



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Stanley Consolidated School
Public Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023**

Council Members Present:

- 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
- Chris Harquail – Sub-district 10
- Jim Mills – Sub-district 11
- Wallace Carr – Sub-district 12, Vice Chairperson
- Thomas Geburt – Sub-district 13, Chairperson
- Mya McAllister– Student Representative
- David Perley – First Nations Councillor

Council Member Regrets:

- Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1
- Mark Thompson – Sub-district 2
- Janet Dean – Sub-district 8
- Michael Mazerolle – Sub-district 9

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Darla Day, Director of Schools (FEC)
- Janice Webber, Acting Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

District Staff Regrets:

- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance & Administration
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC

Guest:

- 4+ Public Guest

Call to Order:

- Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at **6:38 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 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.
- September 30th is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Monday, October 2, is a non-working day, a day to reflect on the reports and why this date is observed.

Announcement:

- Bliss Carman Middle School received the prestigious 2023 Energy Star Canada Award for the second year in a row. Details are posted to the ASD-W web site.

Introductions:

- The Chairperson welcomed members of the public to the meeting.
- The Superintendent introduced the Principal and district office staff in attendance.
- The Chairperson stated the time allocation and procedures for public comments at the end of the meeting.

- **Consent Items:**

- **Approval of the Agenda**

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr

SECONDED BY: Candice Browse

MOTION CARRIED

- **Approval of the Minutes – June 29, 2023:**

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr

SECONDED BY: Candice Browse

MOTION CARRIED

- **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

- **DEC Public Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- The Chairperson stated that public meetings will be held in ASD-W schools this year. The next scheduled meeting will be held at Bliss Carman Middle School.

- **Capital Improvements**

- On an annual basis, the District Education Council is required to review and approve a proposed Capital Improvement project list for Capital Planning. The Facilities Department maintains a database of all projects to complete and each year the Facilities team presents a prioritized list of projects for all schools. This list is to be submitted to The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) by September 30, 2023. Keeping in mind, that if an emergency should arise, the list of priorities may change.
- Councillor Carr questioned the FHS heat pump repair that was installed in 2021. **ACTION:** The Superintendent will follow-up with the Facilities Manager about this item.
- Councillor Mills asked if there were plans to create a meeting room for DEC meetings. The Superintendent outlined a plan to move the Fredericton Education Centre district office staff to Priestman Street Elementary School; however, with increased enrolment at that location, the plan was reviewed and cancelled. Some district office staff are tentatively housed at the school as there is no space available at the Fredericton Education Centre. As well, the establishment of a DEC meeting room has been cancelled. This project would not fall under Capital Projects.
- Councillor Salem asked if there were plans for a new high school in the Fredericton area. A response was given that this item was not currently listed; however, it could be discussed by DEC in the future.

MOTION:

..... to approve the Capital Improvement list for Capital Planning in 2024-2025 and for submission to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD).

MOVED BY: Paul MacIntosh

SECONDED BY: Chris Harquail

MOTION CARRIED

- **ACTION:** The Superintendent will advise the Director of Finance and Administration of this motion being carried. The Chairperson will prepare the cover letter and attachment for submission to EECD.

- **Superintendent Monitoring Reports:**

- **Superintendent Report (1 of 1)-ASD-W-EL0: Global Executive Limitations**

- The Superintendent reviewed the policy and the interpretation. In compliance, the Superintendent reported he meets regularly with the Senior Administration Team, and interacts regularly with the Director of Human Resources, and Finance & Administration. This report is presented at the beginning of each school year and the 2022-23 school year ended with a positive performance assessment. The Planning Cycle was shared, with a monthly outline of when reports are presented.
- Chairperson Geburt accepted compliance on behalf of Council.

Superintendent Report (1 of 1)-ASD-W-EL1: Emergency Superintendent Succession

- The Superintendent reviewed the policy, interpretation, and justification. This report is presented to Council at the beginning of each school year. In a private working meeting, the Council was provided with the names of two Directors who have the qualifications to step into the role of Superintendent should an emergency arise.
- The position requires 5 years teaching experience, and 8 years administration and supervisory experience. The two Directors noted are experienced and the Superintendent has reviewed their qualifications. Once every two years the Superintendent conducts performance assessments on the entire Senior Administrative Team.
- Chairperson Geburt accepted compliance on behalf of Council.

Superintendent Report (1 of 1)-ASD-W ER2.0 – Mission, Vision and Core Values Statement

- The Superintendent reviewed the policy, interpretation, justification, and reported compliance. To gather feedback from stakeholders, the district prepared a survey to share with staff, DEC, PSSC, First Nations Education Directors, parents and students. It was open for 2 weeks and 54,067 contacts were made. The top 5 attributes identified through the survey were: friendly, professional, inclusive, community-based, learning-focused. The top 10 future focus areas identified were: high quality curriculum; physical health and mental well being; future readiness; physical safety; experiential or “hands-on” learning; a friendly positive environment; well maintained school and district buildings; ongoing communication; inclusive environments; and technology to enhance working and learning.
- A mission statement is an organization’s public declaration of what they do and why. It is action-oriented and illustrated by the present state and current capabilities. A vision statement is an organization’s public declaration of what they strive to achieve. It is illustrated by long-term aspirations and desired future outcomes. Values are an organization’s public declaration of the core principles guiding its work; and are fundamental to shaping organizational culture and fulfilling mission and vision statements.
- ASD-W has identified their new Mission, Vision and Values to be:

Mission: To nurture learning in a healthy, safe, inclusive environment so students thrive and become confident, contributing community members.

Vision: Each student is a successful learner who makes positive contributions to our world.

Values: Professionalism; Learning; Well-being; Belonging; Citizenship.

- This information had been shared with the Council in August with a request to have a preliminary review. As well, this information has been shared with Senior Administration, Principals and Vice-Principals.
- **ACTION:** With approval by the District Education Council, the new Mission, Vision and Values statement will be posted on the ASD-W web site. Additionally, the 3-year Education Plan will be updated.
- School Administrators received this information to discuss with their staff, with the understanding that DEC approval was required before implementing these statements. This will set the stage for the next 5-10 years. The Committee was commended for their work. Councillors were reminded to share and discuss these statements with Parent School Support Committee’s (PSSC) when attending PSSC meetings.

MOTION:

..... to approve the new Mission, Vision, and Values statements for ASD-W.

MOVED BY: Tanya Cloutier

SECONDED BY: Jim Mills

MOTION CARRIED

- Chairperson Geburt accepted compliance on behalf of the Council.
- Chairperson Geburt reminded Councillors to complete the evaluation report for each Superintendent Monitoring Report through the CLEVR program. This data is included in the process for completing the Superintendent’s Evaluation at the end of each school year.

• New Business:

Presentation Schedule for 2023-2024

- Chairperson Geburt shared the proposed presentation schedule from district staff at District Education Council meetings. This schedule had been previously reviewed by Councillors during a working meeting in September. Previously a curriculum presentation was given at every public DEC meeting. The proposed schedule would allow for a longer presentation (approx. 30 minutes) during specified meetings: October – Curriculum; December – First Nations; February - Anti-Racism; and April – Education Support Services.
- Superintendent McTimoney noted that the province is beginning a move to Holistic Curriculum, which may be the theme of Dianne Kay’s presentation. If Councillors have a request for an agenda topic, it should be forwarded to the

Chairperson, keeping in mind the agenda is set one week prior to the meeting, and staff would need time to prepare for the presentation.

- Consensus was given by the Council to proceed with the proposed presentation schedule for the 2023-2024 school year.

- **Catchment Area Review – Fredericton North Side**

- The Superintendent provided an overview of the new schools under construction on the north side of Fredericton. The K-5 school on Cuffman Street is scheduled to open in September 2024. This will relieve enrolment pressures at Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School. The new K-5 school on McAdam Avenue is scheduled to open September 2025. In accordance with Section 11 of the Education Act, the catchment area for these schools will be reviewed.
- The district plans to review all catchment areas for the elementary schools on the north side. A couple of public consultations will be held in the evening on the north side. In the spring of 2024 district staff can present thoughts of changes to catchment areas for the Council to review and support. Meetings will be organized later, but conversations have begun at the district level. Following the north side review, Chairperson Geburt suggested that a review take place on the south side.
- Councillor Cloutier questioned the catchment area for the community of Debec as it falls in the same area as the Canterbury School. The Superintendent acknowledged receiving a request to review district boundaries so that they align with the new municipal boundaries. An update will be provided to DEC at the meeting on October 5th.

- **Sustainability Studies (Policy 409)**

- The Chairperson reviewed upcoming capital projects which could / do not require a sustainability study to be completed:
 - o Carleton North K-8 – funding approved for design work. Sustainability study completed in 2020.
 - o George Street Middle School is high on the SDIP but is a straight replacement. No study required.
 - o Forest Hill/Liverpool rationalization – the sustainability study was completed in 2019.
 - o Oromocto K-8 rationalization – Ernst and Young study done in 2018. Councillors were asked to review the study for discussion at the Working Meeting on October 5th. It is suggested to include 4 schools in one study (to include Burton), and 3 schools in the other study.
- At the October 5th meeting a schedule will be prepared for possible sustainability studies to be held in the Spring of 2024.
- The Superintendent suggested Councillors view the ASD-W website, under ‘About ASD-W – Schools and Facilities’, where a new School Information Profile has been posted for all 69 schools. These profiles replace the previous infrastructure documents. These reports were prepared with categories that fall under sustainability study requirements.
- Superintendent McTimoney clarified that a Sustainability Study (Policy 409) involved 3 meetings for each study. These meetings are in addition to regularly scheduled DEC meetings. Meeting #1 - District presents data to community; Meeting #2 – community presents to District; Meeting #3 – decision made: Status quo, new build, or improvements.

- **Policy Committee Reports: DEC Goals and Priorities for 2023-2024**

- Councillor Browse chairs this committee. DEC Goals and Priorities have been prepared and will be shared with DEC members for discussion at their working meeting on October 5th.

- **Update on School Year and Staffing**

- The Superintendent provided an update of ‘Quick Facts’ as the new school year gets underway. ASD-W covers one third of the province and has 69 schools in operation, with 2 new K-5 schools under construction. There are 60 modular classrooms in 17 schools, with 8 more to be added. Enrolment as of September 18th is 24,350 (official enrolment data is based on September 30th data). There are almost 1100 newcomer students from 60 different countries. There are 657 Indigenous students from six Wolastoqey communities. The global operating budget is \$275,000,000. The District has 3,465 permanent employees, and 1,240 casual staff. The Transportation budget is \$15,300,000. This sheet will be posted to the ASD-W web site.
- It was noted that the teachers collective bargaining unit have signed their contract this week. Negotiations are now underway with CUPE 2745.
- There are approximately 600 more students this year (24,350) than last year (23,708). The majority of growth is in the city of Fredericton and the Edmundston area.

- Councillor Perley asked for the number of Wolastoqey teachers employed in ASD-W. The Superintendent responded that there are full-time teachers in the district hired through Enhancement Agreements, but Councillor Perley questioned the number of classroom teachers in the system. The Superintendent noted that this information was not tracked and although there are some Indigenous teachers, there are not many.
- The Superintendent noted that every classroom is staffed with a teacher at this time. Unfilled vacancies are monitored daily. The District is constantly recruiting, attending Job Fairs in Atlantic Canada and one in Toronto.
- The District has been allocated approximately 20 new buses, not all have been delivered to date. They are gas operated, not electric, as ASD-W does not have the infrastructure for charging.
- **Council of Student Leaders Update:**
 - Councillor McAllister is the DEC representative on this committee. Meetings are scheduled for October 23-24, 2023, (Monday night and Tuesday) at Kingswood Lodge. They will determine the schedule of meetings at that time. At this meeting they will vote in their President, VP, etc. Councillors are welcome and encouraged to attend, even if only for an hour.
- **Correspondence:**
 - Letter from Minister re Policy 713 Corrective Action, dated September 12, 2023
 - Letter from Minister re Delay in Correction Action, dated September 15, 2023
 - Letter to the Minister re Policy 713 Corrective Action, dated September 22, 2023
- **Public Comments**
 - Nancy Spencer asked for clarification on the gender sexuality alliance, as referenced in Provincial Policy 713, i.e., who creates the group – teachers? students? does it come from inside the school or outside? The Superintendent explained it would be similar to any type of student club/alliance formed within a school. Generally, a teacher would serve as a support person, and the club/alliance would be a mix of students/teachers who meet, possibly plan activities, talk about challenges/success. The district doesn't track, organize or oversee school-based groups. Within the policy there is a requirement for schools to have one teacher in the system who can act as an advocate for students.
 - Mr. Andrews has been asking questions of the DEC for quite some time. He recently met with the Minister of Education to discuss his concerns. He will submit a list of questions to Chairperson Geburt. Areas addressed included:
 - Time limit on public comments – sufficient time should be available to recognize public members who have questions and to ensure all have an opportunity to ask their questions.
 - Contact with local DEC representative – tried to contact local representative but has not received a response. Chairperson Geburt clarified that DEC members, subsequent to election or appointment to the DEC, serve the entire district and not a sub-district area. Members of the public should address school-based concerns through the PSSC of the particular school. If there is a concern with the DEC, questions should be submitted to the DEC Chair, and it will be brought to the DEC for discussion.
 - Agenda for public meeting doesn't provide information for public to feel welcome. The purpose of public meeting should be identified on agenda. This could be explained in opening statement, as well as the desired outcome of the meeting.
 - Mission Vision Values – expressed concern with process and final result of Mission Vision Values created by ASD-W.
 - Graduates and quality requirements.
 - Sexual Orientation Gender Identity – parents/public attended meetings held in Woodstock and Oromocto and were very upset. They felt their concerns were not heard. He would like for all public members who have questions/concerns to be given the time to present.
 - DEC chair and members are responsible and accountable for all activities in ASD-W, they hire and instruct the superintendent, they are the custodian of ASD-W education organization. Concern with comments in education system.
- **Closing Comments**
 - Chairperson Geburt thanked those in attendance and the public for coming and for their comments.
 - Next Working Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2023.
 - National Truth and Reconciliation Day on Saturday, September 30th, a day to reflect. Schools will be closed on Monday, October 2, 2023.
 - Councillor Carr requested a tour of the schools where DEC meetings are being held, prior to the meeting.

- **Date of Next Public Meeting:** October 19, 2023 – at Bliss Carman Middle School.

MOTION:

..... to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr SECONDED BY: Paul MacIntosh MOTION CARRIED

- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Thomas Geburt
Thomas Geburt, Chairperson

19 October 2023
Date

Janice Webber
Janice Webber, Acting Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent & DEC

23 October 2023
Date