

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES  
February 17, 2014  
Office of the Superintendent**

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

Regrets: Sheila Rogers

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
<b>A.</b>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Office of the Superintendent.</p>
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Raymond Murphy and seconded by Joe Petersen that the agenda be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>C.</b>	<p><b>PRESENTATION: Derek Hutchison – Provincial Achievement Data</b></p> <p>Derek Hutchison, Supervisor of Data &amp; Accountability and International Students for Anglophone North School District, presented the 2012-2013 Provincial Assessment Results. He explained the procedure that is followed in releasing the results - Internal Release and Public Release.</p> <p>Mr. Hutchison highlighted statistical information contained in the various components of the Provincial Assessment Results for Reading and Writing (Grade 2, Grade 7, Grade 9); Provincial Assessment Results for Mathematics (Grade 5, Grade 8); and Provincial Assessment Results for French Second Language (Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 10, and Grade 12).</p> <p>In the Provincial Assessment Results for Reading and Writing, Mr. Hutchison indicated an upward trend in the <i>Appropriate or Above</i> category for Grade 2 Reading and Writing, Grade 7 Reading, and Grade 9 ELPA Reading and Writing, with a slight decrease in the same category for Grade 7 Writing.</p>

Grade 2 students in Anglophone North School District led the province in Reading and Writing scores. The Grade 7 and Grade 9 Writing provincial assessment results are showing a gap in the English Prime program compared to the French Immersion programs. Mr. Hutchison noted, however, that the Grade 9 English Prime results have been improving on a year-to-year basis. Mr. Hutchison indicated that Grade 5 and Grade 8 Math provincial assessment results have consistently shown a “flat line” in the *Appropriate or Above* category since 2004. This matter has been addressed with the Middle School principals. Mr. Hutchison also noted that Grade 5 and Grade 8 Mental Math results continue to be low across the province.

Mr. Hutchison reviewed the results for the French Second Language Provincial Assessment Results. He reviewed the provincial results for Grade 4 French Immersion Reading and Grade 5 Intensive French Writing. He noted that the Grade 4 results showed the students in Anglophone North School District scoring slightly below the provincial average. A question was raised about how the exemption policy in Anglophone North School District compares to other districts across the province, and how this could have an impact on the validity of results. Mr. Hutchison reviewed the results for Grade 5, Grade 10, and Grade 12 Oral Proficiency assessments. Discussion followed with regard to oral interviews and how factors, such as unfamiliar dialects among the interviewers, can affect scores.

Mr. Hutchison noted that the girls out-performed the boys in all of the provincial assessments with the exception of Math, where there was very little difference.

As a result of discussion, Mr. Hutchison agreed to address the following issues with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development:

- District Education Council members are not able to review assessment results during the period that results are under embargo.
- Grade 7 Reading and Writing Provincial Literacy Assessment results are shown separately under the names of the former school districts instead of being combined under the new district names.
- The validity of results may be affected by the use of varying exemption practices across the province. Council members requested information pertaining to provincial exemption data.

Mr. Mortlock indicated that Anglophone North School District does very well with provincial assessments. He acknowledged the hard work of the district’s learning specialists in the schools. Mr. Mortlock is always pleased to hear what teachers are doing with the resources that are available to them. He expressed the need for the district to be constantly improving assessment results and preparing the students for the future.

	<p>Mr. Flanagan complimented Mr. Hutchison on his presentation and suggested that this information would be very helpful to parents. Mr. Hutchison indicated that he is available to present this information at PSSC cluster meetings.</p>
<b>D.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Ron Ecker and seconded by Mike Coster that the minutes of the January 20, 2014 meeting be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>E.</b>	<p><b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>(a) <u>Announcement of New School in Miramichi West</u></b></p> <p>A discussion was held concerning the recent announcement by the provincial government that a new K-8 school will be built to replace Croft Elementary School, Harkins Elementary School and Harkins Middle School, and that Gretna Green Elementary School will be renovated to become a K-8 school. The district is grateful that funds have been committed for these projects, but the District Education Council is concerned that the province did not follow its No. 1 priority on the Capital Project List for a new school in Miramichi East.</p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Raymond Murphy and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the District Education Council for Anglophone North School District express its thanks and appreciation for the announcement of a new school in Miramichi, although it expresses concern that the No. 1 priority of the District Education Council, which was enunciated a number of years ago, was not followed by the provincial government. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p><b>(b) <u>Replacement of Custodians</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock updated members on the issue that was raised during the January 20, 2014 meeting with regard to the change of policy for the replacement of custodians. He noted that the Superintendent, the Director of Finance &amp; Administration and the Director of Human Resources will be reviewing the policy and the collective agreement to bring the district's policy in line to better serve the needs of Anglophone North School District. Mr. Mortlock requested Mrs. Stymiest to obtain, on Council's behalf, reactions to this issue from other Superintendents in the province.</p>
<b>F.</b>	<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</b></p> <p><b>(a) 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) EL-4 - In Compliance - See Attached Briefing Notes</li> </ul>

	<p><b>(b) New Educational Hirings</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Joe Petersen and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>G.</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>All correspondence items have been forwarded to Council members for their review. Mr. Mortlock informed Council members that he also received an email from Sheila Rogers in which she submitted a written report for February. This information is included under “DEC Members’ Comments”.</p>
<b>H.</b>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p>A District Education Council member inquired into the number of retirees expected for this school year. However, it was noted that this information has not yet been finalized.</p>
<b>I.</b>	<p><b>CHAIR’S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed members that he will be attending the Minister’s Forum in Fredericton on February 22, 2014.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reported that invitations have been sent out to all PSSC members in Anglophone North School District to attend the Recognition Dinner on May 7, 2014 at the Gowan Brae Golf &amp; Country Club in Bathurst. He asked the District Education Council members to remind PSSC members in their subdistricts to respond to the invitation by February 28, 2014. An early indication of numbers will help determine whether the Gowan Brae can accommodate this event. Mr. Mortlock indicated that he has extended an invitation to the Deputy Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister, and he will also be inviting Minister Marie-Claude Blais in the near future.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock informed members about the “Celebrate the Spirit Award” that will be presented at the PSSC Recognition Dinner in May. This award recognizes the support of a community group or person. Mr. Mortlock requested Mrs. Stymiest to distribute the nomination forms for this award.</p>
<b>J.</b>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported that the district held a Professional Learning Day in Bathurst and in Miramichi on February 17, 2014. Mr. Craig Duplessie assisted Mrs. Stymiest in preparing a thirty-minute video message in which she was given the opportunity to address the teachers at the opening of the Professional Learning Day. This video can be found on the district website. She also noted that numerous staff members were involved in presenting and sharing strategies with their colleagues throughout the day. Mrs. Stymiest was one of the presenters at James M. Hill Memorial High School, giving a</p>

	<p>presentation on “Living Like a Writer With Writer’s Notebook”. She indicated that she received very positive feedback following this presentation.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest informed Council members that the Learning Commons Room has now opened at James M. Hill Memorial High School. She noted that approval has been granted for students to bring their own devices to that room.</p> <p>The Senior Administrative Team has a Performance Excellence meeting scheduled for March 13, 2014. The team will be working on projects in preparation for this meeting.</p> <p>There will be training on February 20, 2014 for the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (RTIPPA). A team will be trained to go out into the schools to educate staff about this Act.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest indicated that Mr. Ron Ecker made arrangements for her to tour the facilities at the New Brunswick Youth Center. Mr. Ecker is the basketball coach at the Youth Center and is interested in having the boys’ basketball team host teams from Anglophone North School District. Mrs. Stymiest has extended an invitation to members of the New Brunswick Interscholastic Athletic Association to visit the facilities at the Youth Center and to consider this as a possibility.</p> <p>One nomination for “Outstanding Volunteers” was received – Alan McLaughlin from Bonar Law Memorial School. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Raymond Murphy and seconded by Andy Flanagan that a Certificate of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to Mr. McLaughlin. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reviewed the names of the twelve employees who were nominated for the Starfish Award in February. She noted that this award is being very well received by staff. She is receiving expressions of pride and appreciation from the recipients.</p>
<p><b>K.</b></p>	<p><b>DEC MEMBERS’ COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Flanagan indicated that he is on the provincial Fundraising Committee. A short discussion followed concerning potential ideas for fundraising and projects that have been successful in the district.</p> <p>Mr. Ecker stated that the PSSC members at North &amp; South Esk Regional School have expressed concern over the distance they have to travel in order to attend the PSSC Recognition Dinner in Bathurst. Mr. Mortlock agreed to take this under advisement.</p> <p>Due to Mrs. Rogers’ absence from this meeting, she submitted her written report to Council. In her report, she indicated that she participated in a Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting on February 7, 2014. The</p>

	<p>committee reviewed Social Studies 5, Reading Tutor 120, Information Technology 120, Pre-Calculus 120, and English Language Arts 7-9. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2014 in Fredericton.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers reported that Janeville Elementary School has continued their "Connecting Heroes" Program with Grades 4 and 5 students and the veterans of the Robert L. Knowles Veterans' Unit in Bathurst. The students plant tulips and daffodils at their school and at the Veteran's Unit in the fall. They keep tabs on the progress through the blog site, <a href="http://visitahero.weebly.com">visitahero.weebly.com</a>. Student volunteers from Bathurst High School assisted the veterans in the use of computers. Video chats should be ongoing shortly. The entire school also attended a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the unit in November, and students make birthday/special occasion cards for the veterans on a regular basis. This project was presented in the semi-finals of the Microsoft Innovative Teacher Awards. Janeville Elementary School will also be showcasing student talent on February 27, 2014.</p>
<b>L.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next District Education Council meeting will be held on March 17, 2014 at Millerton Elem./Jr. High School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dunnett  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent