Chairs is awaiting dates to be scheduled for these presentations to be made to the District Education Councils as well.</p> |

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| K. | <p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Donovan reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starfish Award were awarded to the following employees in ASD-N: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mindi Buggie Hachey, French Teacher, Blackville School - Ashley Hallihan, High School Teacher, Blackville School - Cindi Gilchrist, Educational Assistant, Blackville School - Shannon Scott, Behaviour Mentor, Bathurst High School - Bryaunna Williams, C&Y Team, Campbellton/Dalhousie Region • The Superintendent's Merit Award was presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - James Matchett, Bus Driver, Miramichi - Randy Campbell, Bus Driver, Rexton • Budget savings that were incurred, because of school closures, etc., have enabled the district to provide all 29 schools with a significant amount of additional funding. • Mr. Donovan reviewed the key changes to the COVID-19 protocols, effective February 28 and March 14. • In an effort to provide high-level professional learning for teachers during these challenging times, teachers will have the option of taking professional learning sessions during non-instructional times and be paid. • All four Anglophone school districts will be sending school and district leaders to the ULead Conference in Alberta in April. The conference will address the disruptions in learning caused by the pandemic. • Mr. Donovan was very pleased to announce that two of ASD-N's proposals/abstracts will be showcased at the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education (W.I.P.C.E.) in Adelaide, Australia in September. This is the largest conference ever held in the world, focusing on the issues, challenges, and successes regarding Indigenous Education. Mr. Donovan noted that this is a huge win for Anglophone School District-North. <p>The proposals that were selected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elders in Schools Program - Restoring Mi'kmaq Stories in Mi'kmaki <p>Each session will be led by a First Nation Elder and supported by an educator from ASD-N.</p> |
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| L. | <p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p><u>Rev. Albertine LeBlanc:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. LeBlanc completed and submitted her Superintendent's Annual Evaluation Form. • She reported on the PSSC meeting she attended via Zoom for Blackville School on February 22. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was an update on COVID-19 - Budget expenditures were discussed - The school will do some positive messaging - Funding was approved for paving at the school - There is a need for an updated water system - Assessment results were discussed • She attended an in-person meeting on February 23 at North & South Esk Elementary School. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The principal expressed appreciation to Mr. Donovan for providing funds for the skating project - 84% of students participated in at-home learning - Reviewed results of survey conducted in November - Interventions have been put in place to help students - Discussion about the School Improvement Plan, particularly student mental health and social/emotional learning - 17 new iPads were purchased for the school - The cafeteria received new bench-type tables and new drapes <p><u>Nancy McBain:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McBain was invited to sit on the committee with First Nation members from other communities to discuss the new governance model. She reported as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was discussion about education that is provided for both on-reserve schools and schools outside of the First Nation communities. - There have been many successes in schools because of the 10-Year Education Plan and the initiatives that have been put in place by the province, Superintendents, District Education Councils, and schools. - The meetings were very well done, and members felt supported. - It was invigorating to sit with other First Nation members to identify the areas that need improvement, and areas where advances have been made. - She was pleased to have a voice on that committee. - Because of the information shared, the First Nation members will be invited to attend another meeting for more follow up. |
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Carmel Hambrook

- She attended a virtual meeting with Tabusintac Community School's PSSC.
 - The school had an increase in enrolment this year, with some students attending from outside Canada.
 - Budget expenditures were discussed.
 - The PSSC members thanked the District Education Council for extra funding.
 - The school is working on its School Improvement Plan.
 - Students are learning about other cultures and will be taking part in cultural activities.
- She asked about the length of time that DEC members are required to keep meeting information on file. Mr. Donovan will check on this. He noted, however, that copies of this information are also kept on file at the district office.
- Mrs. Hambrook inquired about information that could be shared about the new governance model. Information that is under embargo cannot be shared until the embargo is lifted.
- She inquired about the nomination process for various awards.
- She will be attending a Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee in late April.

Paul Mourant:

- Bonar Law Memorial School extended appreciation to the District Education Council for the extra funding it received. These funds were used to purchase a full body-size skeleton for the school's Biology and Science Department.
- There was concern raised by parents in the Rexton area regarding the lack of bus drivers. This has now been remedied for the most part.
- PSSC meetings for Harcourt School and Rexton Elementary School were postponed.

Gilbert Cyr:

- PSSC meetings for Campbellton Middle School and Lord Beaverbrook School were postponed due to weather and other circumstances.
- He acknowledged Mr. Donovan for the work he does in supporting the Listuguj students.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cyr is unofficially maintaining his efforts to lobby for the new K-8 school as the Number One priority. He noted that many parents and politicians are keeping a close eye and are hopeful that the criteria for the new Campbellton school will not change again. <p><u>Sheila Rogers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She attended the PSSC meeting for Terry Fox Elementary School. Twelve members were in attendance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They discussed interventions for English Prime and French Immersion students. - The school received over \$9,000 in enrichment grants. - A world map with the theme, “We Are One”, was installed in the lobby. - The school will be making more connections with parents so that they are aware of not only school activities, but what students are doing in their classes as well. • She was unable to attend the PSSC meeting at Janeville Elementary School as it was held the same night as TFES. She spoke to the principal of Janeville Elementary School about how that school communicate to parents. They have weekly communications that highlight items from the calendar. They also use Twitter, School Messenger, or individual parent communications. The next PSSC meeting is scheduled for April 25th. • Ms. Rogers asked that the “Superintendent’s Annual Performance Review” be added to the March 21, 2022 DEC Agenda. She noted that she and Mr. Petersen will be meeting with Mr. Donovan in Miramichi prior to that meeting to review the evaluation report. |
| M. | <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. on a motion by Carmel Hambrook.</p> |

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC