

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

**MINUTES
November 15, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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

Regrets: Andy Flanagan

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Joe Petersen, Chair, welcomed District Education Council members and the public to the meeting, and he acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on unceded land. He called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>The following item was removed from the Agenda:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">D) Presentation: Mr. François Godin, Senior Project Manager, Educational Facilities and Pupil Transportation, Education and Early Childhood Development – Major Capital Projects</p> <p>The following item was added to the Agenda under New Business:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(d) Books for School Libraries</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to approve the agenda with these changes. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Mr. Greg Theriault, Principal, Eleanor W. Graham Middle School</p> <p>Mr. Theriault began his PowerPoint presentation by welcoming the District Education Council members and explaining the history of Eleanor W. Graham Middle School. The current school was built in 2009-2010 as a P3 (Private</p>

	<p>Public Partnership) School, and it was also designated as a “Green School”. The building is leased by the Province of New Brunswick.</p> <p>Eleanor W. Graham Middle School currently has 171 students, and it encompasses the area from Bouctouche to Kouchibouguac and from Cape Lumiere to Harcourt. Thirty-nine percent of the student population is First Nations, with those students attending from three First Nation communities – Bouctouche, Elsipogtog, and Indian Island.</p> <p>Mr. Theriault commented on the school’s academics, noting that there is a culture of learning at Eleanor W. Graham Middle School and that there is an expectation for all students to excel. He noted some of the technological devices that are used to assist with learning, such as laptops, Smartboards, audio-visual equipment, and a new 3D printer. Students participate in Science Fairs, online Math Competitions, Chess Competitions, Writing Competitions, Essay Contests, Canoeing, Rock Climbing, Activity Periods, and Team Sports.</p> <p>Students at E.W.G. are exposed to citizenship and community events to expand their learning outside the walls of the school. They participated in voting for the community of Elsipogtog during the Kraft Hockeyville competition, which helped the community to be crowned as the winner of Kraft Hockeyville 2021. Students participate in PowWows, outdoor cooking, pet therapy, and they prepare a float for the annual Christmas parade. The school also plans to fly the flags for every country that the students at Eleanor W. Graham represent.</p> <p>Mr. Theriault explained that the school strives to plan activities that support First Nation students, including Orange Shirt Day, smudging, and drum-making. The school recently acquired an ArtsSmarts Grant to help create a trilingual (English, French, Mi’kmaq) song to celebrate cultural diversity.</p> <p>Eleanor W. Graham Middle School also focuses on inclusion and recognizes that students respond to learning in different ways. He noted that a multi-sensory room is available to create a calming and stimulating environment for students with special needs and anxiety issues.</p> <p>Mr. Petersen expressed the District Education Council’s appreciation to Mr. Theriault for his presentation.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Paul Mourant to approve the October 18, 2021 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>(a) Appointment of First Nation Representative</p> <p>Mr. Donovan informed Council members that the First Nation Representative has not yet been appointed by the Minister. As soon as this appointment is announced, the District Education Council will expedite the swearing-in process.</p> <p>(b) Protocol for Acknowledging Ancestral Territory</p> <p>Mr. Donovan provided clarification on the First Nation protocol for acknowledging ancestral territory. He stated that status quo can be maintained without any repercussions or concerns.</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) E-5, EL-4 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Sheila Rogers to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>There were no correspondence items to report at this meeting.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Need for School Psychologists</p> <p>Rev. Albertine LeBlanc informed Council members that the need for school psychologists was recently discussed at a Parent School Support Committee meeting that she attended. She shared the committee’s concerns about the stress and demands that are being placed on students and staff, and the lack of school psychologists in the school district to support them.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan noted that Anglophone School District-North is funded for six psychologists. However, due to the extreme shortage of these professionals throughout the province, ASD-N has only one psychologist, who works in the northern region of the school district. Mr. Donovan noted that despite advertising for these positions on a regular basis, there are no applicants. The province is working on the recruitment and retention of psychologists, and addressing issues that have been raised, including working conditions, salary, and the requirement for psychologists to have a PhD.</p>

Mr. Donovan explained that the vacant positions in ASD-N are being backfilled by social workers and the new Resource Specialist positions created by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. However, these individuals are not qualified to conduct certain services such as psycho-educational assessments, diagnosing mental health conditions, or counseling students. Psycho-educational assessments are currently being contracted out.

Mr. Donovan noted that ASD-N is also investing in additional school guidance counsellors. He indicated that there are serious concerns about the impact that the pandemic has had and is having on teachers and students. He stated that it is imperative that proper supports are available.

Ms. Rogers suggested the possibility of the province offering incentives to potential psychologists by covering the cost of their studies, with the condition that they remain in the province for a period of five years. Mr. Donovan agreed to discuss this possibility with the Assistant Deputy Minister.

Following discussion, **IT WAS MOVED BY** Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to authorize Mr. Donovan to request the appropriate district staff member to bring the District Education Council's concerns about vacant school psychologists' positions to the provincial level, and to invite Connie Daley, Director of Education Support Services, to a District Education Council meeting to discuss this situation further. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(b) Appointment of Chairperson for Superintendent's Evaluation Committee

IT WAS MOVED BY Rev. Albertine LeBlanc and seconded by Paul Mourant to appoint Sheila Rogers as Chairperson of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Each District Education Council member will complete the evaluation form and return it to Ms. Rogers by February 28, 2022. Ms. Rogers will then complete her report, based on the evaluation forms, and present it to Council members for approval at the regular DEC meeting on March 21, 2022.

(c) DEC's Christmas Greetings for Schools

IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to send a Christmas Poinsettia and card to each of the schools. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(d) Books for School Libraries

Council members unanimously agreed to purchase books for the school libraries as a token of appreciation when principals make presentations at District Education Council meetings.

I.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Petersen reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He attended the virtual governance training, with Rick Maloney as guest speaker, on November 2 and 8. • He will be attending the virtual Council of DEC Chairs meeting on November 18 and the virtual Minister's Forum on November 20. • Mr. Petersen announced that Carmel Hambrook has been appointed to the Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee (PCEAC).
J.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Donovan reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris Daley, Andy Scott, and Andrew Collins – Janeville Elementary School - Mona Aubry and Susan Hubbard-Brown – Max Aitken Academy - Kris Jardine – Nelson Rural School • The CUPE strike is tentatively settled. It is expected that CUPE will give formal ratification to the government's offer within the week. Mr. Donovan reported a flawless start-up in schools following the strike. He commended all staff who reported to the schools on Sunday, November 14, to get the system up and running. • Since the CUPE strike has come to an end, report cards and Parent-Teacher Interviews will continue to proceed as normal. • Five high school students in Anglophone School District-North applied for the opportunity to study in Germany during the 2022-2023 school year. AEI is now in the process of selecting one student from ASD-N to participate in this "Study Abroad Scholarship Program". • Mr. Donovan reviewed the Climate Action, Artist-In-Residency, and ArtsSmarts grants that were awarded to schools. He noted that it is heartwarming to see the types of projects that are taking place in ASD-N. • Mr. Donovan provided Council members with a copy of the draft Parent Code of Conduct Policy. This policy is being recommended due to a significant increase in negative and slanderous social media posts against staff and students. It is hoped that by creating this policy at the district level, it will offer recourse for such actions.

	<p>Mr. Donovan noted that similar policies are being prepared provincially to address this situation. He invited Council members to review the draft policy and provide feedback. He will also review the draft policy with members of the Senior Admin Team.</p> <p>Following discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Paul Mourant that the Parent Code of Conduct Policy be included on an agenda, for further review and discussion, when an in-person District Education Council meeting can occur. In the meantime, Council members will continue the conversation and monitor any developments with this policy. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan and the Senior Admin Team will continue to work on the policy, and Mr. Donovan will bring it back to the District Education Council for further revisions.</p> <p>Mr. Cyr commended Mr. Donovan on being a leader in starting the conversation about this matter.</p>
K.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p><u>Sheila Rogers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She reported on the three virtual governance training sessions that she attended, and she noted that they were very well done. • When her mother passed away in July, her family asked that donations be made to the New Brunswick Retired Teachers' Scholarship Fund. Ms. Rogers reported that at present, there is a total of \$3,300 in the fund for scholarships to be awarded to high school students in New Brunswick, including Bathurst High School. <p><u>Paul Mourant:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He recently attended a PSSC meeting at Bonar Law Memorial School. • At a PSSC meeting at Rexton Elementary School, members were very excited that \$9,000 was raised during a walk-a-thon to purchase a First Nations gathering drum, and to purchase or upgrade Smart Boards. • Eleanor W. Graham Middle School's PSSC meeting took place virtually. • Harcourt School postponed its PSSC meeting until December. • Mr. Mourant attended two of the three training sessions and found them to be very helpful.

Gilbert Cyr:

- He attended the PSSC meeting at Campellton Middle School. The PSSC meeting for Lord Beaverbrook School was postponed, and Sugarloaf Senior High School's meeting will be held in the near future.
- Mr. Cyr inquired into the process that is followed for Major Capital Projects, particularly the status of the new Campbellton K-8 school. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Petersen stated that he will address this item at the Minister's Forum on November 20. Mr. Donovan will also arrange to reschedule François Godin, EECD's Senior Project Manager, for the December 20, 2021 meeting, to discuss these items.

Carmel Hambrook:

- The PSSC meeting for Miramichi Valley High School was postponed until November 22. She was unable to attend the PSSC meetings for Max Aitken Academy and Gretna Green School.
- She thanked Mr. Donovan for confirming that a Grade 8 student can be appointed as a student representative for the PSSC if the school does not have a high school program.
- Mrs. Hambrook visited some of the CUPE members who were on strike recently, and she gave them her support.
- She is very excited and happy to be appointed to the Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee. Her next meeting with this committee is scheduled for November 25.

Albertine LeBlanc:

- She attended the in-person PSSC meeting at North & South Esk Regional School on October 19. At that meeting, the District Improvement Plan was reviewed. There was also a discussion about mental health and resiliency, and the need for school psychologists in the school district. Rev. Albertine expressed her appreciation for this item being included on the DEC Agenda.
- Rev. LeBlanc attended a virtual PSSC meeting for North & South Esk Elementary School. She stated that Mrs. Shayla Mutch, Principal, did a great job covering a full agenda. The topics discussed included school grants, an update on funds raised for the school playground, the painting of playground equipment, field trips, Grade 3 iPads, and assessments.
- She will be attending Blackville School's PSSC meeting on November 16, and Millerton's PSSC meeting in December.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. LeBlanc enjoyed the virtual governance training sessions and found them to be very helpful. • She is looking forward to an in-person meeting with Council members to review district policies.
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., via a Microsoft Teams Meeting.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m. on a motion by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Brenda Dunnett

Brenda Dunnett
 Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/
 District Education Council