

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

**MINUTES
May 17, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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

Regrets: Andy Flanagan
Nancy McBain

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock welcomed members of the public to this virtual meeting and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on unceded land. He called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Sheila Rogers to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting. 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-2, GP-9, GP-9a, EL-6 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Joe Petersen to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
<p>F.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>District Education Council members received all correspondence items prior to the meeting.</p>
<p>G.</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Major Capital Projects – 2022-2023</p> <p>Following a discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc, that Anglophone North School District resubmit its current Major Capital Project, “the construction of the new K-8 school in Campbellton”, as its Number One priority for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(b) Capital Improvement Projects – 2022-2023</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects as submitted, and to give district staff authorization to adjust the list if a situation warrants a change in priority levels. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(c) Expenditure Plan – 2021-2022</p> <p>Mr. Donovan informed District Education Council members that the deadline for approving and submitting the 2021-2022 Expenditure Plan to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is July 1, 2021. Mr. Donovan noted, however, that the Budget and Accounting Department expressed concern that this deadline does not allow sufficient time to thoroughly analyze the Expenditure Plan.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Joe Petersen that the District Education Council request permission to defer the approval of the Expenditure Plan until the regular DEC meeting in August. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>A letter will be sent to Hon. Dominic Cardy requesting this extension.</p> <p>A short discussion followed regarding staffing allocations for educational assistants and teachers. Mr. Donovan noted that a funding shortfall is possible for educational assistants if the current funding model remains the same, even though the number of educational assistants has increased. He also noted concerns that teacher funding, based on a decrease in enrolments and pre-COVID formulas, may not adequately address academic learning gaps and social-emotional learning.</p>

(d) Press Release Re: District Education Councils

Council members discussed a recent press release prepared by the Francophone and Anglophone District Education Councils disputing claims made in recent newspaper articles about the future of education governance in New Brunswick.

During their discussion, ASD-N District Education Council members expressed the following concerns if District Education Councils were eliminated:

- Who will look after First Nations?
- Will there be an impact on parental involvement?
- How will the needs of the schools be met without the collaboration between the Superintendent and the District Education Council members?
- How will parents be involved in sustainability studies without representation from the District Education Councils?
- There seems to be a lack of knowledge about the vital role of the District Education Council, i.e. developing policies (Nutrition, First Nations, LGBTQ, etc.), informing Parent School Support Committee members and hearing their concerns, and being accountable to and communicating with teachers, parents, and students.
- Council members stressed the need for student representation on the District Education Councils, despite the large geographical area that each district covers. Council members discussed several ideas for engaging students and giving them a voice in education.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Donovan reported as follows:

- Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented to the following:
 - Sarah Rigley-MacDonald, King Street Elementary School
 - Janice Hall-Short, Harcourt School
- The following employees received Starfish Awards:
 - Tammy Ellis, Educational Assistant – Terry Fox Elementary School
 - Tracy MacDonald, Teacher, Terry Fox Elementary School
- The 2020-2021 fiscal year ended with a surplus totalling \$316,919.32. Mr. Donovan noted that this surplus is on par proportionally with other school districts. Contributing to this surplus were factors such as a milder winter, lower replacement costs due to unfilled vacancies, and supplementary educational funding not fully utilized.
- District Education Council members received a copy of the 2021-2022 school calendar. Mr. Donovan noted that schools close for the Christmas holidays on December 23.

- The current Kindergarten enrollment is slightly lower than last year. The district is projecting an enrollment of approximately 400 students in September.
 - Student Appreciation Day is a new provincial initiative this year to celebrate the resilience of students during the pandemic. Schools will be celebrating their students on June 9 or 10 in a variety of ways. Each school is required to inform the district office about their plans for this event.
 - The Students First Awards will be presented to support staff at the school level in June.
 - Graduations will resemble those held in June 2020 with a few modifications. This year, two guests can sit with each graduate in bubbles throughout the ceremony. In keeping with safety protocols, guest speakers and members of the public will not be invited to the graduation ceremonies.
- Proms, Safe Grads, and Baccalaureate Services will not be organized nor supported by schools or the district this year.
- Traditional field trips to public venues will not be approved this year. Instead, schools are being encouraged to plan outdoor excursions to beaches, local parks, etc.
 - Retirement gifts will be delivered to the retirees' workplaces again this year.
 - Schools will plan year-end awards ceremonies during regular school hours while maintaining bubbles and current protocols. Parents and the public will not be invited to any in-school ceremonies.
 - One student will be recognized at each school for the 2021 Turnaround Achievement Awards.
 - The 2021-2022 school year will be designated as a Recovery Year to address the deficits created by the pandemic in both academic and social emotional learning.
 - The Downie-Wenjack Fund is an organization that addresses the goals of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's Calls to Action pertaining to the impacts of residential schools and the ongoing intergenerational trauma that resulted from residential schools. Anglophone North School District is the second school district in Canada to participate district-wide in partnering with the Downie-Wenjack Fund to educate students about First Nation issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 21, North & South Esk Regional School will be the fifth school in ASD-N to raise the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag on a permanent basis. The district hopes to expand the raising of this flag to other schools. • John Fletcher, Mental Health Mentor, is spearheading a Community Mental Health Literacy Session on May 17. Mr. Donovan will provide District Education Council members with a report about this session at their next meeting.
I.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Sheila Rogers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Terry Fox Elementary School</u> Paula Chapman will become the new principal of Terry Fox Elementary School in September. Applications for the position of vice-principal will be closing soon. • <u>Bathurst High School</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applications for local scholarships were available as of May 3. - High school students produced a four-minute video for new incoming Grade 9 students. This video is available on the school's website. • <u>Janeville Elementary School</u> The Grades 4 and 5 students won the prestigious "Council of Archives New Brunswick Award" at this year's Regional Heritage Fair for their project on the "Underground Railroad". <p>Joe Peterson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Jacquet River School</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Petersen attended a Parent School Support Committee meeting at Jacquet River School. The School Improvement Plan was among the items discussed. - This school receives tremendous support from the community. - The municipality not only contributes to the Breakfast Program but also recently provided the school with a cheque in the amount of \$10,000 to help fund various school needs, including a new volleyball regulation stand. - The Killoran family, who own a local business, funded the entire Maker Space Program for the past three years. - Local sawmills donate wood for the school's wood shop projects. - Mr. Peterson will do a demonstration on the wood lathe for the students. • Mr. Petersen will be attending the virtual Minister's Forum on May 27.

	<p>Carmel Hambrook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miramichi Valley High School has a PSSC meeting scheduled for May 31. • Mrs. Hambrook sent notices to her schools informing them of upcoming events and inviting them to send her any comments pertaining to the role of District Education Councils. <p>Rev. Albertine LeBlanc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. LeBlanc forwarded an email to the schools in her subdistrict confirming that she will be representing them as a District Education Council member for another term. • North & South Esk Regional School is in the process of finalizing its plans for graduation ceremonies on June 24. • North & South Esk Elementary School's PSSC meeting will be held on May 19.
J.	<p>DEC CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He congratulated Council members for serving on ASD-N's District Education Council for another term. • Mr. Mortlock will not know until May 25 whether he will be re-elected for another term. • At Campbellton Middle School's PSSC meeting, parents expressed concern about the next school year and what it will look like. The principal also had a concern that the WiFi was not working well in some areas this past year and that teachers were having difficulty connecting. The I.T. technician is working on this problem. • Mr. Mortlock encouraged the members to thoroughly complete the DEC questionnaire and offer suggestions on how to make District Education Councils sustainable. He noted the many positive initiatives that ASD-N's District Education Council has implemented, notably the development of the First Nations policy and the LGBTQ policy. • He acknowledged Mr. Donovan for being an excellent Superintendent who is doing a tremendous job, despite the many challenges the pandemic has created. • Mr. Mortlock and Mr. Petersen will inform Council members about the official date that the new District Education Council will take office as soon as the Minister announces it.

K.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., via Microsoft Teams. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m. on a motion by Carmel Hambrook.
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Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/
District Education Council