

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
December 15, 2014
Napan Elementary School**

Present: Micheal Mortlock, Chair
Mike Coster, Vice-Chair
Ron Ecker
Andy Flanagan
Nancy McBain
Raymond Murphy
Joe Petersen
Beth Stymiest, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Sheila Rogers

	AGENDA ITEMS
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting of the District Education Council to order at 5:30 p.m. at Napan Elementary School.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>Presentation: Barb Hondas, Principal, Napan Elementary School</p> <p>Ms. Barb Hondas welcomed the District Education Council members to Napan Elementary School. She presented a video in which the students explained some of the “cool things” about Napan Elementary School. They mentioned the breakfast program, which is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, the Tuesday hot lunch program that is organized by the Home & School Association, the playground facilities, the sports teams, the pumpkin carving event that is held to celebrate Halloween, Christmas Concert preparations, the amazing rock climbing wall inside the school and several other activities.</p> <p>Ms. Hondas indicated that Napan Elementary School is a K-5 school with 60 students and seven staff members. She noted that there is a strong Kindergarten registration for the fall of 2015. The breakfast and hot lunch programs at Napan Elementary School are able to operate because of the generous funds that are raised by the Home & School Association and other partners.</p>

	<p>Mr. Mortlock expressed his appreciation that Council members were given the opportunity to visit the school and to learn about the many special activities that the students described in their video. On behalf of the District Education Council, he presented Ms. Hondas with a book for the school library as a token of appreciation for hosting the meeting.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Ron Ecker and seconded by Joe Petersen that the minutes of the November 17, 2014 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock provided Council members with an update on the matter relating to energy drinks and a recent request for a policy to ban these drinks from schools. A poll that was conducted among principals determined that energy drinks are not a problem in most schools. When principals do see them, they will often have a discussion with the students. The principals stated that students are bringing coffee to school and parents are delivering coffee to the students at school, and this has become more of an issue than energy drinks.</p> <p>Council members also held discussions about energy drinks within their recent cluster meetings. Parents are concerned that it may be too difficult to enforce a policy that bans energy drinks, and they felt that it could easily be challenged. They suggested that more education on this topic is important and that students, parents and principals should continue to be informed about the negative effects of energy drinks. Ms. Louise Collette-Bois, Dietician and a member of the District Health Advisory Committee, has been informed about these discussions.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock confirmed that the District Education Council will not be implementing a policy banning energy drinks from schools.</p>
F.	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>(a) 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-10, C/SR-2, EL-11, EL-12 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>(b) New Educational Hirings</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Mike Coster that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Correspondence items were forwarded to the members prior to the meeting.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no new business to discuss.</p>
I.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reported that he recently participated in a teleconference with the Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister and the three other District Education Council Chairs.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed members that the Minister is working on the budget process. He noted that meetings have been held recently with the Superintendents and Directors of Finance and Administration about fiscal responsibility.</p> <p>Plans are underway for the Parent School Support Committee Recognition Dinner. The venue will be determined after numbers have been finalized in February.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reminded Council members to return their Superintendent's Evaluation forms to Mr. Murphy by January 31, 2015.</p> <p>In order to save postage costs, the direct deposit slips for Council members will now be distributed at the DEC meetings.</p> <p>The Spring Symposium will be held in Moncton in May. The site has not yet been announced.</p>
J.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported that three nominations were received for "Outstanding Volunteers" – Sandy Thibodeau, Sheila Handrahan and Kim Vandenbrand. IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Joe Petersen that Certificates of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to each of these volunteers. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>The names of the Starfish Award recipients were presented – Barbara Brown, Elizabeth Price, Teri Gregan, Sheena Dewolfe, Fred Trevors, Gina Cormier, Nick Scully, Rita Whalen, Lorena Joseph, Julia Murray, Lorraine Whalen and Freda Mundle.</p> <p>The Physical Activity Challenge has been completed. This activity resulted in a lot of fun and a connection with staff across the district.</p>

	<p>The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development met with the <i>Building a Future for our Children Committee</i> to hear their presentation.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported that she and Mr. Tim Dunn, Director of Finance and Administration, attended a budget meeting with the Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister and several other officials from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.</p> <p>In her closing remarks, Mrs. Stymiest wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday.</p>
K.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Due to Mrs. Rogers' attendance at a meeting in Fredericton, she submitted her written comments to the District Education Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclement weather on December 10, 2014 resulted in the District Health Advisory Committee meeting and the Bathurst PSSC cluster meeting being postponed. • The Spirit of Christmas program has more participation than ever. This is a project organized by Audrey Ronalds, Community Engagement Coordinator for Anglophone North School District. Baskets containing baked goods, non-perishable food items, mittens, chocolates, etc. are delivered to over 200 seniors in the Bathurst and surrounding areas. A lovely Christmas concert was held on December 13 and 14, 2014 at Bathurst High School to raise funds for this project. <p>Mr. Murphy expressed his appreciation to Mr. Jake Stewart, MLA for Southwest Miramichi and Bay du Vin, for attending the District Education Council meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Murphy was pleased to report that he had a full complement of Parent School Support Committee members at his cluster meeting held on November 24, 2014. Since this was the first meeting since April, 2014, the members expressed their appreciation for having budget information available to the schools earlier in the spring.</p> <p>Mr. Murphy recognized the efforts of the Rexton Lions Club, which raises funds for the schools. He noted that without this funding, schools would not be able to operate all of their programs. Mr. Murphy also recognized the efforts of three retired teachers – Anne Robichaud, Connie Barter and Linda Arseneault – who help needy students and their families in the Rexton area at Christmas time. Gifts are purchased and these ladies spend two full days wrapping gifts before they are delivered to the homes on December 18th.</p> <p>Mr. Coster expressed his appreciation to the Napan parents who prepared the lovely meal for the District Education Council members. He wished them, his fellow Council members, Mrs. Stymiest and Mr. Jake Stewart, MLA, a very Merry Christmas.</p>

	<p>Mr. Mortlock recognized the staff and students of Sugarloaf Senior High School, as well as the I.T. personnel, who assisted with the sound and the production of the Restigouche County Volunteer Action Association Telethon. This event raised \$52,000 to help 660 needy families in the Campbellton area.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock noted the number of days that schools have already been closed due to inclement weather. He noted that the district will continue to air on the side of caution when deciding to close schools. He congratulated Mrs. Stymiest and her team for their work in monitoring weather conditions.</p>
	<p>Presentation - Mr. Jake Stewart, MLA</p> <p>Prior to adjournment, Mr. Jake Stewart, MLA, was granted permission to address Council members. Mr. Stewart noted that there is often fear that schools may close due to budgetary restraints, but he asked the members to give special attention to Napan Elementary School because of its uniqueness. Mr. Mortlock assured Mr. Stewart that he understands the close ties and nuances of each community. He noted, however, that no decisions have been made and that the District Education Council will continue to do its best when faced with decisions.</p>
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The meeting of the next District Education Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015, at Ian Baillie Primary School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. on a motion by Raymond Murphy.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent