



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Fredericton Inn & Conference Centre  
Public Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2022**

**Council Members Present:**

- Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1
- Candice Browse – Sub-district 3
- Tanya Cloutier – Sub-district 4
- Serena Bradford – Sub-district 5
- Paul MacIntosh – Sub-district 6
- Amgad Salem - Sub-district 7
- Michael Mazerolle – Sub-district 9
- Jim Mills – Sub-district 11
- Wallace Carr – Sub-district 12, Vice Chairperson
- Thomas Geburt – Sub-district 13, Chairperson
- Hayden Sparkes – Student Representative
- David Perley – First Nations Councillor

**Council Member Regrets:**

- Janet Dean – Sub-district 8
- Chris Harquail – Sub-district 10

**ASD-W District Staff Present:**

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Jay Colpitts, Director of Schools (WEC)
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communications
- Sarah Francis, First Nations Subject Coordinator
- Molly Brown, First Nations Lead
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

**Guest:**

- Mr. R. Andrews
- Mr. I. Fayed

**Vacancy:**

- Sub-district 2

**Call to Order:**

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:35 PM**.

**Welcome & Comments by the Chairperson:**

- Chairperson Geburt, on behalf of the Council, acknowledged that, with the exception of one, the land on which Anglophone West School District schools are located is the traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory of Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet). This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Wolastoqey (Maliseet), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

**Introductions:**

- Councillor Geburt acknowledged members of the public and the Superintendent introduced district office staff in attendance.

**Consent Items:**

**Approval of the Agenda:**

- The agenda was previously reviewed by the Council and approved by consensus

**MOTION:**

**..... to approve the agenda as distributed.**

**MOVED BY: Tanya Cloutier      SECONDED BY: Paul MacIntosh      MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of the Minutes - November 24, 2022:**

- The minutes were previously reviewed by the Council and approved by consensus.

### **MOTION:**

**..... to approve the minutes as distributed.**

**MOVED BY: Serena Bradford**

**SECONDED BY: Tanya Adams**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

- There was no business to report from the previous minutes.

### **Presentations:**

#### **Member of the Public - Mr. R. Andrews:**

- Mr. Andrews began by sharing his personal reasons for his investment in the New Brunswick education system. He then went on to ask the Council to reflect on three important questions.
  - Who is the primary external customer of the education system / DEC?
  - Does ASD-W produce a product and if so, what is it?
  - What are the “quality characteristics” and requirements of it?
- Mr. Andrews stated that teachers have various ideological ideas that comes from their individual cultures and leadership styles. An empty carton of eggs was shown as a tool to demonstrate his points. The ASD-W product was explained to be the graduate, who spend 13 years in the education system prior to graduation. Mr. Andrews went on to ask, “what is the quality of requirements of those that graduate”? Mr. Andrews was thanked for his presentation and there were no questions asked by the Council.

#### **Curriculum & Program Presentation - First Nations:**

- Sarah Francis, First Nations Subject Coordinator, and Molly Brown, First Nations Lead interacted with the Council using a dice game to learn sight words of the Wolastoqey language. The game was called “Help Frosty Get Dressed” and each number rolled corresponded with an item of Frosty. An audio recording was available to assist with the pronunciation of each word and Sarah reminded the Council of the First Nations presentation last year that introduced Jordan’s Principle and Spirit Bear’s journey to Ottawa in support of all First Nation children receiving medical and educational services. A second book has been written called *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*, that was created based on the true story of Jordan River Anderson. Sarah and Molly were thanked for their presentation and no questions were asked by the Council.

#### **Circle of Understanding:**

- Councillor Perley shared the historical and contemporary contributions of the Wabanaki people with Council. Councillor Perley shared the three historical pillars of society to include Anglophone, Francophone and Wabanaki and now sees these pillars to also include Maliseet, Mi’kmaq, and Passamaquoddy in the Province of New Brunswick.
- Councillor Perley shared the historical contribution to include the fur trade that occurred within the Wabanaki homeland. Early explorers adopted Wabanaki transportation and the Wabanaki people shared their knowledge of the land, skills required for survival, and medicines. Explorer Champlain acknowledged the Wabanaki people in his journal to have helped his men who would have died when stranded on St. Croix Island.
- Councillor Perley shared the contemporary contributions of the Wabanaki people are expanded in non-Native communities. As of 2017, \$1.6 billion dollars was contributed towards the Atlantic economy by the Wabanaki people. In addition, an estimated 12,000 First Nation, Metis and Inuit people served in the great wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In closing, Councillor Perley stated that First Nation people want to work, especially if asked and doors are opened. This presentation is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal.

#### **Superintendent Report:**

##### **Superintendent Report (1 of 1)-ASD-W-ER11: Wabanaki Education & First Nations Tuition Enhancement Report:**

- The Superintendent presented the report *ASD-W-ER11: Wabanaki Education*, as per the Annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented one time per year and is posted publicly on the ASD-W website and the DEC Portal. Global (April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>) and carry-forward Enhancement budgets were explained by the Superintendent.
- Councillor Perley expressed his appreciation to the Council for adopting a Wabanaki policy in ASD-W. However, it is his concern that School Administrators are not aware of this policy. The Superintendent responded that it is his

role to ensure Administrators are aware and that he will reinforce this awareness. The Superintendent added that the current District Plan incorporates three priorities: Classroom Practices, Learning Environment and Leadership & Teaming.

- Councillor Perley asked if meetings were held throughout the school year with Administrators. The Superintendent responded that ASD-W hosts an annual 2-day opening meeting in August for all Administrators. In addition, Administrators are expected to attend scheduled Centre meetings and monthly check-ins with their Director of Schools. **ACTION:** Chairperson Geburt reminded Councillors to complete their assessment of the Superintendents Wabanaki Education report by January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Report on Provincial Student Leadership Meeting:**

- Councillor Carr informed the Council that the meeting notes from the recent Provincial Student Leadership meeting were posted on the DEC portal. He encouraged Councillors to read these notes and he provided a brief report on student concerns with an increase in mental health issues and inclusion. Meaningful discussions were held amongst students from high schools across the province.

##### **French Immersion Update:**

- Today, Honorable Bill Hogan, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development introduced a proposed model in the education system called the *New Brunswick Innovative Immersion Program*. This new model will include studies to be taught in French (50%) and English (50%) beginning in the 2023-2024 school year for Kindergarten and Grade 1. The proposed model would mean an entry of Grade 1 French Immersion will not be available next year. Professional learning would be provided, and a recruitment of teachers would be needed.
- A letter to all staff and families was sent today and a survey is now available for public input. A public consultation will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton. It was noted that this is a provincial proposed model and districts will work hard to implement this change, if the proposed model is finalized. Chairperson Geburt encouraged the Council to weigh in on this survey and provide their thoughts through this means of communication.

##### **Absenteeism Update:**

- The Superintendent acknowledged recent media articles that have identified the challenges of unfilled vacancies, in particular teachers, in school districts across the province. In ASD-W, data was collected during the months of September 2022 and October 2022 with results showing between 30 to 121 unfilled teacher absences in 70 schools for the week. Unfortunately, in November 2022 this number peaked to 204 unfilled teacher absences for the week of November 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. During the month of December, we are starting to see a decline and the number has decreased to 84 unfilled teacher absences for the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent are working with the New Brunswick Teacher Association (NBTA) and the Department of Education and Early Childhood (EECD) to brainstorm strategies and discuss the impact this has caused on the system and teachers.
- The Superintendent reported 70 ASD-W schools to have 1450 classrooms where a teacher is in front of students teaching. These teachers need to be replaced when absent and in rural areas such as Perth-Andover, Minto, Chipman, and Cambridge Narrows a replacement teacher is difficult to secure. Absences not related to illness and bereavement, such as, meetings (EECD, NBTA, District, etc.) and Professional Learning days ( PL) will be reviewed in January, February and March 2023.
- An operational strategy has been developed by Senior Management for Administrators to follow and there are currently 620 supply teachers in our database. The operational strategy was shared with the Council and saved on the DEC Portal.
- Councillor Carr asked how many supply teachers are accepting the vacancy. The Superintendent responded that his intention is to analyze the data further and explore securing an individual for a couple of months to call individuals on the supply teacher list to replace a vacancy that is not picked-up in AESOP and ask if there is a reason for them to not accept the vacancy. Councillor Carr reported that he has heard from supply teachers and custodians that locations are too far to travel due to cost of fuel.
- Councillor Salam asked how many teacher absences were reported on PL days. The Superintendent provided examples of a recent Administrator (Principal) meeting adding 70 vacancies. The NBTA has agreed to work with school districts and have committed to restrict meetings until April 2023 to provide a reprieve.
- Councillor Carr questioned why the Department of Health has not supported schools or provided feedback to the schools that have reported student absences that are higher than 10% due to influenza like symptoms.

##### **Kingsclear Community School (KCS) Survey Update:**

- The Superintendent informed the Council that the district team has examined the KCS survey on three occasions and a report will be provided in January 2023.

**Naming of School Facility:**

- Chairperson Geburt informed the Council of a recent communication from a Parent School Support Committee who have requested to name an area of a school after a teacher at that school. This communication had been shared with the Council prior to this meeting to review and consider for approval.

**MOTION:**

..... I move that we support in principle the naming of a specific facility within the confines of a specific school in ASD-West as previously discussed in our private meeting.

**MOVED BY: Tanya Cloutier                      SECONDED BY: Serena Bradford                      MOTION CARRIED**

**Correspondence:**

- The Chairperson provided a review of outgoing and incoming correspondence since the last public meeting.
  - Letter to the Minister – Appointment of Councillor for Sub-district 2 - November 28, 2022. During the pre-meeting tonight, a letter was received from the Minister appointing this individual to Sub-district 2. This individual will be sworn-in at the private meeting in January 2023.
  - Letter to the Minister – Second Language Programme (French) – November 17, 2022
  - Letter from the Minister – Second Language Education (French Immersion) response - November 25, 2022

**Committee Reports:**

- Councillor Sparkes reported the next Council of ASD-W Student Leaders will take place on December 21<sup>st</sup> in Woodstock at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre.

**Public Comments:**

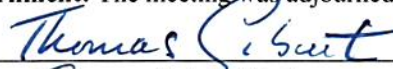
- Mr. Fayed inquired about the process to become a supply teacher in ASD-W. Mr. Fayed had been added to the lists some time ago but unable to secure permanent employment. Mr. Fayed asked the Superintendent if there are plans of expanding this opportunity to newcomers in this country and asked if it would be acceptable to request a larger replacement budget from the province to hire more permanent teachers as a result of the increase in student population from other countries. Now supply teachers are travelling to different schools over a large geographical span teaching various subjects.
- Mr. Fayed’s recommendation was to welcome and hire more qualified international teachers. The Superintendent responded that there is a need to have replacement employees in our system and he went on to explain that a supply teacher builds a relationship with schools and eventually the day-to-day work progresses into a Long-term Supply (LTS) or D Contract. The Superintendent agreed that the student population has increased significantly due to the increase in international families moving to our province and that there is a need for diversity and commitment from our teachers. In addition, EECD has also acknowledged this concern.
- Mr. Andrews asked the Council to inform him of their answer to his questions; what are we producing (graduate) and the quality of requirements of that graduate.


**Closing Comments:**


- Chairperson Geburt thanked everyone for attending tonight’s public DEC meeting. A reminder was given that the next public meeting in January will be held at the Hanwell Park Academy.
- The Superintendent informed the Council of the district office’s closing at noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.


**Date of Next Public Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2023 – Hanwell Park Academy, 2331 Rte. 640, Hanwell**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at **8:35 PM** by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Browse.

  
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 Thomas Geburt, Chairperson

  
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 Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant  
 to the Superintendent & DEC

  
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 Date