



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT



## ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

### Devon Middle School Public Meeting Minutes April 27, 2023

#### Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1
- Mark Thompson – Sub-district 2
- Candice Browse – Sub-district 3
- Serena Bradford – Sub-district 5
- Paul MacIntosh – Sub-district 6
- Amgad Salem - Sub-district 7
- Janet Dean – Sub-district 8
- Michael Mazerolle – Sub-district 9
- Chris Harquail – Sub-district 10
- Jim Mills – Sub-district 11
- Wallace Carr – Sub-district 12, Vice Chairperson
- Thomas Geburt – Sub-district 13, Chairperson
- David Perley – First Nations Councillor

#### Council Member Regrets:

- Tanya Cloutier – Sub-district 4
- Hayden Sparkes – Student Representative

#### ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance & Administration
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Gina Dunnett, Director of Schools (OEC)
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communications
- Jon Hoyt-Hallett, Science Subject Coordinator
- Peter Trusiak, Science Lead K-12
- Jeremy Smith, Science Lead K-12
- Shawna Allen-VanderToorn, Principal
- Michelle Gallagher, Vice Principal
- Joe Crossland, Vice Principal
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

#### Guest:

- PSSC members and School Community

#### Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:30PM.**

#### 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 unsundered 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:

- The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the public meeting, and he acknowledged his gratitude to the Devon Middle School (DMS) administration team for providing the Council with a school tour prior to the meeting. The Chairperson also acknowledged the hard work of Mr. Steeves, Music Teacher and the DMS concert band for recently winning gold status at a championship event.
- The Superintendent introduced district office staff in attendance.

#### Consent Items:

##### Approval of the Agenda

- The agenda was previously reviewed by the Council and approved as presented.

**MOTION:**

**..... to approve the agenda as presented.**

**MOVED BY: Candice Browse**

**SECONDED BY: Chris Harquail**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of the Minutes – March 30, 2023**

- The minutes were previously reviewed by the Council and approved by consensus. The Chairperson commented on the previous Literacy presentation and the impact the book titled, I Hope had on Councillors. The Chairperson informed the Council that this resource has been made available to all Councillors. The Superintendent shared that on a recent trip to British Columbia to attend a Superintendent conference, he had visited the Burnaby School District. While visiting this school district, he was presented with the book, I Hope, as a welcome gift.
- The Superintendent informed the Council that he has learned the annual Minister's Excellence in Teaching Awards have been suspended for this year. A different approach is being taken to recognize educators across the province.
- The Superintendent told the Council that work has begun on the current Anglophone West School District Mission Vision and Core Values statement. Jennifer Read, Director of Communications, is leading a team of district staff and two District Education Councillors in revamping this statement.

**MOTION:**

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

**MOVED BY: Wallace Carr**

**SECONDED BY: Paul MacIntosh**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**Capital Improvement List for September DEC Agenda**

- The Chairperson informed the Council that the new deadline to submit the Capital Improvement projects to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) has been extended until September 30, 2023. This extension will give school districts time to assess schools over the summer and that this agenda item had been added to the agenda as a reminder for the September public meeting.

**Presentations:**

**Curriculum & Program Presentation – J. Hoyt-Hallett, Peter Trusiak & Jeremy Smith**

- Councillors were given an opportunity to participate in a hands-on science experiment, The Marshmallow Challenge, that involved spaghetti, a large marshmallow and masking tape. The objective was to make a tallest, stable structure they could, that held a weight at the top. During this time, Councillors were informed of a recent NB Science Week with over 25 community partners, and over 70 presentations. NB teachers have registered for over 3500 sessions including 1200 ASD-W teachers!
- An overview was provided of changes to the Science curriculum as a result of the implementation of the High School renewal process and through the Holistic Curriculum Framework (K-8). High School Science curriculums, Human Physiology 11, Biology 11/12 and Physics 11/12 have been updated. Grade 10 Science is no longer a mandatory graduation course and two new additional Science courses (Agriculture 110 and Forestry 110) are now being offered to students. Additional Science courses are also being created.
- The Canada-Wide Science Fair will include two students from Fredericton High School and one student from Carleton North High School.

**Communication – J. Read**

- Jennifer informed Councillors that ASD-W employs over 3000 employees and with such a large organization, communication is key. Communication was defined as informing, teaching, building relationships, providing clarity and direction, preventing and resolving problems, building trust, and reducing conflict.
- Jennifer shared that the 70 school websites have been/are being revamped to appear consistent, up to date, and provide the most accurate information as possible.
- Councillor Mills inquired about the new OneSite platform. Jennifer explained that this is an internal site that is accessible to all employees with a NBED log-in account. Internal information is currently being stored on an older site that is being moved to this new platform.
- Chairperson Geburt asked Jennifer if she was aware of student rights and responsibilities in digital learning called Digital Rights that is occurring on the west coast. Jennifer was not aware of this digital privacy right but concurred that this was a good idea.

- Councillor Carr asked if all school websites were up and running. Jennifer responded that not all schools were ready but that six school websites were recently completed with staff waiting to be trained. The Devon Middle School website was shown and a reminder was given that school websites were at a basic stage but designed to be very functional.
- It was asked if the CLEVR program will continue to be used to store Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) information. The Superintendent confirmed that this program will remain, and it is the expectation of all school administrators to ensure their PSSC membership is up to date and that their meeting minutes are submitted using the CLEVR program.

#### **Circle of Understanding – Councillor Perley**

- Councillor Perley presented to the Council, Wabanaki World Views. Councillor Perley shared that when he was young, he was taught many lessons by his elders that included gratitude and kindness. He went on to say that in his culture, there is a strong connection to the land, including the Wolastoq River that has been made unhealthy from pollution and misuse. The Indigenous culture performs ceremonies to show gratitude for their gifts that they have received from the land.
- Councillor Perley shared that the medicine wheel teaches a good way of life and the knowledge system connects with all subjects. The teachings of the three realms in life are human, natural and the spirit that connects us with our ancestors.
- Councillor Perley reminded Councillors to honour relationships, and not to see them as objects but as relationships. Recognize that all relationships with creation that are made today will affect future generations.
- Councillor Perley finished his presentation by stating his goal in life is to see every Indigenous student graduate high school with a cultural knowledge of their heritage.

#### **Devon Middle School**

- The PSSC Chairperson shared a presentation about the DMS with the Council. This presentation included the current lack of space, the need for additional classrooms and an emphasis on the future growth of the community. A lack of appropriate guidance and resource spaces, locker room with lockers, and a cafeteria was noted. Students with exceptionalities, cannot be placed in a modular classroom as they are not wheelchair accessible. Bathrooms do not align with the National Building Code of Canada, with 22 toilets for 607 students. The library space has been reduced that affects literacy rates. The parking space is limited with cars now parking on both sides of the streets. Asbestos is in the walls of the school and cannot be disturbed. Recent electrical upgrades were not permitted in the cafeteria area due to the asbestos issues noting that the quote to have an outlet installed would cost \$3K. A recent CBC article published in February 2023 identified more high-density housing projected for this area which will likely increase the demands on the school. Consequently, the PSSC is requesting that the Council consider this school as a priority on the Major Capital Project list. The Chairperson requested that the presentation be submitted to the Council for further review.
- A student presentation was shown. Mr. Harris read two statements, one from himself and MLA J. Green. MLA Green's submission was reflected as being a public record. Both statements reflected a sense of emergency due to the lack of appropriated teaching spaces and washrooms. The presenter indicated that the building has a mouse infestation, asbestos and is structurally deteriorating which affects a sense of pride for students and staff. Mr. Harris ended by reflecting on an incredible administration and amazing teachers who care about the students at DMS. A request was made for a copy of both letters.
- A parent group added their concerns about a lack of athletics with the front lawn being a sink hole and that the school spirit was deflated when they visited another school and saw their beautiful facilities. There is no accessibility to the gymnasium balcony and the gym size does not provide adequate time for all the teams to practice. Teams struggle as due to this which is reflected in poor showings when competing against other teams.
- A parent spoke about her concerns with her child attending DMS next year with exceptional needs. She has always needed to advocate for her child who will need a breakout space to work. As well, parents are concerned for students with digestive issues with limited washrooms available. Social inclusion for those who want to take part in an extra-curricular activity but are not able to because of accessibility.
- A parent stated the current four portables with an additional three more planned to be installed this summer has affected student learning and district office is not responsive to this area of concerns. Councillor Perley stated that we are to prepare for our future generation, and this is what the PSSC is trying to do now. It was stated that the planning for the Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School project did not take into account the population growth/shifts in the area and consequently was not big enough when it was built. Therefore, this parent once again, asked that the Council take into consideration a replacement school for DMS that is built with community growth in mind.
- The Chairperson thanked the presenters, and he reminded them to forward their presentations to their Councillor/the district office to be saved on the DEC Portal. He also mentioned again that DMS requirements will be reviewed in conjunction with other ASD-W needs.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Mission, Vision Statement / DEC Team Composition - Superintendent Update**

- The Superintendent showed the current Mission Vision and Core Values poster. He went on to say that at the time when this poster was created, ASD-W was early into being an amalgamated school district.

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- It is now time to re-visit this statement that includes the voices of various stakeholders. The Director of Communications will chair a sub-committee that is comprised of district staff, Councillor Chris Harquail and Councillor Candice Browse.

#### **Student Representative on DEC Replacement - Submissions Update**

- The Chairperson stated Councillor Sparkes had been appointed to the Council for a second year but will be graduating in June 2023 from Fredericton High School. The recruitment of a new student representative has begun with a poster being circulated to all 19 ASD-W high schools. The deadline for submission of applications has been extended to Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for a current Grade 10 or 11 student.

#### **Briefing on DEC Budget Expenditure (2021-2022) to Support Technology**

- The Superintendent shared that the DEC surplus from the previous year had been approved by the Council to be spent on technology purchases in two schools. Reports from these two schools were collected and shared with the Council on the DEC Portal.
- The Meduxnekeag Consolidated School received 30 laptop computers and McAdam High School received 7 laptop computers. Both schools expressed their gratitude to the Council for the generous monetary commitment to purchase additional student laptop computers at their schools.

#### **Superintendent Report:**

##### **Superintendent Report (1 of 1)-ASD-W-EL5: Asset Protection**

- The Superintendent presented the report *ASD-W-EL5: Asset Protection*, 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. Following the Superintendent's presentation, he reported to be in-compliance with policy ASD-W-EL5.
- The Chairperson inquired on the statement about school play spaces being inspected on a regular basis by district staff. The Superintendent confirmed that this was accurate as after the play structures are purchased from a company, it is the responsibility of the trained maintenance staff to perform regular inspections.
- Another inquiry was made regarding the Community Use of Schools budget report reflecting a zero-dollar figure. It was asked if some rentals recovered a fee. The Director of Finance and Administration confirmed that there are rates for profit and non-profit groups and depending on which agreement some are charged, and some are not.

#### **Correspondence:**

- The Chairperson acknowledged a letter received on March 27, 2023 from the Mayor of District Carleton North requesting a parcel of land. The Council responded with an e-mail acknowledgement on April 3, 2023.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Council of Student Leaders – Councillor Sparkes:**

- The Chairperson reported that this week is Student Appreciation Week. The Council had prepared a message to all students that was posted on the ASD-W website.
- The student leadership report will be given when Councillor Sparkes is in attendance at a public Council meeting. A reminder of the vacant student representative position was given during a recent the Student leadership meeting.

#### **Public Comments:**

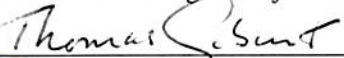
- A concerned citizen from Hartland Community School, reported that a gate was in disrepair and that a teacher and herself tried to fix it. This repair had not been reported to the school administration therefore a maintenance work order had not been submitted. The Director of Finance and Administration was in attendance and noted this concern to action a repair.
- The concerned citizen went on to say that many children are behind in grade levels. She had requested to volunteer along with others to read to the students. A CUPE employee reported this to her union and the 6 volunteers were told that they could no longer work with the six students which meant 12 hours per week of reading was stopped. Therefore, she was recommending an additional Educational Assistant (EA) be hired for this school.
- The Superintendent responded that he would check into the union complaint and the stop of this service. He went on to explain that ASD-W was funded for 642 EA's and have over 68 additional EA's that is supported from other budgets. In addition, six teachers have been hired for embedded Numeracy and Literacy teaching in classrooms with teachers. A request has been made for this initiative to continue to support student academic needs.
- DMS parents inquired about the additional portables being added to the school means less outdoor space for students. Therefore, where will students go at recess and lunch time? The Director of Finance and Administration responded that a plan is in place for when these portables arrive. The parent went on to ask where students will store their belongings and she stated that a staff room that seats 26 is not big enough for a staff of 70. Finally with a population increase, the lack of room for specialized subjects is being taken away from the students.

**Closing Comments:**

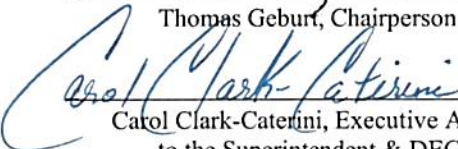
- Chairperson Geburt reminded everyone of the public and working meetings in April. Councillor Mazerolle motioned for an adjournment that was seconded by Councillor Browse.

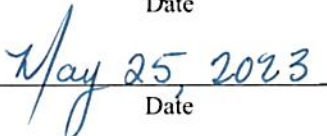
**Date of Next Public Meeting: May 25, 2023 - Woodstock Education Centre, 138 Chapel Street, Woodstock, NB**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at **8:38 PM**.

  
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Thomas Geburt, Chairperson

  
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Date

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

  
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Date