

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES  
September 19, 2016  
Eleanor W. Graham Middle School**

Present: Micheal Mortlock, Chair  
Ron Ecker  
Carmel Hambrook  
Nancy McBain  
Joe Petersen  
Sheila Rogers  
Beth Stymiest, Superintendent  
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Andy Flanagan  
Raymond Murphy

	<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 5:30 p.m. at Eleanor W. Graham Middle School.</p>
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Sheila Rogers and seconded by Ron Ecker that the Agenda be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>C.</b>	<p><b>PRESENTATION: Mr. Greg Theriault, Principal, Eleanor W. Graham Middle School</b></p> <p>Mr. Theriault, the new principal of Eleanor W. Graham Middle School, welcomed the District Education Council members. He used a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate some of the highlights and activities at the school. He explained that the “eagle” is the school logo and “Respect” is the motto at Eleanor W. Graham. He noted that everyone at EWG respects the different learning styles of the students. A brief history of Eleanor W. Graham Middle School was given, in which Mr. Theriault explained that the current school was built in 2009 as a 3-P school. There are currently 170 students enrolled and these students live within the catchment area from Bouctouche to Kouchibouguac. First Nations students who attend Eleanor W. Graham Middle School represent the Elsipogtog, Bouctouche and Indian Island communities.</p> <p>Eleanor W. Graham Middle School offers many opportunities to enhance student learning. Dividends from cafeteria sales and an RBC grant of \$100,000</p>

	<p>made it possible for every classroom to be equipped with laptops and Smartboards. Mr. Theriault explained that this technology allows students to expand their learning to outside of the Rexton area. Students, for example, recently had the opportunity to Skype with Astronaut Chris Hadfield. Other learning opportunities at the school include Science/Heritage Fairs, Math competitions, chess competitions, essay contests, canoeing and rope climbing in the gym.</p> <p>Mr. Theriault stated that the school enjoys wonderful community support. He noted that the students' involvement with the community is very important in enhancing their learning. The students often visit the local seniors' home, the school has hosted pow wows, a float is put in the Santa Claus parade each year, and an Acadian performer has visited the school. Students have participated in the Artists-in-School program, the Terry Fox Run, Remembrance Day ceremonies, and they have supported "Orange Shirt Day" and "Pink Shirt Day". The students have also raised money for water purifier tanks that were needed following the Haiti earthquake, and money was also raised for wells in India.</p> <p>Mr. Theriault mentioned the activity period at Eleanor W. Graham Middle School and how this has become a very successful program for students. The school day was scheduled so that students have the option, between 2:00-3:00 p.m. each day, to participate in sports and activities, or to obtain extra help from teachers. The various sports and activities that have been organized for this program include canoeing, archery, skating, ball hockey and soccer. Mr. Theriault was proud to note that his school's gym teacher, Krista Betts, was the first female in Canada to win a gold medal in wrestling.</p> <p>At the conclusion of Mr. Theriault's presentation, District Education Council members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the school. Several members also commented on the beautiful building. Mr. Mortlock presented Mr. Theriault with a book about Chris Hadfield for the school library, as a token of appreciation for hosting the meeting.</p>
<b>D.</b>	<p><b>Presentation: Audrey Ronalds, Community Engagement/AEI Coordinator</b></p> <p>Audrey Ronalds is the Community Engagement Coordinator and AEI (Atlantic Education International) Coordinator for Anglophone North School District. As a liaison between the school district and international students, Ms. Ronalds informed Council members that there are 121 international students enrolled in the school district. She noted that Anglophone North School District has the largest population of international students compared to other districts in the province. Mrs. Janet Cooper, a recently retired principal in Anglophone North School District, has been hired to work closely with the host families. Ms. Ronalds also gave a brief update on the Syrian families who have now settled in the Miramichi and Bathurst areas. She stated that these people are eager to learn and willing to work.</p>

	<p>There are three community schools coordinators who support Ms. Ronalds in her role as Community Engagement Coordinator – Cindy Courier, Cathy Carnahan and Cheryl Warman. Ms. Ronalds distributed copies of reports that each of these coordinators prepared for the District Education Council members. The reports explain their roles and the many community projects that have been or are currently underway in their respective areas. Ms. Ronalds made special mention of the breakfast programs and mentoring opportunities that community support provides to schools, as well as the literacy projects that are funded by the Dalhousie and Bathurst Rotary Clubs.</p>
<b>E.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Ron Ecker and seconded by Nancy McBain that the minutes of the August 15, 2016 meeting be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>F.</b>	<p><b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p>There was no business arising from the minutes.</p>
<b>G.</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-4, E-4a, EL-2, EL-5, EL-8 – In Compliance - See attached briefing notes</li> </ul> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen and seconded by Ron Ecker that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>H.</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>All correspondence items were forwarded to the District Education Council members for their review prior to the meeting, with the exception of one letter which was recently received from Hon. Brian Kenny acknowledging receipt of the “Superintendent’s Annual Report to the District Education Council”.</p>
<b>I.</b>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There was no new business.</p>
<b>J.</b>	<p><b>CHAIR’S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reported that he recently attended a meeting with the District Education Council Chairs and the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. He informed Council members about two changes in the Education Act that the DEC Chairs are proposing. He noted that other revisions will be necessary due to the implementation of the 10-Year Education Plan.</p>

	<p>The next meeting of the District Education Council Chairs and the Minister will take place on November 18-19, 2016 in Fredericton, during which time the Minister's Excellence in Education Awards will be presented. Mr. Mortlock noted that the educators in Anglophone North School District, who were nominated for this prestigious award, will also be recognized at the Parent School Support Committee Appreciation Dinner in May, 2017.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock commented on the district's smooth transition to the 2016-2017 school year. He also noted that since the amalgamation of school districts, staff members are now beginning to come together as one identity for Anglophone North School District.</p>
<b>K.</b>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two days of meetings were held with principals and vice-principals on August 23 and 24. Leadership and the expectations for leaders were among the topics that were discussed at this meeting.</li> <li>• There are new initiatives underway in the school district, including the new K-8 report card, Power School, ISD (Integrated Service Delivery), and the 10-Year Education Plan. A lot of work has also been devoted to working on formative assessments.</li> <li>• Alistair Tulloch is now the provincial School Information Systems Lead for Grades 9-12, and Cynthia Gilks-MacInnis is the School Information Systems Lead for Anglophone North School District.</li> <li>• Mrs. Stymiest and Mr. Mortlock conducted focus group sessions with students in the eight high schools during the 2015-2016 school year. These students continue to engage themselves in discussions with principals about determining how students can better connect with their school. The students from the focus groups have committed themselves to working on projects that are designed to engage more student interest. Mrs. Stymiest is very excited that two high schools have already started their planning in this regard, and she shared their projects with Council members. In addition to these projects, Bathurst High School has designated a teacher, for two periods each day, to discuss career planning with students. Mrs. Stymiest is encouraged that high schools are working to further engage their students.</li> <li>• Opening days for teachers were held during the week of August 29 in Campbellton/Dalhousie, Bathurst, Miramichi West and Miramichi East. Meetings were held in these four areas to help eliminate the need for teachers to travel long distances.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A great deal of additional supports are now available as a result of the implementation of the Education Plan, including extra literacy and numeracy leads, and the addition of diversity and respect leads. She stated that staff members are very excited about moving forward with the new Education Plan.</li> <li>• Discussions were held about teachers developing Professional Growth Plans and incorporating their goals into their teaching. Teachers will be sharing their goals with one another and will be given the opportunity to discuss any barriers that they may be encountering. Mrs. Stymiest is hopeful that teachers will feel empowered by their goals.</li> <li>• Mrs. Stymiest shared her Professional Growth Plan with the District Education Council members and stated that she will be posting her plan on the district website as a model for teachers and students as well. She will also be charting her progress, and this will also be on the website. She plans to be more visible in the schools by making pop-in visits (15-20 minutes) and longer visits (one to two hours) to observe classroom instruction. Her goal is to make 33 pop-in visits and 25 longer visits during this school year. Mrs. Stymiest stated that she has already begun making these school visits.</li> <li>• The curriculum team is working on the 10-Year Education Plan.</li> <li>• Mrs. Stymiest noted that the Miramichi Big Brothers Big Sisters is a great organization that continues to financially support the Breakfast Program in all of the Miramichi-area schools.</li> <li>• The Naming Committee for the new Miramichi East school has posted an invitation on the district website for the public to submit a proposed name for the new school.</li> </ul> <p>As Mrs. Stymiest concluded her report, Mr. Mortlock congratulated her for doing such a fantastic job as Superintendent. He expressed very positive comments about Anglophone North School District, and he attributed the district's success to Mrs. Stymiest's leadership and everyone's commitment to work together.</p>
<b>L.</b>	<p><b>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Ron Ecker and Council members discussed and shared relevant topics that could be of particular interest to parents at the Parent School Support Committee cluster meetings. Further discussion followed in which Mr. Mortlock informed members about the role of the PSSC members. He explained that the PSSC members are advocates for the school and community, and that they are also an advisory group for the principal. He noted that principals are required to provide orientation for the PSSC members each year.</p> <p>A list of PSSC meeting dates will be prepared and forwarded to the District Education Council members.</p>

	<p>During discussion, Mrs. Stymiest noted that the district will prepare a message reminding parents to refrain from using Facebook as a means of directing negative and often unfounded comments towards school staff.</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook reported that she met with Mr. Mortlock recently to receive orientation on her role as a District Education Council member. She also noted that she plans to attend a conference in Moncton on October 28-29 to learn more about Policy Governance.</p> <p>Nancy McBain expressed appreciation to Mrs. Stymiest for her creative ideas and the spirit she brings to the district.</p> <p>Sheila Rogers commented on an article she read in <i>The Globe and Mail</i>. This article featured a story about four retired guidance teachers who reached out to drop-out students and were successful in convincing them to return to school to complete their high school education.</p>
<b>M.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held on October 17, 2016 at Tabusintac Community School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. on a motion by Ron Ecker.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by Brenda Dunnett*

Brenda Dunnett  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC