

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES  
November 16, 2020  
Microsoft Teams 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

Absent: Brittnee Gallant  
Nancy McBain

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	
<b>A.</b>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting of the District Education Council to order at 5:50 p.m. This was a virtual meeting, held via Microsoft Teams, and it was live-streamed to the public. Mr. Mortlock welcomed members of the public to the meeting, and he introduced Council members, as well as Mr. Donovan and Mrs. Dunnett. He also acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on unceded land.</p>
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the Agenda be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>C.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p>The October 19, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to a Covid-19 outbreak in the Dalhousie/Campbellton region.</p>
<b>D.</b>	<p><b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>(a) Designated Isolation Rooms</b> – Mr. Donovan reported that he raised this item at a recent principals' meeting to ensure that the schools' isolation rooms are appropriate for students when they present with Covid-19</p>

	<p>symptoms, ie. Is there a window in the door, is there proper supervision, are there outside windows for claustrophobic students, etc.</p> <p><b>(b) Outbreak Management Plan</b> – Mr. Donovan forwarded an electronic copy of the Outbreak Management Plan to Council members for their information. This document outlines the district’s plan of action when an outbreak occurs in a school. Mr. Donovan noted that the school district modified the plan to improve the communication protocols. It now includes the requirement to contact the District Education Council at the same time that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is contacted when a Covid-19 case is confirmed in a school.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan explained that Anglophone North School District follows the directives of Public Health when it makes a decision to close schools due to a Covid-19 outbreak. Mr. Donovan noted, however, that the school district can also make a decision to close schools if there are operational issues or other safety concerns.</p> <p><b>(c)</b> Mr. Donovan conveyed a congratulatory message to the schools, on behalf of the District Education Council, to acknowledge the great work that staff is doing during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
<b>E.</b>	<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</b></p> <p><b>Policy Monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) GP 1,2,3,4,5,7 – Meeting Review Form</li> <li>(ii) C/SR 4 – Meeting Review Form</li> <li>(iii) EL 1,7 – Meeting Review Form</li> <li>(iv) E-3, E-7, E-5, EL-4 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes</li> </ul> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Sheila Rogers and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>F.</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>District Education Council members continue to receive weekly updates from the Superintendent about Covid-related issues, along with other district and provincial information.</p>
<b>G.</b>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>(a) Declaring Rexton Elementary School Land as Surplus Property</b></p> <p>Mr. Donovan provided Council members with an aerial-view photograph of two parcels of land, each containing approximately two acres and located adjacent to the Rexton Elementary School property. A neighbouring property owner is interested in trading the land he owns next to Rexton Elementary School for the provincially-owned land that is located next to his property. Mr. Donovan noted</p>

	<p>that acquiring the land next to the school would provide extra space for the school's playground and sports activities. The provincially-owned land will need to be declared as surplus in order for the exchange of properties to occur.</p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen and seconded by Carmel Hambrook that the two-acre parcel of land, which adjoins the northeast corner of the Rexton Elementary School, be declared as surplus property. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p><b>(b) Appointment of Chairperson for Superintendent's Evaluation Committee</b></p> <p>Mr. Joe Petersen volunteered to act as Chairperson of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee. Council members will complete the "Superintendent's Annual Performance Review" form and return it to Mr. Petersen by February 26, 2021.</p> <p><b>(c) Christmas Vegetable Trays</b></p> <p>The distribution of Christmas vegetable trays to ASD-N schools will not occur this year due to Covid-19 health restrictions. Mr. Mortlock invited members to propose other ideas for the schools and share them with Council members.</p>
H.	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starfish Awards were presented to three custodians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- David DesRosier, Dalhousie Education Center</li> <li>- Karla MacDonald, Harcourt School</li> <li>- Beverley Theriault, Rexton Elementary School</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mr. Donovan noted that although the custodians have had extra pressure placed on them this school year due to Covid-19, they have stepped up to the challenge.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan explained the purpose of the ASD-N Starfish Award for the benefit of the public who joined this virtual meeting. This award recognizes the outstanding contribution that an employee makes to the school district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council members received a copy of the District Improvement Plan, which focuses on two main areas – virtual learning and social emotional health. Mr. Donovan will also provide members with the detailed work plans that support this Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Donovan highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers receive on-going training to support them with virtual learning.</li> </ul>

- Virtual learning can also take the form of pencil packages that are sent home for students to complete.
  - Anglophone North School District purchased “Squiggle Park” to support the early literacy program.
  - The school district also purchased “Dream Box Math” to enhance numeracy initiatives and to help close achievement gaps. Teachers, staff and parents are very happy with this program.
  - ASD-N approved one hundred fifty-one grant applications to provide teachers with technology and other resources they need to implement new initiatives and programs at their schools.
  - ASD-N purchased copies of the book, Kids These Days, for each of its schools. This book is a great resource for teachers as they continue to support their students during this trying school year. The author, Jody Carrington, will be making a Teams presentation for teachers in December.
- Mr. Donovan reviewed the detailed budget breakdown for the period ending October 31, 2020. He reported that the school district is on track to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget. He noted, however, that it is very difficult to predict exactly how the fiscal year will end, especially since the school district continues to support teachers and students with technology and other resources they need for virtual learning.
  - Christmas Concerts will not take place this year.
  - Mr. Donovan asked staff to avoid face-to-face Christmas parties.
  - Visits to the schools continue to be by appointment only. Essential workers, however, have access to the buildings. Big Brothers Big Sisters is one of the few community groups that also have access to the buildings. The school district will review the situation again in January to determine if other community groups could have access as well.
  - Classroom bubbles will continue to be the norm from the time the students arrive at school until they go home.
  - Anglophone North School District re-introduced sports and extra-curricular activities, in concert with the New Brunswick Interscholastic Athletic Association. Mr. Donovan stated that safety is at the very forefront of all sports programs, and that the school district will continue to follow specific guidelines and protocols. ASD-N will not be allowing crowds of spectators at sporting events.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A province-wide decision was made to switch a Professional Learning Day, which was scheduled in the new year, for October 30. This PL Day gave teachers an earlier opportunity to collaborate on a number of topics and to help facilitate their transition to virtual learning.</li> </ul>
I.	<p><b>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mrs. Rogers reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkwood Heights Elementary School collected 320 Pringles and Lays containers for the "Spirit of Christmas" project. They also had a successful Covid-friendly Trick or Treat day.</li> <li>• Terry Fox Elementary School conducted a school-wide "secure the building" drill.</li> <li>• Bathurst High School's parent-teacher interviews, scheduled for November 19 and 20, will be held online via Microsoft Bookings.</li> <li>• Janeville Elementary School posted pictures of Mrs. Daley's outdoor classroom. It also posted its Remembrance Day ceremony on the website and on Facebook.</li> <li>• The Provincial Curriculum and Evaluation Advisory Committee postponed its November meeting until a later date.</li> <li>• Mrs. Rogers will attend two Parent School Support Committee meetings virtually on November 25.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Petersen reported on the PSSC meeting he attended at L.E. Reinsborough School on October 21. The next meeting at that school will be held on December 9. Mr. Petersen will also be attending PSSC meetings at Jacquet River School on November 17 and at Dalhousie Regional High School on November 19.</p> <p>Mr. Petersen suggested that Council members consider forming a sub-committee to select ASD-N's two recipients of the Minister's Excellence in Education Award.</p> <p>Mrs. Hambrook attended PSSC meetings at three of the four schools in her subdistrict. She will be attending the PSSC meeting at Tabusintac Community School on Wednesday, November 18. She highlighted the following items from her meetings:</p> <p><u>K-8 Schools:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The K-8 schools report that they had a good transition into this school year.</li> <li>• Students are being very vigilant in wearing their masks.</li> <li>• Parents seem very happy with the school situation, and they commented on how well schools are doing to keep their children safe.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gretna Green School had a very successful fundraiser to raise funds for student technology devices.</li> </ul> <p><u>High School:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High school students are abiding by social distancing and mask wearing in the school building.</li> <li>• Some high school students took issue with their friends being in alternate home-learning groups and requested a move to the other group. However, the school did not approve these requests.</li> <li>• Teachers expressed concern that some students are not completing their work on the days they learn at home. PSSC members believe it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the students complete their work.</li> <li>• The student council is working hard to make the experience of the students a pleasant one.</li> </ul> <p>The teachers and parents asked Mrs. Hambrook to convey a message to the Superintendent and the District Education Council about how pleased they are with the back-to-school transition. They particularly acknowledged Mr. Donovan on how well he has been managing this transition. A principal also recognized Mr. Donovan for his very hard work and dedication to Anglophone North School District.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock attended three PSSC meetings, two that were face-to-face and one that was virtual. He will be attending another PSSC meeting in the near future. Parents reported that elementary school students are wearing their masks and that school staff is doing a phenomenal job under extreme conditions.</p>
<b>J.</b>	<p><b>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock commended district staff for all of their hard work, particularly the technicians and other staff who have taken on additional workloads. Mr. Mortlock recognized the assistance that the District Education Council received from the technicians in live streaming this meeting. He expects that live streaming DEC meetings will continue until the end of the 2020-2021 school year.</p>
<b>K.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held virtually on December 14, 2020.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. on a motion by Joe Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by Brenda Dunnnett*

Brenda Dunnnett  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC