

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
ANGLOPHONE SCHOOL DISTRICT-NORTH**

**MINUTES  
August 28, 2023  
Office of the Superintendent**

Present: Joe Petersen, Chair  
Sheila Rogers, Vice-Chair  
Gilbert Cyr  
Andy Flanagan  
Carmel Hambrook  
Nancy McBain  
Paul Mourant  
Dean Mutch, Superintendent  
Alexis McAllister, Executive Assistant

	<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>
<b>A.</b>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p>Mr. Joe Petersen, Chair, called the District Education Council meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.</p> <p>Mr. Petersen acknowledged that the land on which the District Education Council was meeting is located on traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory. This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, which the Mi'kmaq peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but, in fact, recognized Mi'kmaq title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations</p>
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the agenda. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>C.</b>	<p><b>PRESENTATION: Josh Nowlan, Director of Finance and Administration- 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>Mr. Nowlan presented the proposed 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Plan to the District Education Council Members. The plan is a list of the top 20 structural improvements and repairs identified in our buildings. These projects will be carried out by priority and do not include improvements/repairs to roofs and HVAC systems.</p> <p>Mr. Nowlan requested that the Council approve some flexibility for staff to be able to manage the projects as tenders close and trust that they will be</p>

	<p>prioritized and carried out as best possible by the Finance and Administration Department.</p> <p>Following the presentation, <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Sheila Rogers to approve the 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Plan and to give staff the flexibility to prioritize projects as expenditures come through. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>D.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Paul Mourant and seconded by Andy Flanagan to approve the June 19, 2023, meeting minutes. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>E.</b>	<p><b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p>No business arising from the minutes.</p>
<b>F.</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>(a) Letter from Hon. Bill Hogan, re: Bill 46, dated July 7, 2023</b></p> <p>Following discussion, <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Nancy McBain to move to file the letter. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p><b>(b) Letter from Rev. Albertine LeBlanc, re: Resignation, dated August 11, 2023</b></p> <p>Following discussion, Council members agreed to accept Rev. Albertine LeBlanc's resignation from the District Education Council. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Sheila Rogers and seconded by Carmel Hambrook. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p> <p>To fill the vacancy left by Rev. Albertine LeBlanc's resignation, Council members agreed to make a motion for the Chairperson to find a replacement. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Sheila Rogers. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>G.</b>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>(a) Report from Kelly Lamrock, Child and Youth Advocate, re: Review of the Changes to Policy 713</b></p> <p>All Council members received and reviewed Mr. Lamrock's report. The District Education Council of Anglophone School District- North would like to table a decision until more information can be obtained from stakeholders. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Andy Flanagan. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>

<p><b>H.</b></p>	<p><b>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Petersen reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In July, Mr. Petersen attended a round table discussion with Liberal Leader Susan Holt and Francine Landry, Vice-Chair, Sheila Rogers, also attended virtually, several members of the Council of DEC Chairs, representatives from the Francophone sector, as well as other stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Bill 46.</li> <li>• Mr. Petersen had been following the results of steering committee findings, as controversy continues to exist the revisions made to Policy 713 and the Child and Youth Advocate's Report.</li> <li>• The Assistant Deputy Minister, Dr. Bastin will be in contact with Mr. Petersen to discuss the organization of the District Education Council's Symposium, tentatively scheduled for October 2023.</li> </ul>
<p><b>J.</b></p>	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Mr. Mutch's comments were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrollment numbers are up, but we will not see more concrete numbers until the September meeting.</li> <li>• Staffing will be completed by the end of the current week. We have also hired a Director of First Nations Education. EECD has funded an additional 20 FTEs. We have hired 10 embedded Leads and 10 academic support teachers, for grades K-5, these teachers will focus on numeracy and literacy and will work along side classroom teachers.</li> </ul> <p>The position of Director of Communications is now part of our Plan of Establishment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The demand for Educational Assistants remains a major pressure point in our schools.</li> <li>• Tanya Quigley, HRO was our Starfish Award Recipient, nominated by Kim Brennan.</li> <li>• Our District Improvement Plan is entering year 2. Our focus is on Mental Fitness, Learning and Engagement. The increased FTE and Get Fit program are two examples of prioritizing this.</li> <li>• The district is focusing a student attendance. ASD-N student absenteeism rates are staggering post pandemic:</li> </ul>

	<p>-K-5 39.5% of students had missed greater than 10% (almost 20 days) of the year  -6-8 – 44%  -9-12 – 47.1%</p> <p>Regulation 302 – Attendance K-12 has been updated to help curb this increased absenteeism, as well as a detailed plan has been rolled out with Administrators to provide some guidance on enforcement of the regulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The district is also launching a campaign to improve absenteeism.</li> </ul>
<b>K.</b>	<p><b>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Sheila Roger's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She attended the round table discussion in July, for the discussion on Bill 46.</li> <li>• Attended a weeklong, international conference in Ottawa on deaf/blind. There were many attendees talking about their education and their issues with being deaf/blind. She said it was an amazing conference to take part in.</li> </ul> <p>Gilbert Cyr's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is excited about the new focus on absenteeism.</li> <li>• Encouraged by the new staffing.</li> <li>• Continuing to work with Listuguj First Nation with schooling and staffing.</li> </ul> <p>Andy Flanagan's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new business to report, but he is happy to be back after summer.</li> </ul> <p>Paul Mourant's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rexton Elementary School received a brand-new paved parking lot and bus loading zone.</li> <li>• Portables are being installed at Bonar Law Memorial School.</li> </ul> <p>Carmel Hambrook's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She sent out a message to principals in her sub-districts to welcome them back after the summer.</li> <li>• Sent a message to the Assessment and Curriculum committee to see what information she is allowed to discuss with the Council members. Next meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>L.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at L. E. Reinsborough School.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by Alexis McAllister*

Alexis McAllister  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/  
District Education Council