

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
January 18, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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

Regrets: Andy Flanagan

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock welcomed members of the public to this virtual meeting and announced that the meeting was taking place on unceded land. He called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the Agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Nancy McBain that the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
D.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>(a) I.T. Upgrades – Mr. Donovan will report on the I.T. upgrades in his Superintendent’s Comments.</p>
E.	<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-2 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
F.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>District Education Council members received correspondence items prior to the meeting.</p>
G.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Temporary Appointment for Subdistrict 7</p> <p>Pending receipt of the Minister's response concerning the vacant District Education Council position in Subdistrict 7, there was consensus among the members for Carmel Hambrook to provide the Rexton and Harcourt schools with assistance and interim DEC representation. A letter will be sent to the principals of those four schools informing them of Mrs. Hambrook's offer to support them. Mrs. Dunnett will also provide Mrs. Hambrook with the schools' contact information.</p> <p>(b) PSSC Appreciation Dinner</p> <p>Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, Council members agreed to cancel the 2020-2021 Parent School Support Committee Appreciation Dinner. The awarding of certificates, iPads, and the Celebrate the Spirit Awards will be postponed until after the pandemic has ended.</p>
H.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Donovan reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He announced the names of the two very worthy educators from Anglophone North School District who will be receiving the Minister's Excellence in Education Awards in February: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Krista Page, Vice-Principal of Max Aitken Academy - Lori Johnson, Vice-Principal of Dalhousie Regional High School <p>Nine ASD-N educators were nominated for this prestigious award.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Donovan provided a follow-up to a question raised at the December District Education Council meeting about guidance support for smaller schools. He stated that Mrs. Connie Daley, Director of Education Support Services, will inform the principals of those schools that guidance services are readily available to them from itinerant staff if they do not meet the student-to-guidance counsellor ratio.

- Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented to the following organizations and volunteers:
 - Blackville Home and School
 - Ed Gilchrist, Blackville School
 - Kim Cook-Corlett, Dr. Losier Middle School
 - Richard LeBlanc, Eleanor W. Graham Middle School
 - 4Av Legacy Foundation, North & South Esk Elementary School

- The following employees received Starfish Awards:
 - Fane Dezan, Teacher, Campbellton Learning Center
 - Lorena Joseph, Educational Assistant, Harcourt School
 - Lorraine Whalen, Educational Assistant, Harcourt School
 - John Fletcher, Mental Health Mentor, Miramichi Education Center

- Mr. Donovan provided Council members with an update on COVID-19 and changes to the Red Phase. He noted that district staff held a conference call with the principals of the Rexton and Harcourt schools in anticipation of Zone 1, which includes these areas, reverting to the Red Phase. He noted that schools will remain open in the Red Phase, but a designated person will conduct active screening, throughout the day, at the entrance of each school. Extra-curricular activities will be cancelled, masks are mandatory, and staff and students must stay home if they experience even one COVID-19 symptom. Schools will only close if there are operational issues.

If parents choose to keep their children home without a doctor's note, there is no expectation for the teacher to send work home.

- The school district is currently forecasting a surplus in the budget due to lower heating costs, unfilled staff absenteeism and lower fuel costs. In an effort to utilize surplus funds responsibly, the district purchased iPads and laptops for schools, it has increased the schools' instructional budgets, and extra funding made it possible for K-8 schools to receive targeted intervention programs.

- Mr. Donovan provided Council members with a very detailed Technology Update, which was prepared by Glen Johnston and Adam Deveaux, I.T. Technician II's. He reviewed the initiatives that were funded by the school district, by cost-sharing, or in some cases, completely sponsored by ITSS, EECD, SNB or external agencies. The report listed the work that the I.T. Department has completed in the district to date, as well as the work that has yet to be completed, especially in the older schools where the need is greater.

	<p>Mr. Donovan noted that the “Computer for Schools” program plays a big part in determining technology needs. Seventy percent of technology that is in the classrooms can be attributed to this program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Donovan asked Council members to remind the members of their schools’ Parent School Support Committees to submit any requests for special funding directly to him. • Mr. Donovan concluded his comments by indicating that he is very pleased with the funds that are available for schools and for ongoing technical support.
<p>I.</p>	<p>DEC MEMBERS’ COMMENTS</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook will be attending a virtual Parent School Support Committee meeting at Tabusintac on January 20, and she will be attending the PSSC meeting at Max Aitken Academy in February.</p> <p>Joe Petersen will be attending a virtual PSSC meeting during the week of January 18.</p> <p>Sheila Rogers reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She contacted the principals of the schools in her subdistrict and asked them to send their technology requests to Mr. Donovan. • She will be attending a PSSC meeting at Janeville Elementary School on January 25. • She noted that January 12 was the 13th anniversary of the Bathurst High School tragedy. • Sixteen international students will start arriving in the Bathurst area following their self-isolation periods. <p>Rev. Albertine LeBlanc submitted her written report on the PSSC meeting that she attended at Blackville School on January 6. She highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Buggie welcomed the new student representative. • The School Improvement Plan was reviewed. There is a focus on virtual training and being prepared in the event schools close due to COVID-19. • Mr. Buggie confirmed that the school is doing well with regard to its technology needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 26 Kindergarten students eligible for the French program in September, but numbers will be low for next year's program. • Plans are underway to raise the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag at Blackville School. Mr. Donovan noted that the school district purchased four new flag poles to accommodate these flags. • Mr. Buggie stated that Blackville School is doing everything it can to improve the mental health and wellness of its staff and students.
J.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mortlock led a discussion about the health and wellness of all staff in Anglophone North School District. He and other Council members expressed their concern about the stress that staff are experiencing in schools due to the pandemic, and about the impact that potential teacher absenteeism could have on each school. Mr. Donovan noted that in an effort to address the shortage of supply teachers, particularly in the Bathurst, Dalhousie, and Campbellton areas, supply teachers would be paid mileage if they need to travel to schools outside of their area to replace teachers. <p>Mr. Mortlock noted the importance of showing appreciation to staff, ie. Starfish Awards, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to remind all staff to continue to follow health protocols. • The District Education Council is projecting a surplus this year in its budget. Following discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY Rev. Albertine LeBlanc and seconded by Sheila Rogers that surplus funds be dispersed to help support the schools' graduations. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Dunn will be consulted with regard to the allocation of these funds. <p>A short discussion followed about the Red Phase and the impact it will have on the day-to-day operations in schools. Anglophone North School District will continue its work to ensure the safety of its students and staff.</p>
K.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place virtually on February 8, 2021.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m. on a motion by Sheila Rogers.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC