

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
December 9, 2013
Rexton Elementary School**

Present: Micheal Mortlock, Chair
Ron Ecker
Andy Flanagan
Raymond Murphy
Joe Petersen
Beth Stymiest, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Mike Coster
Sheila Rogers

	AGENDA ITEM
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at Rexton Elementary School.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Joe Petersen that the agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Diane Wilson, Principal, Rexton Elementary School</p> <p>Ms. Wilson welcomed the District Education Council members to Rexton Elementary School. She commenced her presentation by outlining her educational background, stating that she has been Principal of Rexton Elementary School for the past seven years. Rexton Elementary is one of the largest elementary schools in Anglophone North School District. Eighteen buses transport students to her school, and buses are shared with the Francophone district. There are 267 students currently enrolled, with one-third of the population being Anglophone students, one-third Francophone and one-third First Nations. The school serves First Nations students from the Elsipogtog, Indian Island and Bouctouche communities, with several off-reserve students attending as well.</p> <p>Ms. Wilson reviewed the composition of her staff and indicated that she has several new staff members this year. The school conducts regular fire and lockdown drills. There is a new procedure this year in which master keys are</p>

	<p>held by all staff during the day in the event of a lockdown. There is also an emergency connectivity with the RCMP. She indicated as well that Rexton Elementary is able to communicate information to the community via the school's website and the School Connects program. She noted that all staff members have been trained in First Aid and six staff members have been trained by WorkSafe NB.</p> <p>Rexton Elementary is a bucket-filling school, a peanut-safe school, and is very active with chess activities. She was also pleased to report that as a result of \$45,000 being raised in cooperation with Aviva, the school now has an excellent playground. A total of \$7,500 was recently raised at the annual Tea and Craft sale, and these funds will be used to cover the costs of field trips, books, etc.</p> <p>Ms. Wilson advised members about the process involved in monitoring Professional Growth Goals. As well, she noted that the School Improvement Plan focuses on numeracy, literacy, and inclusivity, and there is an attempt to align the school's plan with the district's and the province's plans. Teachers have often visited other schools to learn about strategies in numeracy that have been found to be successful. The teachers then take this information back and share it with their colleagues at Rexton Elementary School.</p> <p>Ms. Wilson noted several tragedies that have taken place within the Rexton community during the past two years. She noted as well the recent stand-off situation that took place in October, 2013. Council members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Wilson and her staff, as well as to the principals and staff of Eleanor W. Graham Middle School and Bonar Law Memorial School, for their excellent efforts in ensuring the safety of the students during this stand-off.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock thanked Ms. Wilson for her presentation and for hosting the District Education Council meeting. He presented her with a book for the school library as a token of Council's appreciation.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Ron Ecker that the minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>(a) Ian Baillie Primary School</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reported that discussions have been held during the past week with regard to the damage that resulted from water infiltrating the outside walls of Ian Baillie Primary School. He noted that the project to repair the damage started at \$38,000; however, following further inspection by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, the cost has been upgraded to \$200,000-</p>

\$300,000, with the possibility of increased costs if more damage is found. A meeting was held with the parents on December 4, 2013, during which time Tony Weber and Nancy Boucher, from Education and Early Childhood Development, and Beth Stymiest, Superintendent, presented two options: (1) remain at Ian Baillie Primary School, or (2) move to Dr. Losier Middle School in a segregated area. The feedback received at this meeting was given to Minister Blais. The district is currently awaiting the Minister's decision in this regard.

Mr. Flanagan, District Education Council member for Subdistrict 5, outlined some of the concerns that parents voiced following the meeting on December 4, 2013, particularly with the presentation of information. Mr. Flanagan also stated that the mistrust and fear that parents experienced in 2009 came to the forefront during this present situation, especially with regard to the potential move of Ian Baillie Primary students to Dr. Losier Middle School. He indicated that parents felt they were treated unfairly when they were presented with the two options.

Mr. Flanagan indicated that following a meeting of the Ian Baillie Primary School Parent School Support Committee and parents on Sunday, December 8, 2013, there is now a consensus among the parents to have their children remain at Ian Baillie. WorkSafe NB has reported that test results revealed that the mold is not dangerous. The affected area has been cleaned and is sealed off with negative pressure.

Mr. Mortlock indicated that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is speculating that the other two walls of the Ian Baillie Primary School may be compromised as well.

Mr. Murphy was asked to provide Council members with some background information concerning the situation in 2009 involving St. Andrews Elementary School and Ian Baillie Primary School. Mr. Mortlock acknowledged that in order to deal with the current situation, it is necessary to be aware of the history involving past circumstances. He noted the difference between the presentation that was made in 2009 and the presentation made during the past week is that the most recent situation has involved collaboration and consultation with all stakeholders. In 2009, this was not the case, as there was very little consultation with the District Education Council. Mr. Mortlock assured Mr. Flanagan that he will continue to advocate to the Minister for the need of new infrastructure in Miramichi East and Miramichi West. Both items are presently on the Capital Projects List as Number One and Number Two, respectively.

(b) Christmas Trays for Schools

Mr. Mortlock reported that arrangements have been made for the Christmas Vegetable Trays to be delivered to every school in Anglophone North School

	<p>District. Trays will be delivered to the former District 16 schools on December 16, 2013, and trays will be delivered to the former District 15 schools on December 18, 2013.</p> <p>(c) Christmas Card for Education and Early Childhood Development Building</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed Council members that the Christmas card for the Education and Early Childhood Development building has been prepared and will be presented by Beth Stymiest and Mike Coster to Minister Marie-Claude Blais and Minister Robert Trevors at the Legislative Building on December 12, 2013.</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 - In Compliance - See Attached Briefing Notes <p>(b) New Educational Hirings</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Raymond Murphy that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>All correspondence items have been forwarded to Council members for their review. Mr. Mortlock will also forward anti-bullying information he received from Bruce Van Stone, Learning Specialist, Bullying Awareness and Prevention.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Governance</p> <p>A discussion was held with regard to specific items contained in the minutes of the Ministerial Committee on Policy and Governance meeting held on September 5, 2013. Mr. Murphy expressed concern with regard to the recommendation to allow District Education Councils to fill their own vacancies instead of the usual procedure of proposing a list of three candidates to the Minister. Mr. Murphy is concerned about the involvement of political influences when appointing a member. Mr. Mortlock also noted that there was a concern within the Council of DEC Chairs that three names of potential candidates would often be submitted to the Minister and another person was often nominated. He would like to have the District Education Councils have the ability to make recommendations for a replacement and, following a vote, the</p>

	<p>District Education Council would have the final decision on whom to recommend for the vacancy. Mr. Murphy also noted the need for timeliness, as the current process takes a great deal of time before the name of the replacement is announced.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock indicated his concern with regard to the suggestion by the Ministerial Committee on Policy and Governance to strengthen the role of the vice-chairs. He noted there is a recommendation to include vice-chairs in the Forums. He does not feel it is necessary for vice-chairs to attend these Forums, as he continuously keeps his vice-chair up to date with information that arises from these meetings.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock briefly noted the item relating to embargoed information. He has received embargoed information in the past, but he attempts to keep District Education Council members informed whenever possible.</p> <p>(b) Ian Baillie Primary School</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock indicated that parents asked for assurance that Anglophone North School District will be an advocate to repair Ian Baillie Primary School and to build a new school. Mr. Mortlock noted that Mrs. Beth Stymiest stated her intention to be an advocate, and he stated that the District Education Council must be an advocate for parents as well. IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Andy Flanagan that a letter be forwarded to Minister Blais requesting that the repairs be made to the school and that there be an announcement for a new school based on the Policy 409 process. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
<p>I.</p>	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock indicated that a great deal of his focus has been on the mold situation at Ian Baillie Primary School and on gathering historical information with regard to Policy 409 discussions held in 2009.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock wished members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>
<p>J.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest briefly commented on the Ian Baillie situation. She apologized for any disrespect the parents may have felt as a result of their suggestion to move the Ian Baillie students into the existing District Office building. She indicated that it would not be feasible to convert the District Office into a school. She indicated that parents are welcome to contact her if they would like to discuss this matter further. She also noted that PSSC members were invited to contact her and inform her about the history surrounding the previous Policy 409 process.</p>

	<p>Sixteen nominations for Outstanding Volunteers were received – Tracy Johnston, Connie Somers, Andy McFarlane, Kris Daley, Jennifer McFarlane, Natasta Simon, Aline Khoury, Veronica Cail, Rose Morris, Carla Hudson, Cathy Morrison, Anne Buzas, Diana St. Onge, Kayla Smith, June Schiavoni, and Treena Gammon. IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Peterson and seconded by Andy Flanagan that Certificates of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to each of these volunteers. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest listed the various district and school employees who received Starfish Awards. She noted that this has become a very popular program and she continues to receive nomination cards on a daily basis. Mrs. Stymiest agreed to clarify whether the District Education Council can nominate an employee.</p>
<p>K.</p>	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Murphy noted that his absence at the previous District Education Council meeting was due to his attendance at the “Learning – Everybody’s Project” meeting held on November 18-19, 2013. He indicated that this was a fantastic meeting with stakeholders from across the province in attendance. This meeting was based on the four pillars that were derived from the 2012 provincial forum: Early Childhood and Development, Literacy and Education, Learning and Prosperity, and Learning Communities. The meeting focused on advancing New Brunswick socially, economically, culturally and environmentally. Mr. Murphy presented Mrs. Stymiest with information he received at this meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Murphy held his first PSSC Cluster meeting on November 19, 2013. He indicated that the shortage of Grade 10 Math textbooks continues to be an issue. Parents would like the province to provide funding for a full class set of textbooks instead of the current practice of providing one-half of a class set. Mr. Mortlock noted that additional funding has now been made available for any schools requesting additional textbooks. Mr. Murphy also stated that another matter of concern involves the car rental policy. Staff travelling to Miramichi and the northern part of the district finds that the wait for a car rental results in valuable time being wasted. Mr. Mortlock indicated that he has previously brought this concern to the attention of the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister.</p> <p>Mr. Ron Ecker recently visited and met with Mr. Tom McCabe, Principal of Millerton Elem./Jr. High. He was very impressed with the work that this school is doing, especially considering it is a smaller school. Mr. Ecker could feel the sense of pride as Mr. McCabe took him on a tour of the school building.</p> <p>Due to Mrs. Rogers’ participation in a two-day session as a member of the Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee on December 9 and 10, 2013, she</p>

	<p>submitted a written report with the following information. On November 19, 2013, she attended a DHAC meeting which brought together many experts in the field of public health and education. An appointed task force will be given three initial topics – Mental Fitness, Risk-Taking Behavior, and Obesity.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers held a PSSC Cluster Meeting on November 27, 2013, with Mr. Craig Caldwell, Senior Education Officer, as guest speaker. Mr. Caldwell gave an informative and well-received presentation on the Structure of the District, Energy Drinks, and On-Line Predators.</p>
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next District Education Council meeting will be held on January 20, 2014 at the Office of the Superintendent.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Raymond Murphy.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent