



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Fredericton Education Centre
20 Knowledge Park Drive, Fredericton, NB
Public Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2026**

Council Members Present:

- Sofia Rodriguez Gallagher Sub-district 1
- Katelyn McGrath – Sub-district 2
- Candice Browse – Sub-district 3
- Serena Bradford – Sub-district 5, Vice-Chairperson
- Ruth Eden – Sub-district 6
- Jim Mills – Sub-district 11
- Wallace Carr–Sub-district 12, Chairperson
- Rowan Seahra – Student Councillor

Council Member Regrets:

- Tanya Cloutier – Sub-district 4
- Charlotte Burhoe – Sub-district 7
- Janet Dean – Sub-district 8
- Michael Mazerolle – Sub-district 9

Council Vacancies:

- First Nation Representation
- Sub-district 10
- Sub-district 13

ASD-W District & School Staff Present:

- David McTimoney Superintendent
- Kendra Hatheway, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & District Education Council
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration
- Karen Morton, Director of Human Resources
- Jay Colpitts, Director of Schools Woodstock Education Centre
- Paul MacIntosh, Director of Communications
- Elyse Czapalay, Acting Community Engagement Coordinator
- Mariah Williams, Acting Community Engagement Coordinator
- Gabriela Guimaraes Figueiredo, Acting Diversity Equity and Inclusion Facilitator
- Tegan Taylor, Subject Coordinator - EAL
- Stephen Bubar, IT Technology Support Specialist

District Staff Regrets:

Members of the Public

- 1 Media
- 1 Guest

Call to Order:

- DEC Chairperson, Carr, called the public meeting to order at **6:38 PM.**

Welcome & Comments by the Chairperson:

- Chairperson Carr, 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 Carr welcomed everyone to the public District Education Council (DEC) meeting.
- Chairperson Carr noted Council member regrets in Sub-districts 4, 7, 8, and 9 further stating that quorum requirements were met and the meeting proceeded as scheduled.
- Chairperson Carr introduced ASD-W Superintendent David McTimoney, who then introduced ASD-W staff who were in attendance.
- Chairperson Carr thanked the public for signing in and reminded everyone time will be allowed at the end of the DEC meeting for public questions and comments as per the *Governance DEC Policy ASD-W-GP5 – DEC Public Meeting Procedure.*

- **Review and Approval of the Agenda:**
- The April 9, 2026, Public DEC Meeting Agenda was reviewed and approved.

MOTION: I move that the Council approve the April 9, 2026, DEC public meeting agenda.

MOVED BY: Candice Browse **SECONDED BY:** Katelyn McGrath **MOTION CARRIED**

- **Review and Approval of Previous Public Meeting Minutes (March 19, 2026)**
- The minutes were reviewed by the Council and approved.
- ACTION:** Executive Assistant will ask the Director of Communications to post the March 19, 2026, minutes on the ASD-W website.

MOTION: I move that the Council approve the March 19, 2026, public meeting minutes.

MOVED BY: Katelyn McGrath **SECONDED BY:** Candice Browse **MOTION CARRIED**

- **Superintendent Monitoring Reports:**
- **Superintendent Report – ASD-W-EL2: Staff Treatment**
- The Superintendent indicated DEC Policy EL2 Staff Treatment monitoring report is supported by the following individuals: Karen Morton, Director of Human Resources (DHR); Karen Kozak, Manager, Human Resource Services; and Julia Woodhouse, Administrative Assistant to the DHR.
- The Superintendent acknowledged responsibility for ensuring fair, dignified, and respectful treatment of staff and volunteers, appropriately addressing and reporting significant concerns, clearly communicating personnel rights and rules, and adhering to collective agreements while supporting timely and good-faith resolution process.
- The Superintendent noted compliance is supported through clearly communicated district and DEC policies on professional conduct, staff treatment, and employee concerns, regular staff reminders of rights and expectations, public access to policies and reports, and established collective agreement grievance processes that prioritize respectful and professional resolution.
- The Superintendent confirmed the ASD-W DEC Policy EL2 Staff Treatment monitoring report will be posted publicly on the ASD-W website and reported compliance of the policy; the Council accepted.
- **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
- The Superintendent provided an update on the location of the Forest Hill / Liverpool Street K – 5 School, by sharing the most recent version of the proposed exterior site plan.
- **Presentation: Southeast Fredericton – K-98 Ed Specifications – Shawn Tracey**
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration presented, the Educational Specifications for the new Fredericton Southeast K-8 School.
- Target Date for completion and occupancy of the school is Summer 2030. The target design enrolment is 550 Grade K-8 students.
- The goal is to create a welcoming, flexible, and inclusive learning environment that supports diverse learners, engagement, collaboration, and hands-on, outdoor learning rooted in sustainability and respect for the land.
- Design adaptable, inspiring spaces that accommodate multiple learning styles, shared community use, and both collaborative and quiet study, while fostering creativity and exploration.
- Ensure cohesive, accessible school spaces across grade groupings that balance openness, functionality, security, and ease of supervision.
- The school’s design will celebrate its agrarian heritage by drawing inspiration from the surrounding landscape, local farming traditions, and the community’s deep connection to the land. Spaces throughout the building and site will reflect themes of growth, cultivation, and stewardship, creating an environment where students feel grounded in their cultural roots while engaging in hands-on experiential learning.

- Site components include space for 5 buses at one time, separate and not in conflict with the parental drop-off zone. Space for 20 anticipated parent vehicles dropping students off at once, and 120 parking stalls for staff and visitors.
- A multi-purpose playing field (60 m x 100 m) unless prevented by unusual circumstances.
- Shawn further described the Design Enrolment (550 students) compared to the Maximum Capacity (756 enrolled students) with the schools' 30 classrooms, and identified the design includes provisions for a further building addition and modular units.
- Shawn also displayed a diagram of the general area for land selection and the proposed school catchment boundary.
- Vice-Chairperson Bradford inquired why there were two separate music classrooms and only one art classroom? Shawn indicated there would be two music rooms, one each for elementary and middle school classes; further adding that elementary students have in-class art programs, while middle school students have a separate classroom for art.
- Councillor McGrath inquired if the outdoor play space would be turf; Shawn confirmed that was indeed true.
- Councillor Eden requested further explanation about the separate location for Early Childhood Development being disconnected from the main school building; Shawn advised it would be similar to a modular classroom but will be structurally appropriate and include separate amenities such as water and sewer.
- Chairperson Carr inquired if this was the best compromise, that the design and build would suit this area and Shawn agreed it was.

MOTION: I move that the Council approve the Educational Specifications for the New ASD-W Fredericton Southeast K-8 School.

MOVED BY: Candice Browse SECONDED BY: Serena Bradford MOTION CARRIED

- **Presentation: Anti-racism - Gabriela (Gabi) Guimarães Figueiredo**
- Gabi Guimarães Figueiredo provided Council with an update on Anglophone School District West's (ASD-W) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Office efforts and next steps.
- A jurisdictional scan was performed to learn what anti-racism efforts were made in education across Canada.
- Recommendations for ASD-W included strengthening hiring and recruitment of staff, improving demographic data collection and incident reporting, enhancing community partnership and expanding training, resources, and professional learning (PL).
- Policy development utilized a participatory research design informed by the jurisdictional scan and Council of Student Leaders (CSL) report. The Policy intended to include supporting appendices, "Responding to Racism Flowchart" initially developed by senior administration and revised collaboratively by a working group of teachers.
- ASD-W developed a four-phase policy rollout plan; work had reached phase two (Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Draft Development) before the Government of New Brunswick's (GNBs) Anti-Racism Office began managing the policy project. Focus shifted to ongoing supports led by the EDI Office, including:
 - Grant opportunities and consultations.
 - Professional learning sessions and resource development.
 - Support for School-based clubs and initiatives.
 - Guidance on data collection, hiring practices, and training.
 - Connecting schools with community partners.
- Next steps include:
 - Exploring partnership opportunities with GNB Anti-Racism Office for policy alignment and resource sharing.
 - Support rollout planning for foundational anti-racism training led by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and Anglophone School District East.
 - ASD-W to assist EECD with development of the provincial Equity Action Plan.
 - Continue and strengthen ongoing EDI efforts and internal collaboration with subject coordinators and leads.
 - Review PowerSchool coding related to racist incident reporting.
 - Further discussions are planned regarding the rollout of the Responding to Racism Flowchart and strategies for recruitment of more diverse staff.

- **Presentation: School Lunch Program - Elyse Czapalay and Mariah Williams**
- Elyse & Mariah introduced themselves and provided Council with some general information about the provincially subsidized new school lunch program, which is set to launch in September 2026.
- The program includes two daily scratch-made meal options (meat-based and plant-based). Meal pricing is set at \$4.00 for students in grades K-8 and \$5.00 for students in grades 9-12; no-cost meals will be provided for students identified as in need. Schools and administrators will discreetly identify students in need; families may also self-identify. The online ordering system will support planning, reduce waste, and minimize stigma. Schools will support families who lack internet access by entering orders on their behalf.
- Elyse and Mariah noted the À la carte food service will continue alongside the lunch program and that ordering and invoicing will be managed through service providers in coordination with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), reducing school administrative burden.
- Thus far, approximately 50 of 70 schools have been visited to assess kitchen spaces, address program impacts, and plan equipment needs. Provincial Request for Proposal (RFP) results have been released; meetings are underway with new and existing service providers.
- Six service providers will operate within ASD-W; three new providers have been added. Alternative solutions are being explored for six schools that did not receive RFP bids and kitchen upgrades and renovations planned for completion between June – August 2026.
- Three early-start pilot schools have been chosen, Centreville Community School, Sunbury West School, and Lincoln Elementary School. The early-start pilot is to test the program with different providers and kitchen models ahead of the provincial rollout. Pilot school family communication is scheduled for April 15, 2026; province-wide communication to follow in May 2026.
- A standardized provincial communication pathway has been identified to ensure consistency. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) will communicate to the District, the District will ensure schools within their region are advised and then Schools will inform families.
- The program will be evaluated regularly to ensure provider compliance, student participation and anonymity will also be tracked. Program success measures include access to food, reduced absenteeism, and stakeholder feedback through surveys. Commitment to continuous improvement and district-wide support following the launch.
- Vice-Chairperson Serena Bradford, expressed concern that two of the six schools who did not have a bid, were in Sub-district 5 (Harvey/McAdam) and inquired about solutions for these schools. Elyse confirmed that of this moment, solutions for five of six schools have been found, and work continues to ensure all six schools meet the September 8th, 2026, launch date.
- Councillor Rodriguez Gallagher inquired how and when newly registered students at ASD-W schools will be included and/or informed of the program. Elyse stated that families and students will be informed of the lunch program during the registration process.
- Vice-Chairperson, Bradford questioned if there would be an administrative burden at the school level. Mariah indicated school administration will be placing orders for those students who do not have access to internet at home, and the burden on school staff is expected to be minimal.
- Vice-Chairperson Bradford inquired if data will be gathered to measure the success of the program. Elyse noted that providers will be required to use online ordering; this means that they will have access to data such as how many students are utilizing the program and how many students require a full subsidy. Community Engagement plans to send out surveys to families, providers, and schools to collect data and get general feedback.
- Councillor Eden requested confirmation that the Backpack Program and the Lunch Bag Program will continue in conjunction with the provincial lunch program. Mariah indicated that both programs would continue.
- Councillor Eden inquired about the plan to address student food sensitivities and/or food allergies. Elyse acknowledged that food sensitivities and allergies are an important issue by it will not be the main focus of the lunch program in its first year. Two meal options are provided daily that at least one can accommodate most of a school's prominent dietary restrictions. For example, the vegetarian meal might also accommodate a halal and celiac diet.

- **New Business:**
- **DEC Elections**
 - Chairperson Carr reminded councillors that the deadline to submit DEC Election nominations is April 10, 2026, at 2:00pm.
- **Excellence in Education Awards**
 - Chairperson Carr announced that on March 27, 2026, he submitted three ASD-W nominees to the Minister of Education for consideration for the Minister's Excellence in Education Award. Once the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development makes the formal announcement, the awarded recipients will be announced at a DEC public meeting.
- **DEC Student Councillor**
 - Chairperson Carr noted that applications to become a Student DEC Member is open and the deadline to apply is Friday, April 24, 2026.
- **Letter from Minister Claire Johnson – David McTimoney**
 - Superintendent McTimoney updated Council on the March 27, 2026, letter received from Minister Claire Johnson at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) in response to correspondence dated December 22, 2025, from Thomas Geburt and subsequent meeting held on January 19, 2026.
 - The letter stated the Garden Creek/Kingsclear Study omission from the 2026-2027 Stable Departmental Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) list was not an oversight; the study was funded in a previous year, but no follow-up project request was submitted in May 2025. Once the study is completed, the DEC may submit a clearly scoped project (expected May 2026) for inclusion on the SDIP.
 - All district projects are evaluated equitably using the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) tool based on standardized criteria (enrolment, projections, building age, maintenance, and growth). Projects are ranked and categorized; only those with elevated space deficiencies qualify as Tier 1.
 - Devon Middle School improved its SDIP ranking (from 18th to 11th), indicating progress, but is not Tier 1.
 - DEC priority lists are carefully considered and influenced overall project scores and rankings. SDIP projects remain on the list until funded and advanced as others are approved.
 - After project approval, the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DTI) leads site identification and acquisition. Site selection can be time-consuming due to land availability, site constraints, or expropriation, which may cause delays.
 - EECD has implemented advance meetings with DEC and stakeholders prior to public announcements.
 - Early Childhood Development (ECD) spaces will no longer integrate within main school buildings; separate ECD facilities will be sure to improve cost efficiency and construction timelines.
 - The district will continue to have authority to set catchment areas; but boundary changes must not result in underutilized existing school infrastructure.
 - Saint Mary's School Addition concerns – the project scope has received approval with classroom capacity increased by the equivalent of two full classrooms (expansion will use four half-size classrooms with movable partitions.) Significant future growth could trigger consideration of new infrastructure.
 - Fredericton Southeast K-8 School – approved capacity increased from 450 to 550 students which will leave room for future growth and current growth projections do not justify a larger facility at this time, however, EECD has committed to reassessing if future development accelerates.
 - EECD values the District Education Council's advocacy and emphasized continued collaboration to support students and communities effectively.
- **Public Comments:**
 - DEC Chairperson Carr asked the public if they had any questions, comments, or concerns.
 - Thomas Geburt approached the podium and greeted council. Mr. Geburt stated that the Southeast Fredericton (SEF) K-8 school project was originally submitted as a lower-priority proposal for future consideration at the request of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), which was tied to anticipated development in the Doak Road area. Mr. Geburt questioned the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) evaluation process, noting that DEC priorities carry limited weight, and pointed to Council's top priority for several years; Devon Middle School as an example, of how critical projects continue to be delayed. Mr. Geburt continued stating he was a member of the SEF K-8 Planning Committee, concerns about the school's proposed

size were raised from the outset, with district catchment analysis initially indicating an enrolment closer to 585 students, and the committee implored school infrastructure planning to consider broader, interconnected pressures across the Greater Fredericton/Oromocto area.


- Mr. Geburt further expressed concern with how the Education Specifications were finalized, noting the Planning Committee did not meet to discuss the final draft and that most members raised concerns about the proposed size. They argued the planned capacity of 550 students is insufficient given projected housing growth, anticipated increases in military personnel, and the need for flexibility to support diverse learners. Drawing on past experiences, the speaker warned that under-building leads to the loss of specialized learning spaces and long-term overcrowding that can take a decade to correct.
- Mr. Geburt urged the Council to take a second look at this matter and rather than support the proposed Education Specification document with a proposed design enrolment of 550, that Council advise the Minister that the target enrolment for this new K-8 school be increased to at least 650 through the addition of the appropriate number of general classrooms for each grade level to better serve future student needs.
- **Closing Comments:** Chairperson Carr announced that Lily O'Neil, the Secretary for the Council of Student Leaders is one of the 2026 Loran Scholarship Award winners. Chairperson Carr offered appreciation to those who attended this evening.
- **Date of Next Public Meeting:** Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Fredericton Education Centre 20 Knowledge Park Drive, Fredericton, NB E3C 2B5
- **Meeting Adjournment:**
 - Chairperson Carr adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.



Wallace Carr, Chairperson

APRIL 24/26

Date



Kendra Hatheway, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent & DEC

April 24/26

Date