

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

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

Present: Joe Petersen, Chair
Gilbert Cyr
Andy Flanagan
Carmel Hambrook
Rev. Albertine LeBlanc
Paul Mourant
Mark Donovan, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Sheila Rogers, Vice-Chair

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Joe Petersen, Chair, welcomed the members and the public to the meeting and opened with a territorial acknowledgement. He called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook shared an educational quote from Roman Philosopher Seneca, "We learn not for school, but for life". Mrs. Hambrook explained the quote's meaning by indicating that people should not work to gain knowledge, or to please a teacher or master, but for the benefits that they will gain in life.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Paul Mourant and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Todd Fitzpatrick, Principal, Nelson Rural School</p> <p>Mr. Fitzpatrick began his presentation by stating that Nelson Rural School is located on one of the most picturesque locations in the province. He showed a picture of the Miramichi River that is in front of the school.</p> <p>Nelson Rural School has 280 students, including 27 students who have moved to the area from Ontario. This school encompasses a large geographical area that extends from the Quarryville Bridge to the Harper Road and includes the Rogersville area. There are 24 full-time teachers, one administrative assistant, one part-time librarian, 10 educational assistants, three custodians, and two cafeteria staff.</p>

	<p>Nelson Rural School strives to provide students with a positive learning environment and activities to reach every student, including a choir, student council, archery, cross country, chess, etc. Mr. Fitzpatrick highlighted some of the many successful projects undertaken by his school in the past and at present, including the Dutch Relationship, Seeds-in-Space Program, Mango, Action Learning Program with NBCC, History Pin Project, Bit Strips for Schools, Garden Club, Green Team Recycling, Striper Cup, MakerSpace Learning, First Nation Projects, and Wellness Wednesdays in support of mental health initiatives.</p> <p>Mr. Fitzpatrick explained that Nelson Rural School was the first school in Canada to participate in the History Pin project. Students conducted extensive research and interviews pertaining to the history of the Miramichi area. Their efforts led to the publication of a book that is available at the Chatham Public Library. Mr. Fitzpatrick demonstrated this project for the District Education Council members by superimposing a picture of a building from the 1920's on to a present-day street. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed interest in re-visiting this project for his school.</p> <p>Fishing was incorporated into the Physical Education class at Nelson Rural School. Conservation Officers educated students on the ecosystem, fishing, and conservation. Family members of students also became part of this program, especially during the Striper Cup. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that his school enjoys great community support.</p> <p>Nelson Rural School continues to be a leader in First Nation education, even though this school does not have a First Nation population. The school actively supports Orange Shirt Days, engages students in First Nation projects, and continues to build a library of First Nation resources.</p> <p>Mr. Fitzpatrick believes that he has some of the best staff in the district and province. The school has experienced great success in all subject areas. It continues to do extremely well in all academic assessments and makes improvements where needed. Assessment data is a big part of the School Improvement Plan.</p> <p>District Education Council members thanked Mr. Fitzpatrick for his presentation. As a small token of the members' appreciation, a book will be forwarded to the Nelson Rural School library.</p>
<p>D.</p>	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the September 27, 2021 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Mrs. Hambrook clarified an item that was discussed at the August DEC meeting. She noted that it was her intention for the draft copy of minutes to be</p>

	forwarded to the District Education Council members, in advance of the regular meetings, rather than having the draft copy posted to the website.
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>(a) DEC Retreat</p> <p>Mr. Donovan stated that following a discussion with the district's Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator and given the current rise in cases across the province, with hospitals currently at the Red Alert level, it was determined that it would not be advisable to hold an in-person DEC retreat. Mr. Donovan noted that the Association of School Business Officials recently cancelled its three-day in-person conference due to the COVID-19 situation.</p> <p>Following discussion, Council members agreed to postpone the DEC Retreat until 2022 when face-to-face meetings can safely occur. In the meantime, members will continue to monitor and review district policies.</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-3, E-7 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Paul Mourant to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>(a) Council of DEC Chairs' Letter to Minister Re Appointment of First Nations Representative</p> <p>Mr. Petersen stated that at a recent meeting of the Council of DEC Chairs, a decision was made to send a letter to Hon. Dominic Cardy requesting immediate action on the appointment of First Nation representatives for the District Education Councils.</p> <p>Mr. Cyr noted that the letters that Anglophone School District-North sent to the First Nation communities, requesting nominations for a First Nation Representative, generated a lot of support. Mr. Petersen is encouraged by the people who put their names forward as candidates for this position. Council members are hopeful that the Minister will select a representative in a timely manner.</p>

H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no new business discussed at this meeting.</p>
I.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Petersen reported on the Council of DEC Chairs' meeting that he and Sheila Rogers attended on September 30, 2021, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some District Education Councils reported on the status of student representatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During Mr. Petersen's report, he acknowledged that the large geographical areas in some school districts present challenges for student representation. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Petersen agreed that virtual DEC meetings could make it more feasible for students to participate in District Education Council meetings. • Virtual DEC orientation meetings will be held on October 27, November 2, and November 8 • Mr. Petersen was named as President of the Council of DEC Chairs.
J.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Donovan reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Helen Mullin, of North & South Esk Elementary School. • To date, almost half of ASD-N schools have been impacted by positive COVID-19 cases. Mr. Donovan noted that the number of confirmed cases remains low; however, close contacts within schools can be much higher. This was the case at King Street Elementary School, with 200 students and staff deemed as being close contacts. • The Rapid Response Kits are rolling out to schools as an extra safeguard. • Mr. Donovan participated in an interview with CBC Moncton. During the interview, he stressed that ASD-N is forging ahead, despite COVID-19, and he acknowledged the hard work that is being done by school staff in continuing to offer quality programming to students. • Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, <i>Policy 321: Admission Based on Language</i> has not yet been raised at the provincial level. It is possible that an article, which was printed in a provincial newspaper following the

September DEC meeting, could generate discussion provincially about this policy.

- Kindergarten Registrations for September 2022 will finish on Friday, October 22.
- Mr. Donovan reported on a memo that was received from Hon. Hugh J. Flemming, Q.C., Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Public Safety on October 14, 2021, concerning the First Nation protocol for acknowledging ancestral territory. Mr. Donovan noted that this memo is creating a great deal of discussion across the province, and it highlights the importance of having a First Nation representative on the District Education Council when these issues arise.

Following a discussion among the District Education Council members, **IT WAS MOVED BY** Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to authorize Mr. Donovan to obtain clarity on Hon. Flemming's memo and to confirm that the practice that Anglophone School District-North has been following is one that the district wishes to continue. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- Several assessment results have now been received. However, these results remain under embargo. As soon as the embargo is lifted, Mr. Donovan will share the results with Council members.
- Mr. Donovan was pleased to announce that Eleanor W. Graham Middle School is the fifth school to raise the Mi'gmaq Grand Council Flag.
- The school district is working with the province to put contingency plans in place to keep schools open for learning during any labour unrest.
- Mr. Donovan announced the schools that were successful in receiving ASD-N ArtsSmarts Grants - Bonar Law Memorial, Campbellton Middle, Campbellton Learning Center, Dr. Losier Middle, EWG Middle, Gretna Green, and Terry Fox Elementary. He commended the teachers for their work in applying for these grants.
- Mr. Donovan noted a memo received from Mr. George Daley, Deputy Minister, reminding all staff that October 22 is the deadline to receive the first vaccination if they hope to meet the November 19 deadline for having both vaccinations.

IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc to approve Mr. Donovan's report. **MOTION CARRIED.**

K.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p><u>Rev. Albertine LeBlanc:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is registered to participate in governance training on October 27, November 2, and November 8. • She will be attending a Parent School Support Committee meeting at North & South Esk Regional School on October 19, and at North & South Esk Elementary School on November 3. • The PSSC meeting at Blackville School is scheduled for October 26. • Rev. LeBlanc is awaiting confirmation of Millerton's PSSC meeting date. • She attended the Day of Reconciliation Ceremony at Queen Elizabeth Park in Miramichi. Accompanying Rev. LeBlanc were Indigenous students who are part of the Youth Essential Skills Program that she teaches for the John Howard Society. <p><u>Gilbert Cyr:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three upcoming PSSC meetings in Mr. Cyr's subdistrict. • He continues to determine what is needed and how he can be of value to the parents, students, and school district. <p><u>Paul Mourant:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleanor W. Graham Middle School raised the Mi'gmaq Grand Council flag. Bonar Law Memorial School will soon be raising their flag. • PSSC meetings have been tentatively scheduled for October 20 at Eleanor W. Graham Middle School and for November 4 at Harcourt School. • Mr. Mourant is registered for the three virtual governance training sessions. • He confirmed with Mr. Donovan that Rapid Test Kits are being sent to Bonar Law Memorial School. <p><u>Andy Flanagan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two PSSC meetings in his subdistrict will be held in the near future. • He is keeping a close eye on the COVID-19 situation at King Street Elementary School. He is hoping that everyone is on the mend and that the school will soon return to regular operations. <p><u>Carmel Hambrook:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She reported on Tabusintac Community School's PSSC meeting held on October 12 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This school has five PSSC members, and it hopes to have a member join the PSSC from the Esgenoopetitj First Nation community. - The school has an increase of 18 students this school year. - The PSSC members approved the Principal's Evaluation Form that was submitted in June. - As per Mrs. Hambrook's inquiry, Mr. Donovan will check on whether a Grade 8 student can join the Parent School Support Committee.
----	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the concerns expressed by Tabusintac's PSSC members was the lack of communication between EECD, the school district, and the school. Mrs. Hambrook explained to members that information can only be given when it is received. - The next PSSC meeting for Tabusintac Community School will take place in November. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Hambrook is awaiting PSSC meeting dates from the other schools in her subdistrict.
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., via a Microsoft Teams Meeting.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:50 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