



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Oromocto Education Centre
Public Meeting Minutes
June 29, 2023**

Council Members Present:

- Candice Browse – Sub-district 3
- Tanya Cloutier – Sub-district 4
- 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

Council Member Regrets:

- Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1
- Mark Thompson – Sub-district 2
- Serena Bradford – Sub-district 5
- Janet Dean – Sub-district 8
- Chris Harquail – Sub-district 10
- David Perley – First Nations Councillor

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance & Administration
- Gina Dunnett, Director of Schools (OEC)
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

Guest:

- 20+ Public Guest

Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:13PM.**

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 members of the public to the meeting and on behalf of the Council, Mr. Geburt congratulated all students who had recently graduated this school year.
- The Chairperson acknowledged the recent announcement of a new K-8 school to be built in the District of Carleton North.
- The Chairperson indicated the time allocation and procedure for public comments at the end of the meeting.
- 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: Tanya Cloutier

SECONDED BY: Candice Browse

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes – May 24, 2023

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr

SECONDED BY: Paul MacIntosh

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There were no business agenda items to discuss from the May 2023 meeting.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Report (4 of 4)-ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting & Forecasting

- The Superintendent presented the report *ASD-W-EL4: Budgeting & Forecasting*, as per the Annual Planning Cycle. This report is presented four times 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-EL4.
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration, reviewed the DEC Summary Report for the fiscal 2022-2023 period and ending on March 31, 2023. A remaining balance of **\$479.44** was reported. The Superintendent acknowledged a transfer of \$20,811.93 to purchase music equipment for elementary schools in ASD-W was approved at a previous public DEC meeting. A giant thank-you card was presented to the Councillors from the students at McAdam Avenue School showing their appreciation for the music equipment that was donated to their school.
- A balance of **\$1,458,690.00** was reported as the remaining surplus for the year ending on March 31, 2023. It was noted that \$500,000.00 can be rolled over into the following year's budget with the additional surplus being returned to the Province of NB.
- Councillor Carr asked why the Educational and School Services budget line was in arrears of \$957,953.00 and he asked if additional funds could be allocated to this budget line to prevent being reported in a deficit. The Superintendent responded that during the 2022-2023 school year, over 700 Educational Assistants were employed in ASD-W. This budget line is difficult to project as student needs vary throughout the school year.
- Councillor Salam asked how staffing of Educational Assistants are assigned to schools. The Superintendent reported, a formula is used that is based on enrolment and student needs. It was noted that the CUPE 2745 staffing process was completed for the next school year. Remaining vacancies will be posted on the ASD-W website.

MOTION:

..... to approve the expenditure plan for the next school year.

MOVED BY: Michael Mazerolle

SECONDED BY: Candice Browse

MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

Canterbury Cemetery Land Requests

- The Chairperson displayed a map that included a cemetery adjacent to the Canterbury High School. A small section of the school land has been requested by the Canterbury Cemetery Committee (Municipality of Lakeland Ridges) to increase the community cemetery. The Superintendent commented that the parcel of land being requested, was not needed by the school, and this transaction would not interfere in the operations of the school.

MOTION:

..... to declare the parcel of land as surplus

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr

SECONDED BY: Michael Mazerolle

MOTION CARRIED

Harvey Community Land Request Land Requests

- The Chairperson displayed a map that included the parcel of land being requested as surplus by the Harvey Rural Community. The Director of Finance and Administration stated that the parcel of land being requested did not interfere in the operations of the school and facilities storage building.

MOTION:

..... to declare this parcel of land as surplus

MOVED BY: Tanya Cloutier

SECONDED BY: Hayden Sparkes

MOTION CARRIED

• **Mission Vision**

The Superintendent reported that the ASD-W Mission Vision Core Values statement is expected to be finalized over the summer months. The new ASD-W statement will be reported in the fall.

Bill 46 & Policy 713

- The Chairperson acknowledged the many discussions that have occurred about changes to the governance of the Anglophone sector of the education system in the Province of N.B. Mr. Geburt stated that he has watched many news broadcasts, like so many others, and he has attended meetings concerning changes to the structure. The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has recently withdrawn Bill 46, which was a proposed new Education Act during the last sittings of the Legislature but has also stated that he may bring recommended changes to the governance structure back to the Legislature in the fall. Until then, District Education Councils are operating as usual.
- The Chairperson remarked that the DEC notes the considerable conversations in the media regarding a review of the Provincial 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. This same statement was made during the last public meeting on the ASD-West DEC on 25 May 2023. He further stated that the Child and Youth Advocate has been requested by the Legislature to review the revised Policy 713 and report back to the Legislature / public by 15 August 2023. The Council will await the publication of Mr. Lamrock's report and will resume discussion of Policy 713 once the report has been made public.
- The Superintendent stated that regardless of any review of Policy 713, no child that attends an ASD-W school will be put at risk.

Proposed 2023-2024 DEC Meeting Schedule:

- The Chairperson provided a draft meeting schedule for the 2023-2024 school year and requested that Councillor continue to monitor their e-mails over the summer months. Councillor Carr asked if *Policy 409 – Multi-year Infrastructure School Planning* studies would be added. The Chairperson responded that as the rationalization of the Oromocto schools were well placed on the Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priorities (SDIP) list, it is likely that 409 studies could occur in the 2023-24 school year but not until the spring of 2024.

Presentations:

- The Chairperson introduced Councillor Sparkes as the Chairperson of the Council of Student Leaders (CSL). A thorough report was provided by Councillor Sparkes on the *Report and Recommendations on Diversity and Inclusion in ASD* which was the product of the CSL's work during the past school year.
- The Superintendent reported that this report will be provided to Inclusion N.B. and all School Administrators in August 2024. The Chairperson recommended that this report be sent to the Premier, Minister of Education, and members in legislature.
- The Council of Student leaders will continue next year in ASD-W.

Correspondence:

- Letter to EECD re Capital Projects for 2024-25 sent on 25/26 May 2023.
- Letter to Minister Hogan re Student DEC Representative sent on 10 June 2023

Public Comments:

- Mr. Andrews remarked that the product is a graduate, who has studied for 13 years, and he would like to know how the district enables a student to become a graduate. The Superintendent responded that the curriculum is established by the Province of N.B. High school requirements are in place to ensure all graduates have met the criteria.

- A member of the public asked for clarity on the Council's stand on Policy 713. The Chairperson explained that the Legislature passed a motion for the Child and Youth Advocate to review Policy 713 and provide a report by August 15th. When his report is produced, it is expected that it will be made public, and an invitation may be given to Mr. Lamrock to speak with the Council. A meeting with the Child and Youth Advocate and the Council will not be a public format.
- Mayor Corey thanked the Council for their support tonight in approving the land surplus request for the Harvey Rural Community. The approval of this land will allow moving forward with community and school partnership.
- A member of the public asked what sexual orientation had to do with education. Another commented that it would be disappointing for a Councillor to support parents not being made aware of their child's mental health. The Superintendent responded that it is about student safety and feeling accepted.
- A new resident to Canada stated that a better relationship between the school and parent was needed. Hiding information from parents is concerning. Another new resident to Canada commented on coming to Canada for freedom and a feeling of safety, while the system is forcing policy parameters on parents.

Closing Comments:

- Chairperson Geburt thanked those in attendance tonight.

Date of Next Public Meeting: September 21, 2023 – Location to be Determined.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Thomas Geburt

Thomas Geburt, Chairperson

28 September 2023

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

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

October 5/23

Date