

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
March 15, 2021
Skype Meeting**

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

Regrets: Nancy McBain

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Due to technical issues with the Microsoft Teams program, it was not possible to live-stream this meeting to the public. A message was immediately posted on the district website to inform the public of this situation. The meeting was held via Skype instead.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>The members agreed to add, “(b) District Improvement Plan 2021-2022” under New Business.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Rev. Albertine LeBlanc and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the Agenda be approved with this addition. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc that the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
D.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>There was no business arising from the minutes.</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-6, GP-8, EL-2 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Joe Petersen that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
F.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>District Education Council members received all correspondence items prior to the meeting, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Mr. Dan Seems attaching the Agreement approved at the February meeting between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the District Education Council for Anglophone North School District. • Information about DEC Elections.
G.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Superintendent’s Evaluation Report</p> <p>Mr. Joe Petersen, Chairman of the Superintendent’s Evaluation Committee, presented the “Superintendent’s Evaluation Report” on behalf of the District Education Council members. He reviewed the very favorable comments that the members reported on their evaluation forms.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the Superintendent’s Evaluation Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Council members congratulated Mr. Donovan for his exemplary work, and for keeping everyone in Anglophone North School District informed during the pandemic. Mr. Petersen will forward the evaluation report and evaluation forms to Mrs. Dunnnett for filing.</p> <p>(b) District Improvement Plan 2021-2022</p> <p>Mr. Donovan noted that concerns were raised provincially and nationally about learning gaps that students have experienced due to the four-month school shutdown. To address this situation, the four Anglophone school districts are proposing a one-year District Improvement Plan, as opposed to the usual three-year plan, with a focus on “recovery”. This plan will help the school system to focus</p>

	<p>on closing learning gaps, and addressing social-emotional learning and mental health issues during the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Andy Flanagan to approve a one-year District Improvement Plan starting in September 2021, and to return to a three-year District Improvement Plan beginning in September 2022, barring unforeseen circumstances. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
<p>H.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Donovan reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pamela Keating, Dr. Losier Middle School - Jeff MacTavish and Evan Woods, Nelson Rural School - Leah Wormell, King Street Elementary School • Starfish Awards were presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jennifer Talbot-Lavigne, Teacher, Dalhousie Regional High School - I.T. Technicians for Miramichi Education Center – Jamie Blackmore, Kim Brennan, David Clarke, Brian Gremley, Michael Loggie, and Scott Underhill. <p>Mr. Donovan noted that it is the volunteers and the recipients of the Starfish Awards who help make ASD-N such a great district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASD-N’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Miramichi during the March Break received high praise from both Public Health and provincial leadership. • All high schools in the province were instructed to make plans for graduation activities based on the current Yellow Phase of Recovery. However, if vaccinations roll out quickly, this could have further implications on graduations. ASD-N will continue to follow Public Health directives. • School districts were asked to begin the staffing process based on the traditional staffing formulas. Should this be the final decision, K-2 class sizes would revert to a maximum of 21 students, instead of this year’s 15 students. Mr. Donovan expressed his concerns at the provincial level in this regard as the return to pre-Covid staffing numbers might hinder efforts to address learning gaps and social-emotional learning. • School communities in ASD-N received details about the “Students First Award”. This award recognizes one support staff member from each school in Anglophone North School District who makes a significant contribution to the students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parent-Teacher Interviews in April will be held virtually or by phone. • A decision was made to cancel the March 2022 Australia trip due to the uncertainty associated with international travel. Parents will be reimbursed for any funds they have already paid for this trip. • Science Week will be held during the week of March 15-18, 2021. This event will feature a number of daily keynote speakers, including Dr. Jennifer Russell, Michael Edwards, Jacob Lingley, and Steve Spangler. Mr. Donovan will be welcoming Mr. Spangler at the event on March 18. More information about Science Week is posted on the district website. • ASD-N entered into a partnership with a school district in France to improve language learning, build cross-cultural competencies for both FSL and English Prime students at every grade level, and to lay the foundation for teacher exchanges. This is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development initiative that ASD-N is looking forward to pursuing in the coming years. <p>At the conclusion of Mr. Donovan's comments, Mr. Mortlock took the opportunity to commend district staff on the fantastic job they did during the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Miramichi, particularly getting Dr. Losier Middle School ready as a mass testing location. Mr. Mortlock asked Mr. Donovan to convey this message to those staff members.</p> <p>A brief discussion followed about high school proms being organized by the public outside the school system. Some concern was raised about potential Public Health violations that could occur.</p>
I.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Sheila Rogers reported that students at Terry Fox Elementary School were encouraged to wear green on St. Patrick's Day, and they are having challenges for the class that can eat the most non-processed green food. The winning class will be treated to a "Green Smoothie" party. All classes will join in making a giant rainbow on St. Patrick's Day.</p> <p>Rev. Albertine LeBlanc attended Millerton School's Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) meeting on February 23. She reported that Mr. Troy Cabel was welcomed as the new PSSC teacher representative for that school, and that report scores were very high despite the challenges that students faced. Her next PSSC meeting will be held on April 28 at North & South Esk Regional School.</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook reported that PSSC meetings at Miramichi Valley High School and Rexton Elementary School were cancelled, and she was unable to attend the PSSC meeting at Max Aitken Academy due to illness. She will be attending</p>

	<p>Tabusintac Community School's PSSC meeting, via Zoom, during the week of March 22. Gretna Green School has its next PSSC meeting scheduled in April.</p> <p>Joe Peterson recently attended a PSSC meeting at Dalhousie Regional High School, and he attended the virtual Minister's Forum on February 19.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock attended a virtual PSSC meeting with Sugarloaf Senior High School. He reported that this school is anticipating the return of the First Nations students, and they are planning for graduation ceremonies. The school also expressed appreciation to the District Education Council for its donation of funds to help cover graduation expenses.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock will be attending a virtual PSSC meeting at Campbellton Middle School on March 28, and Lord Beaverbrook School will be holding its next meeting in April.</p>
J.	<p>DEC CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock confirmed that DEC election information was forwarded to all ASD-N staff, and that principals were also asked to forward this information to their PSSC members. Mr. Mortlock noted that there is an effort this year to encourage more women to become candidates during the election. Nominations open on March 20, 2021, and nomination papers can be filed from March 22 to April 9.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock and Mr. Petersen will be attending a meeting on March 19 with the Deputy Minister. Mr. Mortlock will provide Council members with an update following that meeting.</p>
K.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on a motion by Joe Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/
District Education Council