



ASD-W

Anglophone School District West



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL Montgomery Street Elementary School Public Meeting Minutes November 21, 2024

Council Members Present:

- Connor Brennan – Sub-district 2
- Tanya Cloutier – Sub-district 4
- Ruth Eden – Sub-district 6
- 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
- Luke Carson – Student Councillor

Council Member Regrets:

- Candice Browse – Sub-district 3
- Serena Bradford – Sub-district 5

Council Vacancies:

- Sub-district 1
- Sub-district 7

ASD-W District & School Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Kendra Hatheway, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC
- Shawn Tracey – Director of Finance & Administration
- Jon Hoyt-Hallet – Director of Curriculum and Instruction
- Paul MacIntosh – Director of Communications
- Sue Young – Supervisor of Data & Accountability
- Darla Day – Director of Schools Fredericton Education Centre
- Gina Dunnett – Director of Schools Oromocto Education Centre
- Collin Tibbits, IT Support
- Rebecca Piercy, Principal, Montgomery Street Elementary School

District Staff Regrets:

Members of the Public

- 0 Media
- 2 Guests – Public Members

• Call to Order:

- DEC Chairperson, Thomas Geburt, called the public meeting to order at **6:40 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 the surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized the Wolastoqey (Maliseet), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.
- Chairperson Geburt welcomed everyone to the public District Education Council (DEC) meeting and the Superintendent introduced all district staff in attendance.
- Chairperson Geburt thanked the public for signing in and reminded everyone public comments and discussions would take place at the end of the meeting.

- **Review and Approval of the Agenda:**

- The agenda was reviewed by the Council and the Chairperson proposed two amendments:
 - o Remove the Flag Poles at District Schools from New Business
 - o Add Decisions of Council in Private Sessions to New Business
- The amended agenda was approved by consensus.

- **Review and Approval of Previous Public Meeting Minutes (October 24, 2024)**

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

ACTION: Executive Assistant will scan the minutes to the Superintendent and send them to the Director of Communications to post on the website.

- **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

- Currently there is no business arising from the minutes.

- **Superintendent Monitoring Reports:**

- **Superintendent Report – ASD-W EL 4 (1of 4) – Budgeting / Forecasting**

- The Superintendent presented his monitoring report EL 4 on Budgeting / Forecasting to Council stating that our goal is to ensure the Anglophone West School District finances are in good standing and that the budget is balanced. He explained this summary is reflective of the Second Quarter for the 2024-25 Fiscal year.
- The Superintendent indicated the Global Budget amount is, \$311,657,745, the ASD-W expenses incurred to date is \$142,927,365 and the forecasted expenses to March 31, 2025, is \$171,334,728. The report indicates there are forecasted deficits in the following Budget Areas: Instruction and School Services & Education and Support Services. The Superintendent explained the deficits are a result of the additional staffing of EAs above the funded level. He informed the Council of his communications with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) staff and stated that he is confident that they will ensure ASD-W is funded for the excess staffing to allow for a balanced budget.
- The Superintendent indicated that the report reflects overstaffing of 12.33 FTE for teaching staff and 130 FTE for Educational Assistants.
- The Superintendent concluded the EL 4 monitoring report to Council and welcomed any questions.
- Councillor Ruth Eden inquired about the consequences of a budget deficit, historically. The Superintendent stated he is not able to respond to her question because ASD-W has always maintained fiscal responsibility and has never faced a deficit position in the past. He is, however, reassured that EECD recognizes the challenge and will ensure we finish with a balanced budget.
- Councillor Connor Brennan questioned the need for EA's? The Superintendent explained EAs are required for medically or physically fragile students as well as safety needs and elaborated on the steps taken to determine the legitimacy of each EA hire. He elaborated further on the significant enrolment increase of children with needs enrolled in kindergarten. This group of 5-year-olds were infants during the pandemic, and many have socialization issues which prompts the need for more EAs.
- Chairperson Thomas Geburt wondered if the department (EECD) provided the Superintendent with written confirmation that they will assist with funding, further stating it appears ASD-W is not being funded for the EA roles upfront. Chairperson Thomas Geburt asked if the DEC should write to the Department to further affirm the request for additional funding to which the Superintendent responded, "not at this time".
- Councillor Ruth Eden inquired if requests for EAs were ever denied? The Superintendent stated that while requests for EAs have not been denied, second reviews of a situation resulted in a decision to hire 2 EAs and reassess within a reasonable time frame to learn if an additional EA would be beneficial. This is one recent example.
- Chairperson Thomas Geburt indicated some children become comfortable with an EA and then they are moved due to addressing needs elsewhere or seniority bumping. He would like to learn if an EA placement could be stabilized and will bring this matter forward at a proposed January Minister's Forum meeting.
- Student Councillor Luke Carson inquired if EAs are staffed based on per capita? The Superintendent explained the baseline model.

- The Superintendent confirmed the ASD-W EL 4 report is posted publicly on the ASD-W website.
- The Superintendent reported compliance of the policy and the Council accepted.

- **Superintendent Report - ASD-W ER 2.1 – Academic Excellence**

- The Superintendent highlighted two key documents from the report. First, he showed the newly implemented Provincial Assessment Reflection Tool and, secondly, he focused on the 2023-24 Provincial Assessment results.
- The Superintendent concluded his ER 2.1 monitoring report to Council and welcomed any questions.
- Councillor Wallace Carr observed the significant percentage increase from grade 4 to grade 6 literacy results.
- Chairperson Thomas Geburt wondered if it was possible to identify schools that pull the district average down?
- First Nation Councillor David Perley requested a comparison of assessment results between Indigenous students to other students. The Supervisor of Data and Accountability indicated there may be a way to provide those results.

ACTION: David Perley will email Thomas his request to have this task added to the next agenda.

- Councillor Ruth Eden asked if the Superintendent was satisfied with the assessment results? The Superintendent stated he would like to see improvement.
- Councillor Chris Brennan asked if the focus is on math or the number strand. The number strand is within the math curriculum.
- Director of Schools Gina Dunnett explained the data walk.
- Councillor Wallace Carr thought we may need to speak to the other districts to learn what steps they are taking to improve their results as the data indicates improvements in their areas. The Director of Curriculum and Instruction noted this happens.
- The ASD-W-ER 2.1 report is posted publicly on the ASD-W website.
- The Superintendent reported compliance of the policy, which the Council accepted.

- **Culturally Based Education Presentation by First Nation Councillor David Perley**

- First Nation Councillor David Perley, gave a presentation regarding Wolastoqey Education within ASD-W.
- Councillor David Perley noted when Culturally Based Education is taught collectively, all students improve. Students naturally begin to feel comfortable in their school environment. There is a direct tie between culture-based education and improved student outcomes.
- Teachers will require an understanding of the Culturally Based Education Program curriculum framework such as learning the language, learning welcome dance and partaking in mini powwows.
- First Nation students need to feel their teacher is connected to the content.

- **New Business:**

- Review of DEC Policies: GP 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

MOTION: I move that the Council agree that the review of Governance Processes 1 though 4 is complete apart from grammatical amendments.

MOVED BY: Tanya Cloutier **SECONDED BY:** Chris Harquail **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: I move that the amendments to ASD-W Governance Process Policy GP 6: Agenda, as outlined by the Chairperson, be accepted by the Council.

MOVED BY: Tanya Cloutier **SECONDED BY:** Chris Harquail **MOTION CARRIED**

- Guidance on Smudging in District Schools
- First Nation Councillor David Perley spoke about the differences in interpretation in schools with respect to the ritual of smudging.

MOTION: I move that the Superintendent undertake, in consultation with the DEC First Nations Councillor and the Nihkanatpat ciw Skicinowi Kehkiketuwakon (Director – Leader for Indigenous Teachings) for ASD-West, to provide guidance to all ASD-West schools on the tradition of smudging in support of furthering education on First Nations culture.

MOVED BY: David Perley **SECONDED BY:** Ruth Eden **MOTION CARRIED**

ACTION: The Superintendent will work with Sarah Francis and Councillor David Perley

- Naming Committee for New School located on McAdam Avenue, Fredericton
- The Chairperson stated that the Council needed to create a naming committee for the new school which will open in Fredericton North in the Fall of 2025.

MOTION: I move that the naming committee for the new ASD-West school, located on McAdam Avenue in Fredericton consist of the following individuals:

- Councillor Janet Dean (Chairperson) – Sub-district 8
- Councillor Candice Browse – Sub-district 3
- Councillor Connor Brennan – Sub-district 2
- Ms. Darla Day, Director of Schools, Fredericton Education Centre
- Ms. Sue Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor, Office of the Superintendent
- Two community members
 - Ms. Sheena Hatheway, Chair of the PSSC at Nashwaaksis Memorial Elementary School
 - Ms. Amy Lockhart, parent and member of the PSSC

MOVED BY: Luke Carson **SECONDED BY:** Tanya Cloutier **MOTION CARRIED**

- Decisions of Council in the Private Session:
- While the Superintendent was not in the room and during the private session, the District Education Council passed a motion, with unanimous consent, to reappoint Anglophone West School District Superintendent David McTimoney, to a renewed five-year term, commencing on July 1, 2025, and ending no later than June 30, 2030. Chairperson Thomas Geburt thanked the Superintendent for his continued commitment and dedication to the Anglophone West School District.

MOTION made in Private Session: I move that Mr. McTimoney be offered a five-year contract with an appointment that will commence on July 1, 2025, and will end no later than June 30, 2030.

MOVED BY: Wallace Carr **SECONDED BY:** Michael Mazerolle **MOTION CARRIED**

- Correspondence: Nil

- **Public Comments:**

- DEC Chair Thomas Geburt asked the public if they had any questions, comments or concerns; no one came forward.

- **Closing Comments:** Thanks was offered for attending this evening.

- **Date of Next Public Meetings:** Thursday, December 19, 2024, Public Meeting at the Saint Mary's Academy 52 Marmen Avenue Edmundston, NB, E3V 2H2

Chairperson Geburt called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Luke Carson SECONDED BY: Tanya Cloutier MOTION CARRIED

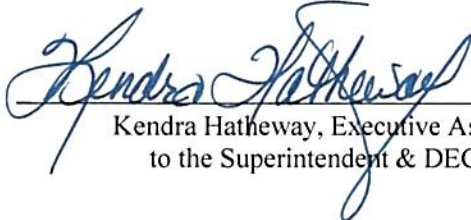
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.



Thomas Geburt, Chairperson



Date



Kendra Hatheway, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent & DEC



Date