

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES  
September 21, 2020  
Rodd Miramichi**

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

Absent: Brittnee Gallant

	<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 5:35 p.m. in the Southwest Conference Room at Rodd Miramichi on September 21, 2020.</p>
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen 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> Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc that the minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>D.</b>	<p><b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>(a) Annual Report to ASD-N District Education Council</b></p> <p>Following Council's review of the Annual Report to the ASD-N District Education Council, <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Sheila Rogers and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the Annual Report be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock thanked Mr. Donovan for preparing this report, and for his continued great work as Superintendent.</p>

	<p><b>(b) 2019-2020 Annual First Nation Education Report</b></p> <p>Following a review of the 2019-2020 Annual First Nation Education Report, <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Andy Flanagan and seconded by Joe Petersen that the First Nation Annual Report be approved as presented. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p>Ms. McBain inquired into the possibility of releasing statistics that compare the assessment results of First Nation students with the overall district results. Ms. McBain believes that this information would be helpful in identifying students who are struggling and who could benefit from school interventions. Mr. Donovan will discuss this matter further with the subject coordinators.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan confirmed that it is ASD-N's goal for each school in the district to fly the Mi'Kmaq Grand Council Flag. Nelson Rural School will hold a special ceremony in the near future to raise that flag.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan also confirmed that principals received training at the August Administrators' Meetings on the provincial document, "Ensuring Student and Staff Safety: Guidelines for Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in Schools".</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock asked Mr. Donovan to convey the District Education Council's congratulations to Mr. Matthew Swezey and his team for the work that they are doing in Anglophone North School District for First Nations students.</p>
<p><b>E.</b></p>	<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> Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<p><b>F.</b></p>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock forwarded correspondence items to Council members during the past month. He noted that Ms. McBain will participate in a conference call with Indigenous speakers on October 8 at 2:00 p.m., and he extended an invitation to the other District Education Council members to participate as well.</p>

<p><b>G.</b></p>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>(a) Expenditure Plan – 2020-2021</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen and seconded by Nancy McBain that the 2020-2021 Expenditure Plan for Anglophone North School District be approved as presented. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the Superintendent be granted permission to access \$200,000 from the Special Purposes Account to use at his discretion for special projects in Anglophone North School District. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<p><b>H.</b></p>	<p><b>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been a trying time during the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been some concerns expressed by the public about the return to schools. He suggested that everyone convey the same message - that teachers and administrators are learning day to day, and that the situation in the province is developing day to day.</li> <li>• Mr. Mortlock believes that New Brunswick has one of the best “Return to School” plans in the country.</li> <li>• The second wave of the Coronavirus is building across the country, and the flu season is also starting.</li> <li>• Mr. Mortlock asked Mr. Donovan to ensure that the designated isolation rooms in each school are appropriate for students when they become ill with COVID-related symptoms and must wait for parents to pick them up (are there windows for claustrophobic students, etc.).</li> <li>• The LGBTQ+ policy recently became a provincial policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I.</b></p>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Donovan reported that this is a unique year, and it is a learning year for everyone. He is very impressed with how well the schools are doing.</li> <li>• The staggered entry at schools was very successful, and this format may continue moving forward into other school years. The soft launch provided teachers with the opportunity to focus on relationships with their students and to ensure that students fully understand the rules.</li> </ul>

- Mr. Donovan reported on the tragic deaths of a James M. Hill Memorial High School student and three students from the Blackville area. Guidance and additional support will remain in place as long it is needed.
- Logan MacKeigan, a Grade 6 student at Blackville School, received a Starfish Award for putting the safety and security of his school at the forefront.
- There has been a decline in the 2020-2021 enrolment numbers. Some of this decline is attributed to the natural decline in the population of northeastern New Brunswick, a decline in international students, and the approximately 151 students/families who opted for home schooling this year.
- If K-8 home-schooled students wish to return to ASD-N schools, they are welcome to return at any time. Grade 9-12 home-schooled students, however, have a grace period until October 31 in which to return to ASD-N schools. Otherwise, they must wait until Semester II.
- Terry Fox Elementary School and King Street Elementary School each received an iPad for having the highest rate of participation during the Virtual Olympics, which took place in the spring. The District Education Council originally purchased these iPads for the PSSC Appreciation Dinner, which was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Student computers continue to arrive in Anglophone North School District on a daily basis. All schools should receive their order of learning devices during the week of September 28.
- Each District Education Council member received a copy of the “Return to School” provincial document, which was updated on September 16, 2020. A link to this document is available on the district website.
- Council members also received a copy of the District Improvement Plan. Mr. Donovan explained that the provincial focus of this year’s District Improvement Plan is on digital learning and mental fitness.
- The Return to School document and the District Improvement Plan provide direction so that schools can return to some state of normalcy, while respecting COVID-19 guidelines.
- Plans are underway for the return of some school sports in ASD-N. Andy Flanagan reported on the proposals and hard work that is being done by staff to ensure that tackle and flag football can be played safely at James M. Hill Memorial High School and Miramichi Valley High School. Mr. Flanagan also acknowledged the support that schools received from Mr.

Donovan in allowing students the opportunity to play some of their favorite sports while adhering to the health guidelines.

- Mr. Donovan reported that the students have done very well with the health protocols in schools, and that there have been no issues with students wearing masks.
- A meeting with Dr. Léger, Medical Officer of Health, is scheduled for Friday, September 25, concerning the rollout of the Outbreak Management Plan. Mr. Donovan will provide District Education Council members with more details at the next meeting.
- Anglophone North School District will be strictly following Public Health's directions in the event of an outbreak.
- In the event of an outbreak, one class, one school or a cluster of schools could be affected by a shutdown, depending on the situation. The entire school district will not be shut down.
- Confidentiality is part of the Outbreak Management Plan. Parents will be notified in the event of an outbreak, but individuals' names will not be announced.
- COVID-19 drills are possible so that schools know the procedures to follow in the event a student presents with COVID symptoms.
- A question was raised about whether a child, who is sent home with COVID-19, will receive homework from the teacher. Mr. Donovan confirmed that according to the "Return to School" plan, learning does not stop. In the event of a shutdown, online learning or learning packages will be available for students.
- All teachers in ASD-N will have an opportunity to apply for the "Innovation in Teaching During COVID-19 Grant". Teachers can explain unique methods of teaching during the pandemic, what they need, etc.
- Mr. Donovan discussed the locations of District Education Council meetings with the members. There was consensus among the members to hold the meetings at the schools, as per the 2020-2021 schedule. All school meeting rooms will be disinfected and large enough to accommodate the District Education Council meetings. The October meeting will take place at Nelson Rural School.
- Council members asked Mr. Donovan to convey a message to the schools that the District Education Council appreciates everything that they have done to keep students and staff safe.

<b>J.</b>	<p><b>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Carmel Hambrook sent an email to principals asking them to contact her if they need any assistance.</p> <p>Sheila Rogers reported that Disability Awareness Week is October 4-11, 2020. A webinar event will be held on October 6 featuring Amberley Snyder, a barrel racer and an inspirational speaker who fought her way back from tragedy. Ms. Rogers noted that a movie, "Walk Ride Rodeo", is based on Ms. Snyder's life story.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock added that the Premier's Council on Disabilities presents awards to individuals who help improve the lives of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Mr. Flanagan thanked Mr. Donovan and his staff for their response to the recent tragedies involving the four students, and for the amazing support that they provided to parents and students in the affected areas.</p> <p>Rev. Albertine LeBlanc attended the wakes of the three Blackville students and could sense the heaviness in that community. She noted that it was very comforting that professionals and clergy were able to provide their support.</p> <p>Rev. LeBlanc is looking forward to returning to the Parent School Support Committee meetings with principals and parents.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed members that information and nomination forms will be released soon concerning the Minister's Excellence In Education Awards. These awards will be presented in February 2021.</p>
<b>K.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on October 19, 2020 at Nelson Rural School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Joe Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by Brenda Dunnett*

Brenda Dunnett  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC