

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES
December 18, 2023
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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

Regrets: Andy Flanagan

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Petersen called the meeting of the District Education Council to order at 5:36 p.m. This was a virtual meeting that was live-streamed to the public. Mr. Petersen began the meeting by acknowledging 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 the 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.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Nancy McBain that the agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION Mr. Matthew Sweezey, Director of First Nation Education Annual First Nations Education Report</p> <p>Mr. Sweezey presented the Annual First Nations Education Report to the council members. The report highlighted the various functions, programs, and goals of the ASD-N First Nations Education Team. The report included but was not limited to: Professional Learning, Elders in Schools, Flag Raising Enhancement Agreements, Mi'kmaq Language, and multiple cultural activities and experiences for students.</p>

	<p>The Elders in schools' program has really expanded in the past year. There were 113 visits to schools in our district.</p> <p>The Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag has been raised at six schools in our district: -Millerton School -Max Aitken Academy -James M. Hill Memorial High School -Dalhousie Regional High School -Tabusintac Community School -Gretna Green School</p> <p>More and more blanket exercises and Mawi'omis/Pow Wows are becoming part of student activities in our schools. These cultural activities and functions are great learning experiences for all our students.</p> <p>The First Nations Education Team has also created a Facebook page dedicated to keeping followers informed about the activities and programs within the schools.</p> <p>After the presentation, Mr. Sweezey answered a few questions from the council members. Mr. Petersen thanked Mr. Sweezey for his informative presentation.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Gilbert Cyr that the minutes of the November 20, 2023, meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>No New Business arising from minutes.</p>
H.	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>Policy Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) GP 1,2,3,4,5,7 and GP- 9 – Meeting Review Form (ii) C/SR 2 – Meeting Review Form (iii) E-3– Meeting Review Form (iv) EL-11, EL-12 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Paul Maurant and seconded by Sheila Rogers that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
I.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>A letter was received from the Honorable Minister Hogan's office approving the appointment of Mr. Ed Gilchrist as the representative for Subdistrict 6. This letter has been reviewed by all council members and Mr. Gilchrist has accepted the appointment.</p>

J.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Discussion regarding the status of the Campbellton K-8 school.</p> <p>Mr. Cyr voiced his concern about the size of school when the build was approved (based on 2018 enrollment figures) and how the current population has experienced growth, meaning the size of the plans for the new school will be too small. Mr. Cyr is requesting the council and Mr. Mutch bring the concern to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to see if changes can be made to accommodate the growing community.</p> <p>Mr. Cyr requested approval from the DEC to approach Campbellton City Council with this information and suggest that an annex be added to the existing building plans before the building contract is sent out for tender.</p> <p>Mr. Mutch suggested Mr. Cyr and our Director of Communications, Ms. Meredith Caissie, work together to come up with a plan to communicate information about the increasing student population and how it will affect this new K-8 school.</p>
K.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Petersen wanted to welcome our new council member, Mr. Ed Gilchrist. • Mr. Petersen attended the Minister's Forum in Fredericton. Numerous interesting topics were covered. Mr. Petersen was pleased to hear that Bill 46 would not be revisited. During the forum, it was also announced that a new DEC manager will be hired (after two years without one), Mr. Roland Collette a retired educator has been given a one-year contract. Mr. Petersen met with Mr. Collette and Ms. Lisa Lacenaire to discuss what is expected of this role, training, etc. Planning will begin for a symposium to be held in May 2024. The Minister closed the meeting on a somber note- letters would be going out the various districts (francophone and anglophone) to comply with the revised Policy 713 or be disbanded. To date ASD-N has not received a letter. • Mr. Petersen attended the PSSC meeting at Dalhousie Regional High School. • Mr. Petersen wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!
L.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mutch announced the following Starfish Award recipients: <u>Student Starfish Award Recipients</u> Graydon Julien, Student, BHS/Bathurst Learning Center Sophia Robichaud, Student, Tabusintac Community School Kori-Lynn Hall, Student, DRHS Brooke Knowles, Student, SMS

Staff Starfish Award Recipients

Emily Comeau- Teacher, KSES

N.J. Adair, Teacher, Gretna Green School

Haley Tozer, Teacher, Gretna Green School

Michele Leblanc, Cafeteria Manager, Gretna Green School

Christy Comeau, Teacher, PHES

Jeremie Bourgeois, Technology Support Specialist, Bathurst Ed. Center

Joanne Jones, Educational Assistant, Dalhousie Learning Center

Keitha Gallant, Educational Assistant, Bonar Law Memorial School

Laura Kenny, Teacher, SMS

- Mr. Mutch provided a budget update from the Director of Finance, who has forecasted a breakeven budget based on current figures.
- Bathurst High School has a student who will be participating in an exchange program for one year in Germany.
- Tabusintac School had a capital budget of \$300,000 in renovations due to the increase in student enrollments.
- Mr. Mutch wanted to let the council know the district will be rebranding. A company has been hired to develop a new logo, website, etc.
- Mr. Mutch is working with unions to increase the School Administrative Assistant hours. More information to follow at the next DEC meeting.
- On November 21st, Deputy Minister Ryan Donaghy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Dr. Tiffany Bastin, and Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services, Robert Penny, visited ASD-N. They visited Max Aitken Academy and James M. Hill Memorial High School. They ended the day with a visit to district office and a meeting with the Senior Admin. Team.
- Mr. Mutch recently travelled to Sisler High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with representatives from NBCC. Intentions are to develop an animation program for high school students that will coincide with NBCC's animation diploma.
- With the new teachers collective agreement, K-2 students will be attending school all day like the other grades starting in September 2024. This could cause significant changes in bussing and boundaries. Plans are to review this in more detail at the district level in January.

M. DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTSSheila Rogers

- Ms. Rogers attended the Ministers Forum on November 14th, with Mr. Petersen and Mr. Mutch.
- On December 11, the Inclusion Steering Committee met in Fredericton. The recommendations for building a better education system were reviewed. There was a student presentation from Saint John High School that corresponded with the Provincial survey. This student obtained responses from 461 students. Her findings included the need to improve the kindness factor at school, ways to help improve student mental health, and create more safe spaces for students to discuss issues confidentially.
- Ms. Rogers attended the PSSC meeting for Terry Fox Elementary School. This is their second year as a Positive Intervention Supports School. They are continuing to get all staff on board with treating all students equally in regards to behavior. The school has also received approximately \$15,000 in innovation grants.
- Ms. Rogers met a new member of the Inclusion Steering Committee, Ariane Melara. She is also part of the New Brunswick Multicultural Council. Ms. Melara would like to attend one of our DEC meetings to discuss the work that she does.

Paul Mourant

- Bonar Law Memorial School is experiencing staffing issues due to illness-the school was closed for one full day as a result.

Nancy McBain

- Ms. McBain visited Miramichi Valley High School, where she met with Principal Wood and First Nations Liaison, Ms. Ann O'Neill-MacDonald. The school population is approximately 600, including 125 First Nations students. Ms. McBain was pleased with the meeting and felt Ms. O'Neill-MacDonald was enthusiastic and passionate about her position. Ms. McBain would like to visit one school each month to see the programs in place and gains being made with First Nations students.

Carmel Hambrook

- Attended the PSSC meeting at Miramichi Valley High School. Students are involved in Chathi.com. This is for students in grades 6-12. Exams are coming up in January. The school is talking about paperless report cards. Funds (\$65,000) have been raised towards the purchase of a new bus for extra circular activities. Attendance at the school has improved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hambrook missed the most recent Curriculum and Assessment Meeting because she has not yet received her letter of approval to maintain her position on the committee. • Ms. Hambrook attended the Tabusintac PSSC meeting, she met the new members. The new PSSC chair is Partick Comeau. The new Principal, Mr. Brent McLaughlin, seems enthusiastic, he is working on a new student handbook. The holiday concert for k-5 students will be held on December 19th. The SIP year 3 was to increase French comprehension, speaking French inside and outside of class is encourage to help reach this target. There is be a Culture Showcase and Carnival in the Spring. The received the news about the funds to upgrade the school to accommodate growing enrollment numbers. The next PSSC meeting will be in March. • Max Aitken Academy PSSC meeting postponed. • Gretna Green School PSSC meeting will be held in January. <p><u>Ed Gilchrist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gilchrist thanked the council for the warm welcome. • The Blackville School PSSC meeting was postponed due to weather. Other schools are scheduled for January meetings. <p><u>Gilbert Cyr</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cyr continues to attend all PSSC meetings are they are scheduled. • Mr. Cyr continues to lobby on behalf of the community for the building of the new K-8 school.
N.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held virtually on January 22, 2024.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. on a motion by Joe Petersen.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Alexis McAllister

Alexis McAllister
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/DEC