

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

**MINUTES
September 27, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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

	AGENDA ITEMS
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Joe Petersen called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on unceded Mi'kmaq territory.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Andy Flanagan to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Shaun MacDonald, Principal, and Shannon Lavigne, Teacher – Bathurst High School</p> <p>Mr. Shaun MacDonald and Ms. Shannon Lavigne joined the District Education Council meeting virtually from Bathurst High School, and they extended a welcome to the members. Mr. MacDonald began the presentation by stating that there are currently 512 students enrolled at Bathurst High School, an increase in enrolment from the previous school year. He attributed the increase to international students, exchange students, QMJHL and Midget AAA hockey players, transfers from the Francophone school district, and new families who have moved into the area. The school has 37.5 FTE teachers, and 17 educational assistants and custodians.</p> <p>Ms. Lavigne used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight some of the activities, initiatives, and community partnerships in which she and the school were involved during the past and current school year. These included:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Street Clean-Up campaign was held in May 2021 to target the downtown Bathurst area and other problem areas. A total of 342 students participated and they collected 100 industrial-sized garbage bags, refundable containers and larger items. The school partnered with the City of Bathurst, Ducks Unlimited, and Encorp Atlantic for this project. • Bathurst High School received approximately \$12,000 from the proposal it submitted to the Brewer Foundation in support of the Foundation's commitment that no child goes without food in New Brunswick. The school used these funds to prepare food for students in need, including Grab Bags (to supplement sandwiches), frozen meals, and smoothies for "Smoothie Fridays". Food was also delivered to families who were not working during the pandemic. • A "Bike-to-School Day" focused on transportation, electricity and the importance of a safe environment. Forty-two students participated, and a new bike was among the prizes that students won. • Several events took place to educate students about the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), including the raising of the Pride Flag at City Hall. • September 27-October 1 is Truth and Reconciliation Week. Several events will take place, including Orange Shirt Day, the distribution of orange ribbons, special daily announcements, and a moment of silence on September 29. • Staff and students participated in Bathurst's "Waterfront Scarecrow Contest". Students dressed scarecrows and created an outdoor classroom for them. Bathurst High School was the winner of this contest. <p>District Education Council members acknowledged the eagerness of school staff who work hard to engage and inspire students. They also thanked Mr. MacDonald and Ms. Lavigne for their presentation.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>Mr. Gilbert Cyr requested that the last sentence of the second paragraph, under (b) 2020-2021 ASD-N Annual First Nation Education Report, on Page 2, be changed as follows: "Mr. Gilbert Cyr stated that although it was unfortunate this situation developed, Mr. Donovan did a phenomenal job in supporting the students and teachers in Listuguj".</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Paul Mourant to approve the August 16, 2021 minutes with this change. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>(a) 2021-2022 District Improvement Plan</p> <p>The District Education Council members reviewed and discussed several Priority Areas contained in the 2021-2022 District Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Following discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the 2021-2022 District Improvement Plan as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(b) Schedule of DEC Meetings – 2021-2022</p> <p>Following discussion, Council members agreed to hold virtual District Education Council meetings from October to March, and to revisit the schedule if circumstances change.</p> <p>(c) First Nations Representative</p> <p>District Education Council members reviewed a draft letter to First Nation communities seeking nominations for a First Nations representative on the DEC.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Sheila Rogers to proceed with sending the letter to the Chiefs and Directors of Education of the nine First Nation communities. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(d) DEC Retreat – October 29-30, 2021</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook volunteered to plan team-building activities for the evening of October 29. Although Council members are welcoming an opportunity to meet and review district policies, a question was raised about holding in-person meetings during the current COVID-19 situation. Mr. Donovan will consult with Barb McFarlane in this regard and will advise Council members accordingly.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Paul Mourant to proceed with planning the DEC Retreat on October 29-30, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.</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-4, E-4a, C/SR-4, EL-2, EL-5, EL-8 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY Paul Mourant and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>There were no correspondence items for this meeting.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) EECD Policy 321 – Admission Based on Language</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook and Rev. Albertine LeBlanc recently participated on an Appeals Committee with regard to the school district's decision to enroll a Francophone student in the English Prime program instead of the French Immersion Program.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan noted that he is compelled to follow the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Policy 321, established on September 1, 2004, which states, "the superintendent shall not admit a French-speaking student or bilingual student to the French Immersion Program in English-speaking schools". Mr. Donovan noted that the school district's decision is often appealed and overturned.</p> <p>At the request of Mrs. Hambrook and Rev. LeBlanc, Mr. Donovan will discuss this policy further at the provincial level to determine if a change may be warranted.</p>
I.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Petersen reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A virtual meeting with District Education Council Chairs took place on September 23. Mr. Petersen was unable to attend that meeting. • Council members will be receiving an invitation to attend virtual DEC Governance Training, with Rick Maloney as guest speaker, on October 27, November 2, and November 8. • Mr. Petersen reminded Council members to make their hotel reservations for the DEC Retreat.
J.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Donovan's comments were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a confirmed COVID-19 case at Dalhousie Regional High School. The high school will revert to an Operational Day on

	<p>September 28. However, the middle school will have a regular school day as those students had no contact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starfish Awards were awarded to the following employees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Carolyn Wilson and Stacy Hudson, Teachers at Bonar Law Memorial School -Manon LeBreton, Teacher at Terry Fox Elementary School -Shelby Goodin, Tammy O'Shea, Barbara Gillespie, Robin Harvey Nichol, and Denise Maltais – Members of the Payroll Departments at the Miramichi and Dalhousie Education Centers The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development made changes to the Healthy & Safe Schools document, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class groupings returned for K-8 students. • Phys. Ed. classes are to be held outside if weather permits. • Assemblies are not permitted. • Students 12 and over will need to be vaccinated, especially for participating in indoor and outdoor extracurricular and intramural activities. • Parents are asked to drive their children to school, if they can do so, to reduce the risk of transmission on school buses. • Teachers can unmask when teaching a class. • Travel restrictions and self-isolation does not apply to individuals travelling to attend school in K-12. There is an increase of approximately 300 students in Anglophone North School District this year. A recalibration of the number of teachers will take place on September 30, 2021. The Get Fit 3.0 program will continue this school year. Staff members pay 50% of the regular fee at participating gyms and recreational facilities. Mr. Donovan noted that this program supports the District Improvement Plan in the area of Physical Health and Mental Fitness. Orange Shirt Day will take place on September 30. September 27-September 30 will be designated as Truth and Reconciliation Week. Classrooms will be participating in various events during that week to recognize the importance of Orange Shirt Day, the impacts on residential schools, and how the district is promoting and supporting the recommendations of the TRC. Atlantic Education International (AEI) will fully sponsor one high school student from each of the four Anglophone school districts to study in Germany next year. AEI will accept applications until October 31.
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K.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Mrs. Hambrook's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She participated on a recent Appeals Committee with Rev. LeBlanc. • She sent messages to principals regarding their upcoming PSSC meetings. <p>Rev. LeBlanc's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She considered it a privilege to sit on the Appeals Committee, and she appreciated the opportunity to expand her knowledge of the education system. • North & South Esk Regional School will be holding a PSSC meeting in October. • She is looking forward to the DEC Retreat to review all of the district's policies and to get to know the new DEC members. • She acknowledged the efforts of the technicians for keeping everyone's technology devices up to date. • She will be participating in the Get Fit program, and she challenged the other DEC members to take advantage of this opportunity as well. <p>Mr. Cyr's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is aware of the challenges that schools have faced during the past two years and the fluid situation that the school district continues to face. He commended staff at District Office and other locations for their work in looking after the students. • He expressed concern about a potential strike and the impacts it could have on schools. He noted that this is also compounded with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. • He is eager to be a part of the District Education Council, and he is hoping to make a difference as a group in supporting the Superintendent, teachers, and students. <p>Mr. Mourant's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is learning a lot about the District Education Council. • He is also looking forward to the meetings in Fredericton in October and the opportunity to get further clarification on DEC procedures. <p>Ms. Rogers' report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She invited the members to check Janeville Elementary School's website for their "Meet the Teacher" PowerPoint, which includes information about the staff, students' schedules, the school's Code of Conduct, Home & School and PSSC information. • She did not receive the final invitation for the September 23 meeting for Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Joe Petersen will contact Stacey Brown to ensure that Ms. Rogers receives an invitation for the September 30 meeting.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Rogers will provide members with information she received from a student about a free online STEM program, entitled “Gears and Gadgets”. This is an Introduction to Engineering and Computer Science for girls, and it is a program designed to combat gender disparities.
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., via a Microsoft Teams Meeting.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:54 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