

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
November 17, 2014
Parkwood Heights Elementary School**

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

Regrets: Raymond Murphy

	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 Parkwood Heights Elementary School.</p>
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Ron Ecker and seconded by Joe Petersen that the agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>Presentation: Rosalind Kennedy-Townsend, Principal, Parkwood Heights Elementary School</p> <p>Mrs. Kennedy-Townsend welcomed the District Education Council members to Parkwood Heights Elementary School. She was pleased to note that the meeting was being held in the school's brand new learning commons room. She noted that Parkwood Heights Elementary has a very active Home & School Association which, in the past, has helped raise \$75,000 to upgrade the playground. As a new project, the Home & School is assisting the school in transforming the library/conference room into a new learning commons room. This area is being developed as a space where students can be inspired to read and create. Phase 1 has been completed and included the purchase of comfortable seating, attractive book shelving and new books. Phase 2 will include the purchase of new technology items and more new books.</p>

	<p>Mrs. Kennedy-Townsend introduced Debra Walls, Vice-Principal, and Pattie Furlotte, Kindergarten Teacher. Ms. Furlotte addressed the Council members and informed them that the school has approached the Caribou Wind Park about possible funding for the school's project. The park invited the school to submit a funding proposal outlining the costs needed to complete the learning commons room. The proposal was submitted, and Ms. Furlotte is expecting to receive a decision from the park in the very near future. Ms. Furlotte displayed a video that was prepared by staff and students. It addressed the need for the learning commons room and new books for the school. She explained that French books and Braille books are also needed, and that these tend to be very expensive. As well, there is often a waiting list for certain books that have only one copy available. Mrs. Walls noted that some of the graduating students have seen the need for new books and have donated books to Parkwood Heights Elementary School before moving on to the middle school.</p> <p>In concluding her presentation, Mrs. Kennedy-Townsend stated that she was very happy with the work of the district's carpenter, as well as the work of parents who volunteered their time towards this project. Mr. Mortlock thanked Mrs. Kennedy-Townsend, Mrs. Walls and Ms. Furlotte for their presentation, and he presented them with a new book for their learning commons room as a token of appreciation for hosting the meeting.</p>
D.	<p>PRESENTATION: Energy Drinks in Schools – Louise Collette-Bois, Dietician, and Sandra Pitre, Healthy Learners' Program</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest introduced Louise Collette-Bois, Dietician and member of the District Health Advisory Committee, as well as Sandra Pitre, Healthy Learners' Nurse and member of the District Health Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Mrs. Collette-Bois began her presentation on "Energy Drinks" by referring to the 2012 New Brunswick Student Drug Use Survey Report. She noted that 57% of adolescent students who participated in the survey indicated that they have consumed energy drinks. The results of the survey indicated that Grade 7 students tried energy drinks and that the consumption of these drinks doubled at the high school level.</p> <p>Mrs. Collette-Bois noted the marketing that is involved in producing an attractive can and the industry's claim that these drinks increase mental alertness and physical performance. She explained that these drinks, in fact, cause adverse effects on students' health. Sandra Pitre assisted Mrs. Collette-Bois by demonstrating the exorbitant amount of caffeine, sugar and other ingredients that are in energy drinks. Headaches, irritability, nervousness, mood swings, and difficulty sleeping are some of the side effects that students experience from these drinks. Mrs. Collette-Bois also noted the "jolt and crash" cycle that is often associated after consumption.</p>

	<p>Mrs. Collette-Bois stated that at a recent New Brunswick Stakeholders' Dialogue in Fredericton, the goal was to propose solutions and find ways to protect the population from the adverse effects of energy drinks. She noted that the stakeholders were surprised to learn that although energy drinks are not sold in schools, students are permitted to bring them to school. She requested Council's consideration in implementing a policy banning students from bringing energy drinks to schools. Mr. Mortlock indicated that the District Education Council will take this under advisement until discussions are held with the Policy and Planning Division at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development concerning any legal ramifications that may result from such a policy.</p> <p>In the meantime, Council members suggested that Mrs. Collette-Bois and Ms. Pitre consider sharing their information at Home & School and Parent School Support Committee meetings. Mr. Mortlock thanked them for their presentation and assured them that he will seriously consider their request for a policy.</p>
<p>E.</p>	<p>Presentation: Financial Report – Tim Dunn, Director of Finance and Administration</p> <p>Mr. Tim Dunn presented the financial report for Anglophone North School District for the period of April 1-September 30, 2014. He noted that there has been an increase in the deficit that was forecasted in June, 2014. The current deficit is \$1,705,972 and is based on expenses incurred as of September 30, 2014 as well as expenditures forecasted until March 31, 2015. Mr. Dunn explained that the increase is due to the need for extra Educational Assistant staff, extra teaching staff, and retroactive funds required to cover a teacher's certificate increase. He stated that the amount of the forecasted deficit may still deviate, depending on heating costs and storm days during the winter months.</p> <p>Following discussion, Mr. Mortlock thanked Mr. Dunn for his financial report and for making Council aware of the potential deficit situation since the beginning of the fiscal year. Mr. Dunn assured Council that he will continue to keep a close eye on the district's finances and will present another report to the members at their regular meeting in February, 2015. A Council member suggested that the February financial report be forwarded to the members by email, prior to the meeting, in an effort to save paper costs.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Mike Coster and seconded by Andy Flanagan that the financial report for the period ending September 30, 2014 be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
<p>F.</p>	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

G.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>There was no business arising from the minutes.</p>
H.	<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-5, EL-4 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>(b) New Educational Hirings</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Petersen and seconded by Mike Coster that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
I.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>One correspondence item was forwarded to the members prior to the meeting.</p>
J.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Christmas Vegetable Trays</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock discussed the distribution of vegetable trays to all of the schools in the district during the week prior to Christmas Break. He noted that this has been done in the past as a means of showing appreciation to the staff for their work throughout the school year. The number of trays delivered to each school depends on the number of staff members. He noted that the cost will be different this year due to the fact that the previous provider, from the Miramichi area, has retired. The cost of the trays for the Miramichi area schools will be comparable to the cost of the trays for the Bathurst, Dalhousie and Campbellton schools. Sixty-nine trays will be purchased at an approximate cost of \$1,809.00.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Ron Ecker and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the District Education Council purchase vegetable trays for distribution among the schools in Anglophone North School District during the week of December 15, 2014. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
K.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had the opportunity to meet with Hon. Serge Rousselle, the new Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, during meetings on November 14-15, 2014.

- Mr. Mortlock and Mr. Coster attended the Council of DEC Chairs' meeting on November 14, 2014. Mr. Coster noted that this was a very interesting and informative meeting, and one which gave the Chairs an opportunity to collaborate with the Superintendents and the Chairs from the other districts.
- Mr. Mortlock and the three other DEC Chairs met with Hon. Serge Rousselle during the Minister's Forum on November 15, 2014.
- Discussion was held at the Minister's Forum concerning Gestion, the province's current payroll system. There is a risk that because this system is old, it could possibly crash resulting in data being lost. Mr. Mortlock indicated that the Human Resources Department in Fredericton has proposed amalgamating the Part I and Part II groups into one payroll system, and it has requested the DEC Chairs' approval in implementing a new system by April 1, 2015. The Chairs have given their approval for the H.R. Department to move forward with a new payroll system. The "People Soft" program is being considered as a replacement for Gestion. Mr. Mortlock noted that the Part III group may be added at a later date.
- The DEC Chairs have asked the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to proceed slowly with regard to the Education Plan and platform promises that were made during the recent election.
- DEC Chairs raised their concern about budgets and the fact that every school district is in a deficit situation.
- The DEC Chairs requested that the Minister's right to veto be removed from the Policy 409 process. In the event that Policy 409 proposals do not meet the Minister's requirements, DEC Chairs would prefer to have the proposals returned to the school districts for revision and resubmission. Mr. Mortlock noted that Anglophone North School District has only one priority on the Capital Projects List and that Mrs. Stymiest is doing everything possible for this project to be considered by the province.
- The only item discussed with regard to the French Second Language program was the ten-year plan.
- Mr. Mortlock had the opportunity to present the Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards on November 15, 2014 to two very deserving Anglophone North recipients - Kathy Grebenc, a former Principal of Superior Middle School, and Christy Jamieson, a teacher at Miramichi Valley High School. He will be forwarding to Mrs. Stymiest the videos that were prepared to recognize these two teachers, and he invited Council members to contact Mrs. Stymiest if they would like to view them.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Mortlock attended the Student Leadership Conference held in Fredericton on November 6, 2014. Anglophone North School District was represented at this meeting by Student Council members from all of its high schools, with the exception of two schools. The DEC Chairs discussed the role of the District Education Council and its concern that there has not been any student representation on the District Education Councils, due to the travel that would be required of these students. The Council of DEC Chairs is attempting to have the requirement for student representation removed from the Act. However, Mr. Mortlock noted that in order for this to be removed, it must be substituted with an alternative. As an alternative, a suggestion was made that the District Education Council be mandated to meet with Student Councils at least once per year, and possibly twice. <p>Mr. Mortlock and Mrs. Stymiest have discussed the possibility of busing the Student Council members to the Chalmers Wing of Bathurst High School on April 10, 2015 to allow these students the opportunity to openly discuss what is working within their schools, and what is not working. Mr. Mortlock noted the feedback that the DEC Chairs received from the Student Council members at the November 6, 2014 meeting. They indicated that they would like more College Prep courses, as well as more French Immersion courses for Grades 11 and 12, in order to help students become more proficient in the French Second Language. Mr. Mortlock informed Council members that he will work on their behalf to help address the students' requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Mortlock proposed May 13, 2015 as the date for the Parent School Support Committee Recognition Dinner. He referred to a previous District Education Council meeting in which an incentive was suggested as a means for drawing a higher number of parents to this dinner. The school with the highest percentage of members attending, on a per capita basis, will be awarded an I-Pad. In the event of a tie, a draw will be held. A suggestion was made to have a second and third place prize available as well. Mr. Mortlock asked members to communicate this information and raise awareness that PSSC members should attend this dinner. The venue will depend on the number of people who plan to attend. Arrangements will also be made with the high schools for the use of their multi-function vehicles to transport PSSC members to this function. Mrs. Stymiest and Mrs. Dunnett will prepare a letter informing schools about the PSSC Recognition Dinner.
L.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported that five nominations were received for "Outstanding Volunteers" – Tobi Deveau, Sonny Drisdelle, Heidi Ward, Sharlyn Ward and Amanda Lamarche. IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Nancy McBain that Certificates of Appreciation be prepared and forwarded to each of these volunteers. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

	<p>The names of the Starfish Award recipients for November were presented – Brian Beck, Debbie McDonnell, Glenda O’Neill-Wood, Lindsay Tucker, Rose Lapointe, and Shiann Holmes.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest reported that the Planning Committee for the Gretna Green K-8 Renovation/Addition project has now been disbanded as of the October 27, 2014 meeting.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest, Tim Dunn, the Principal and PSSC Chair of Napan Elementary School will travel to Fredericton on November 18, 2014 to visit Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School, a new school which recently opened.</p> <p>The Universal Design for Learning Conference was held in Fredericton on November 7-8, 2014. Mrs. Stymiest noted that Mrs. Dunnett assisted by preparing the program and registering the participants at the conference.</p> <p>Ruth Sutton met with administrators on November 10, 2014 in Bathurst and gave a presentation on formative assessments.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest has been assisting in promoting the Physical Activity Challenge, which is underway in Anglophone North School District from November 1 to December 12, 2014. She noted that Christy Jamieson, Teacher at Miramichi Valley High School, spearheaded this project. Participants, who complete 37 of the 42-day challenge, will be eligible for prizes.</p> <p>Mrs. Stymiest has been invited to attend the Parent School Support Committee meeting at Ian Baillie Primary School on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, to hear the parents’ proposal for a K-5 configuration at that school.</p>
M.	<p>DEC MEMBERS’ COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Petersen scheduled a PSSC cluster meeting on November 26, 2014. He extended an invitation to Nancy McBain to attend this meeting as well.</p> <p>Mr. Mortlock scheduled a cluster meeting on November 24, 2014 at Sugarloaf Senior High School. Mr. Craig Crawford, Subject Coordinator for Math and Science, will be making a presentation on the Math component of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).</p> <p>Mr. Ecker and Mr. Coster indicated that Ms. Joan MacMillan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, has agreed to make a presentation at their next PSSC cluster meeting.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers stated that Janet Cooper, Inclusion Facilitator, will be the guest speaker at the PSSC cluster meeting on December 10, 2014. Ms. Cooper will be making a presentation on the Inclusion Policy.</p>

	<p>Mr. Mortlock informed members that the PSSC Recognition Dinner will be considered as the second cluster meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Coster suggested inviting Hon. Serge Rousselle to a District Education Council meeting. Mr. Mortlock took this under advisement and will consider extending an invitation to the Minister in the Spring of 2015.</p> <p>Mr. Ecker asked if the presenters, who are scheduled for DEC meetings, could possibly submit their notes to Mrs. Dunnett for inclusion in the agenda packages prior to the DEC meetings. This would eliminate the need to distribute copies during the meetings and, at the same time, help save paper costs.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers reported that the Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee met on November 4, 2014. She provided Mr. Mortlock with information from this meeting. The committee will meet again in February, 2015.</p> <p>Mrs. Rogers reported on news items from schools in her sub-district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superior Middle School raised \$50,000 from the sale of oranges during a recent fund-raising campaign. • Mrs. Rogers distributed a picture of Grade 2-5 students who are members of the Principal's Advisory Committee at Terry Fox Elementary School. These students are involved in helping to make certain decisions at their school. • Mrs. Rogers will be speaking at Terry Fox Elementary School's PSSC meeting on November 24, 2014.
N.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The meeting of the next District Education Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2014, at Napan Elementary School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on a motion by Joe Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent