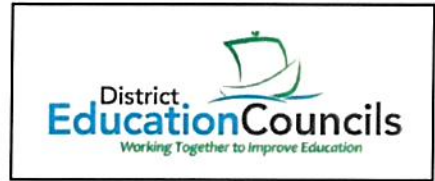




ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Woodstock Education Centre
Public Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023**

Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1
- Mark Thompson – Sub-district 2
- 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
- Janet Dean – Sub-district 8
- 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
- Hayden Sparkes – Student Representative

Council Member Regrets:

- Michael Mazerolle – Sub-district 9

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance & Administration
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Catherine Blaney, Director of Education Support Services
- Wendy Cumberland, Acting Director of Education Support Services
- Jennifer Read, Director of Communications
- Ross Campbell, Health & Phys. Ed. Subject Coordinator
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

Guest:

- Approximately 30 members of the public were in attendance

Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:39 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:

- The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the public meeting.
- The Superintendent introduced district office staff in attendance.

Consent Items:

Approval of the Agenda

- The agenda was previously reviewed by the Council and the Circle of Understanding presentation was removed from the agenda. Steering Committee Report and Public Comments were added to the agenda.

MOTION:

..... to approve the agenda with the noted revisions.

MOVED BY: Serena Bradford

SECONDED BY: Tanya Cloutier

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes – April 27, 2023

- A revision was made under Communications, the CLEVR program will need to be accessible to DEC members as it will continue to allow communications.

MOTION:

..... to approve the minutes with this addition.

MOVED BY: Tanya Adams

SECONDED BY: Wallace Carr

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Capital Improvement List for September DEC Agenda

- The Chairperson informed the Council that the 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. **ACTION:** This agenda item will be added to the September public meeting agenda.

Presentations:

Technology Platforms

- The Superintendent introduced the various technology programs used in the school environment.
- The PSST World is a program that students/parents can submit concerns that is directed to a Director who will assist the individual in need. Submissions are kept confidential.
- Power School is the database used in all ASD-W schools for student contact information, printing report cards, suspensions, and other student demographic information.
- Power Teacher Pro is used by teachers to enter the report card information and generate class lists. High school uses this app as a grade book to track assignments throughout the school year. A parent portal can access information about their child's academics in Grade K-8 and more complex information for high school grades.
- NBVLC (New Brunswick Virtual Learning Centre) – is a database for online courses and teacher resources. A Bright Space guide is available for parent/guardians to track student progress.
- ESS (Education Support Services) Connect – education learning plans for all children is stored in ESS Connect. Student Services team are trained on how to access this information and support student needs.
- My BluePrint is a tool that students use as a guide to plan for future educational and career choices.
- Under the umbrella of Literacy, various apps are available, such as Sora, which is a virtual library that houses graphic novels.
- Dianne Kay has prepared a folder of program information for each Councillor.

Curriculum & Program Presentation

- Ross Campbell presented on Physical Education: Active Transportation and Green Skills. Chairperson Geburt asked for confirmation that escape rooms are outside. This information is accurate with escape boxes used to engage students.

Harvey Community Request

- A presentation was given by Richard Corey, Mayor, and Katherine Henry, Chief Operations Officer for the community of Harvey. The building being requested has served the community very well as a School District Office and now facility storage centre. The vision is to create a civic home for the Harvey Rural Community. The Mayor proposed redeveloping the building and property as a multipurpose facility, with offices and proposed district use for lease. There is a plan to create a town hall, a place for tourists to stop and get information and take photos with the famous fiddle. The Harvey community is requesting the facility on property identified by PID 01516350 located at 1910 Route 3 in Harvey as surplus. This property would be subdivided with part of the current building provided to the district under a rent-free agreement. The building would be divided with a section for district office, municipal offices, council chambers and a visitor centre for members of the public. All legal costs would be covered by the Harvey community.
- Councillor Carr asked if there was any other piece of ground available. Mayor Corey noted that there was property but no buildings. Starting from the ground up would be more costly. An expected \$500K would cover the cost of the renovations with a new building costing much more.
- The Superintendent, Director of Finance and Administration, and district staff had been involved in discussions about this proposal. ASD-W began looking for additional space to secure for storage. With McAdam Avenue School closing, furnishings from this school on July 1st will need to be stored at the Harvey facility until a new school is built on the Northside of Fredericton. The proposal could be acceptable in the future, but not at this time. The Chairperson also visited the facility and did not feel that this building could be considered as surplus at this time.

MOTION:

..... Due to the fact that the ASD-W maintenance and storage facility located in Harvey and adjacent to the Harvey Elementary School is not surplus, to the needs of the district, I move that we do not declare the facility as surplus.

MOVED BY: Mark Thompson

SECONDED BY: Candace Browse

MOTION CARRIED

Circle of Understanding – Councillor Perley

- This presentation by Councillor Perley was deferred until the next public meeting in June 2023.

Superintendent Monitoring Reports:

Superintendent Report (1 of 1)-ASD-W-ER2.2: School Culture

- The Superintendent presented the report *ASD-W-ER2.2: School Culture*, 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-ER2.2: School Culture.
- Councillor Harquail inquired about a slow decline in all categories. The Superintendent reported that his team has also seen this decline and note it is concerning and that COVID would have had an impact on learning.
- Councillor Carr commented on the "I feel safe at my school" and "I enjoy my school experience" declining by approximately 10%. It was noted that the variety of courses will improve with the number of online courses now available to students. Chairperson Geburt did not expect a massive increase, but a gradual incline. As well, the Chairperson noted the Student Leadership Conferences and evidence reflected in 2023-2024 should also be reflected in 2022-2023.

Superintendent Report (1 of 1)-ASD-W-ER4: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities

- The Superintendent presented the report *ASD-W-ER4: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities*, 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-ER4: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities.
- The Vice Chairperson reflected on the district-based training beginning with 26 schools dropping down to 2. The Superintendent commented that we will not lose sight of the importance of training and that the lack of replacement staff impacted training opportunities. Councillor Carr noted that bus drivers are not being trained and requested that this opportunity be explored. It was noted that drivers are trained in the safety of the roads, but we are open to providing professional learning training as well.
- Councillor Salam commented on teachers enforcing students to study these subjects that are against some beliefs. Good communication with parents/guardians is needed. Dianne Kay explained that the curriculum is a provincial curriculum and once EECD has reviewed the content, they then communicate with districts.

DEC Statement:

- The Chairperson remarked that the DEC notes the considerable conversations in the media regarding a review of EECD Policy 713 and wishes to state that the Council unequivocally supports the policy as it is currently written and considers any review of the policy should be focused on making it stronger and not reducing the safeguards within the policy.

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. For the current review, input from students, parents/guardians, employees, and community members was requested through a survey. Over 3800 responses were received with over 86% being families. Jennifer Read informed the Council on how to access the survey link from the ASD-W website.

Student Representative on DEC Replacement - Submissions Update

- The Chairperson stated Councillor Sparkes will be graduating in June 2023 from Fredericton High School. The recruitment of a new student representative began with a poster circulated to all 19 ASD-W high schools. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, May 26th, for a current Grade 10 or 11 student. Two student Councillors will now serve on the District Education Council. A decision will be made in June on the successful candidates.

Infrastructure / Capital Projects Approval

- The Superintendent reported two new schools planned for ASD-W on the Northside of the City of Fredericton. Major Capital Priorities identified on the SDIP (Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priority) lists are Carleton North Area K-8 replacement school, replacement George Street Middle School, replacement Forest Hill/Liverpool Street School, the
- Town of Oromocto K-8 school rationalization, and the Oromocto High School mid life upgrade. These projects do not need to be submitted by Council tonight as they have already been submitted and are included in the SDIP (Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priority) list. The only way this list would change is if a situation similar to the new Shediac K-12 school being added is if a crisis was identified.
- The 2023-24 Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) list was reviewed with four ASD-W projects included.
- Proposed projects are a replacement school for Devon Middle School, Woodstock High School mid-life upgrade, Leo Hayes High School shop and skilled trades addition, Garden Creek/Kingsclear Community School rationalization study, replacement school for Montgomery Street Elementary School to ease enrolment pressures at Connaught Street Elementary School, replacement school for Barkers Point Elementary School, rationalization of McAdam area and Minto / Chipman building assessment based on a previous Ernst & Young study recommendation to combine Minto High with Minto Elem/Middle & combine Chipman Elementary with Chipman Forest Avenue School.
- Councillor Harquail asked if roof replacement was included in the mid life upgrade at Woodstock High School. It was explained that this is a mid life upgrade to the building and not just a roof replacement.
- It was noted that roof inspections and fire safety is prioritized to the top of the priority lists.

MOTION

..... To accept the proposed projects as presented tonight.

MOVED BY: Candace Browse

SECONDED BY: Tanya Cloutier

MOTION CARRIED

Education Governance Discussion

- The chairperson provided the history of the education governance reform and Bill 46. It was explained that at 11 a.m. a media release was provided about the changes made and DEC's were made aware of these changes at 3 p.m.
- DEC's will continue to play a key role in the government framework by serving in an advisory capacity and comprised of elected and appointed members. Student Councillor will change from one representative to two.
- The current model and proposed model was shown with Superintendents reporting to the Deputy Minister. The proposed model also reflects a Provincial Advisory Board which will report to the Minister. DEC's will advise districts and the Minister.
- It was noted that all changes were made on the Anglophone side of the operation. No changes were made on the Francophone side.
- To date, course of action has been engagement with media, news release, engagement with MLA's, petition EECD for funding to seek legal opinion of Bill 46, seeking counsel to initiate legal action, request for meeting with Minister to seek explanations and clarifications, provide input to Liberal party, letters to Minister and advising opposition parties.
- Currently it is unknown who will be a part of the Provincial Advisory group.
- Councillor Harquail asked if DEC's will still be supporting PSSC groups and attending their meetings. Chairperson Geburt stated that this is unknown.

Steering Committee French Language Training and English Prime

- This is an executive group that consist of two sub-groups. Questions were asked by EECD with comments returned by May 30th. The Chairperson asked that these comments be reviewed, and Councillors respond to him by Sunday, May 28th. A request was made for these comments to be sent to Councillors by e-mail for their responses.

Superintendent Evaluation:

- This was added to the agenda tonight, complying with the responsibility for DEC to conduct an annual performance assessment on the Superintendent.

MOTION

I move that the District Education Council (DEC) accepts that the Superintendent, David McTimoney, is in compliance with DEC policies at this time and has exceeded beyond the reasonable interpretation. We have been particularly pleased with Mr. McTimoney's performance and wish to highlight the following important accomplishments:

- Continuing exemplary leadership in recovery from the effects of the pandemic for which he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal;
- Coping with the myriad of changes in policy;
- Continuing to provide strong guidance to the District as the Department coped with significant changes in leadership at the Ministerial, Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister level;
- Initiation of the Council of Student Leaders forum to improve the engagement and voice of students in the District affairs; Initiation, completion and implementation of the ASD-West three-year District Plan;
- Initiation of the review of the District Mission and Vision Statement;
- Accepting duties beyond that of the Superintendent, specifically representing all Superintendents on the Board of Directors of Atlantic Education International; continuing participation at the Educational Research Development and Innovation meetings;
- Providing logical and sound suggestions to the Department on both educational governance and French language education proposals;
- Effective communications to students, parents and staff on continual changes to routines and policies related to the pandemic;
- Encouragement and inclusion of directors and specialist staff in the activities of the Council;
- Continuing support of the DEC's goals and priorities particularly with regard to acknowledgement and recognition of First Nations issues;
- Support to furthering capital infrastructure planning for the district;
- Management of staffing issues related to lingering effects of the pandemic, grievances, staff shortages and funding shortfalls for support personnel; and
- Support to the DEC in filling Councillor vacancies.

It is therefore the recommendation of the DEC that the Superintendent receive a four-step increase in salary; however, the Council is aware that he has reached the Control Point Maximum and that re-earnable increments under the Management and Non-Union Wage Scale is currently suspended. As such, this compensation reference is simply for recognition.

MOVED BY: Chris Harquail

SECONDED BY: Serena Bradford

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence:

- The Chairperson acknowledged a letter to the Minister on May 19, 2023, expressing their concerns with Bill 46.

Committee Reports:

Council of Student Leaders – Councillor Sparkes:

- Introduced himself as the Chairperson for the Student Leadership Committee and the Student Councillor representative. A review of the leadership work was given. This report will be submitted to the Minister and Superintendent and made public.
- A thorough presentation will be given by Councillor Sparkes on June 29th at the public DEC meeting. A press release was recommended by Chairperson Geburt.

Public Comments:

- A member of the public expressed his concerns with Policy 713 and the opinions of other minority groups. Chairperson Geburt asked how much was entailed in inclusion. Catherine Blaney added that this work was involved in all groups. The Superintendent added that an Anti-racism Coordinator has been hired in ASD-W. The Superintendent concurred that a list was not available tonight, but it would be a good practice to create a list of the work done in terms of support for minorities and anti-racism efforts.
- A question in the survey on gender identities was asked, and the percentage of youth that felt safe at their school, does this mean they don't feel safe to not fall on a slippery floor or they don't feel safe that they will not be beaten up at school that day. This question needs to be clearer.
- Mr. Andrews asked what happens to public input now that Bill 46 is changed. The Chairperson noted that DEC Councillors are still elected, so they have a say, but how much we do not know. The PSSC will have more impact on the school goals. An advisory committee is another opportunity to speak. Another route is to communicate with your MLA.

- Mr. Andrews noted that he believes that there is another route.
- Public comment suggested that LGBTQ12S+ is missing a H in the acronym for heterosexual. It was noted that this acronym is international and is not changed by our group.
- It was asked what is in the purview of the DEC and Policy 713. Morality being taught to students is the role of the parent and their child. The Charter of Rights were discussed, and opinions were shared about racism.
- A community member asked about Policy 703 which seemed to be more balanced, where Policy 713 seems to undermine Policy 703. Policy 713 hypersensitizes sexual orientation and undermines all the educators' ability to teach and this policy has not increased our literacy and numeracy numbers. The Superintendent added that Policy 713 is there to protect a minority group where there is data to suggest that more protection and support is needed.

Closing Comments:

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

Date of Next Public Meeting: June 29, 2023 – Oromocto Education Centre, 17 Miramichi Road, Oromocto, NB

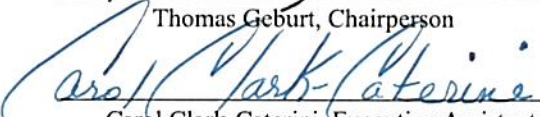
Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.



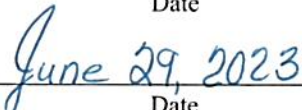
Thomas Geburt, Chairperson



Date



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



Date