

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
May 26, 2014
Nelson Rural School**

Present: Mike Coster, Vice-Chair
Ron Ecker
Nancy McBain
Joe Petersen
Sheila Rogers
Beth Stymiest, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Andy Flanagan
Micheal Mortlock
Raymond Murphy

	AGENDA ITEMS
A.	<p>Presentation: Todd Fitzpatrick, Principal, Nelson Rural School</p> <p>Mr. Fitzpatrick commenced his presentation by indicating that Nelson Rural School is a combined school of Kindergarten to Grade 8 students. The school encompasses a large geographical area with students attending from Harper Road/Douglasfield to Quarryville, as well as Rogersville students who choose to attend an Anglophone school. His school has a very active Student Council and Home & School Association that provide a great deal of support to school activities. The school has a current enrolment of 305 students, 21.6 FTE's, one administrative assistant, one library worker, three cafeteria staff, five educational assistants and three custodians.</p> <p>Mr. Fitzpatrick described a unique activity at his school. Every student walks for fifteen minutes each day, either around the gym during cold weather or around the outside track during nicer weather. This benefits both the students and teachers. Students enjoy the time walking with their friends, and the teachers find that students are much more settled when they return to classes.</p> <p>Nelson Rural School is a leader in technology. The Grade 2 students are involved in a Tulip Project with Dallas, Texas. The students raise tulips and use technology to compare their results with the students in Texas. Nelson students also participate in an exchange of other activities with these students. Mr. Fitzpatrick described the Bit Strips for Schools project which allows students to write comic strips on-line, allowing students to implement their reading and writing skills. He noted that Nelson Rural School was the first school in Canada to participate in a History Pin project. Students have become very interested in preparing history projects and posting them on-line to the History Pin.</p>

	<p>There are many other activities at Nelson Rural School, including soccer, basketball, softball, drama, Student Council, Glee Club, Peer Helpers, Morning Announcements, floor hockey, Heritage Fair, etc. Students are also enjoying a Dutch project. Nelson Rural School was the first school in the district to participate in a “Seeds In Space” program which allows students to compare their results with a Dutch astronaut. They also participate in a project involving a remote telescope with an astronomer in Australia. Grade 8 students spend a day during the school year at New Brunswick Community College to learn about programs and equipment that are available at this college.</p> <p>Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed his pride about his school’s assessment results. He attributed these successful results to the great teaching staff at his school. Mr. Coster thanked Mr. Fitzpatrick for his presentation, and as a token of appreciation for hosting the District Education Council Meeting, Mr. Coster presented Mr. Fitzpatrick with a book for the school library.</p>
B.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Coster called the meeting of the District Education Council to order at 6:15 p.m.</p>
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Ron Ecker and seconded by Joe Petersen that the minutes of the April 28, 2014 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>(a) PSSC Recognition Dinner</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest indicated that 115 people attended the Parent School Support Committee Recognition Dinner that was held on May 7, 2014 at the Gowan Brae Golf and Country Club in Bathurst. She noted that this event featured the presentation of the “Celebrate the Spirit” Awards. The Ladies’ Diamond Dinner Club, Jodie Lavigne, the Rotary Club of Chatham and David Gaudet were this year’s recipients. Mrs. Stymiest stated that this was a very nice dinner and that it is here to stay. She did note, however, that not all PSSC members attended. District Education Council members felt that although the school district encompasses a large geographical area, it is very important for the PSSC members to attend these dinners as a means to network with each other.</p>

	<p>The District Education Council members discussed an incentive that could possibly draw more PSSC members at future recognition dinners. It was agreed that ballots will be available for members attending the recognition dinner, and that a draw will be held for an I-Pad for a classroom.</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-2, GP-9, GP-9a, EL-6, EL-15 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>(b) New Educational Hirings</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Ron Ecker that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>All correspondence items were forwarded to Council members for their review prior to the meeting and were also discussed briefly at this meeting.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Capital Improvement List</p> <p>District Education Council members were provided with a list of capital improvement projects that was prepared by Tim Dunn, Director of Finance & Administration, in consultation with Ron Lavigne, Facilities Manager. Mrs. Stymiest explained that this is a list of improvement projects that are being proposed for 2015-2016. She noted that there is a special emphasis on roofing projects.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Joe Petersen that the Capital Improvement List be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
I.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Micheal Mortlock was out of the province and was not able to attend this meeting.</p>

J.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest expressed how proud she was with the student work that was on display at the recent provincial District Education Council Symposium held in Miramichi on May 23-25. She also noted the plastic key chain that Jamie O'Toole, Subject Coordinator, made by using the computer. It was agreed that letters of appreciation should be sent to the teachers and technicians who were involved in coordinating and displaying the student work for this symposium. It was noted that although it was not the wish of the Anglophone North School District Education Council to host this symposium in the Miramichi area, especially considering renovations that were being made to the Rodd Miramichi, it turned out to be a great symposium and one that was very well organized by Stacey Brown, DEC Manager.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported that eight nominations for "Outstanding Volunteers" were received – Irving and Shirley Scott, New Brunswick Community College, Melissa Sullivan, Karen Stewart, Ellen Matchett, Paula Matchett, Phyllis Davidson and Mary Gauthier. IT WAS MOVED BY Nancy McBain and seconded by Joe Petersen that Certificates of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to each of these volunteers. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest informed Council members about the names of the Starfish Award recipients for May – Jessica Saunders, Kelli DeVries, Jenny Chiasson, Tracy MacDonald, Natasha MacQuarrie, Patrick McLaughlin, and Courtney Woods.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest updated members on the staffing process currently underway. She noted that thirteen Contract "B" teachers received a forced transfer, but they have all been placed in other schools. Work will begin soon in assigning Contract "D" teachers to vacant positions within the district. Mrs. Stymiest indicated that because of declining enrolments, the district continues to experience challenges during the staffing process. She acknowledged that the school principals have been cooperative and patient during this process. She noted as well that there is a very small number of teachers retiring this year.</p> <p>The Superintendent advised Council members that Heidi Sturgeon, Director of Early Childhood Education, has resigned effective June 6, 2014 as she is moving to Halifax. Her position is shared between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Anglophone North School District. Mrs. Stymiest noted that Ms. Sturgeon will be a huge loss to the district.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest informed members that she has changed the regular format of the Superintendent's Message on the district's website to "Superintendent Out 'N About – ASD-N". She will use this message to share with parents her participation in various activities and events throughout the district. She noted that her current message describes her enjoyable experience at the recent High School Drag Racing Competition in Miramichi.</p>
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	<p>The budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year has been received. Mr. Tim Dunn will present the expenditure plan during the next meeting.</p>
<p>K.</p>	<p>DEC Members' Comments</p> <p>Mike Coster informed members that the district is moving into the second phase of the construction project for the new Miramichi West K-8 and Gretna Green schools. A meeting has been scheduled to review adjacencies and the placement of classrooms in the Miramichi West K-8 school. He noted that the architects will be hired before the end of the school year for both projects. He is pleased to see that top-notch schools are being built in this province.</p> <p>The DEC members reflected on the recent DEC Symposium and noted some very positive comments. Mrs. Rogers appreciated the Minister's contribution and attention to the suggestions from the DEC members at the symposium. The members felt that the sessions were impressive and very informative. It also provided a great opportunity to meet the DEC members from other school districts. Nancy McBain found that the people were enthusiastic, warm and very welcoming.</p> <p>Ron Ecker advised members that he was only able to attend the events of the DEC Symposium held on Friday evening due to his involvement with the Fusion Festival. He noted that he was impressed with the volunteers at the Fusion Festival, particularly the number of students involved. Volunteers included a team from the New Brunswick Community College and James M. Hill Memorial High School.</p> <p>Sheila Rogers and Nancy McBain indicated that during their attendance at the PSSC Recognition Dinner, they were very impressed with the Celebrate the Spirit Award winners, especially the efforts of the Ladies' Diamond Dinner Club which raised a considerable amount of money for the Breakfast Programs.</p> <p>Sheila Rogers noted that the 96th meeting of the Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 28, in Fredericton. This will be her third such meeting. The committee will be making recommendations for the approval of nine curricula for implementation, listening to three presentations on curricula drafts and receiving updates on the development of four new curricula.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers presented updates from schools in her subdistrict. The Grade 4/5 students at Janeville Elementary School were recently chosen to attend the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in Moncton as a result of their efforts in donating money to the IWK and SPCA. The Grade 5 students at this school travelled to Fredericton recently for a two-day educational trip. They toured The Playhouse, the Legislature, and participated in activities at Kingswood. On June 11th, Janeville School will be hosting an end-of-year family barbeque, Arts Smart Art Show and "Canada From Sea to Sea" concert.</p>

	<p>Mrs. Rogers noted that the students at Terry Fox Elementary School are awaiting the Killdeer bird eggs to hatch on the school's playground. The story about this rare bird being at this school was recently reported on CBC Radio and TV news. The Grade 3 class at this school is working with Fish Friends and the Grade 1 class is hatching butterflies. As well, the Grade 3 students are thrilled with the "sea of green" on the most recent key skills in math assessments. Terry Fox Elementary School was very thrilled when Natasha MacQuarrie, a teacher of music and phys. ed., was awarded one of the branch's awards for excellence in teaching at the meeting in May.</p> <p>Nancy McBain mentioned that this is her second meeting of the District Education Council and is impressed with the positive news from the schools. Mr. Coster also thanked Ms. McBain for attending the recent DEC Symposium and expressed, on behalf of the DEC, his appreciation to her for becoming a member of the District Education Council as the First Nations Representative. Ms. McBain informed Council members that she will be in contact with First Nations' Directors of Education and will invite them to contact her if they need assistance with any matters.</p> <p>A short discussion followed concerning DEC representation at the upcoming high school graduations. The members reviewed the graduations that they will be attending.</p>
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the next District Education Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, 2014, at the Office of the Superintendent.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:05 on a motion by Joe Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent