

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

**MINUTES
January 21, 2025
Virtual- Microsoft Teams**

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

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Joe Petersen, Chair, called the District Education Council meeting to order at 5:34 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.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Carmel Hambrook and seconded by Paul Mourant to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Heidi Ryder, Principal, James M. Hill Memorial High School</p> <p>Ms. Ryder joined the meeting to discuss James M. Hill Memorial High School.</p> <p>The high school officially opened in May 1973. Currently, the school has approximately 650 students, 54 teachers (including three administrators), two guidance counsellors, five ESS teachers, 22 educational assistants, 10 custodians, two administrative assistants, one librarian, and one behaviour</p>

intervention mentor. The school also has two teachers dedicated to the local NB Youth Correctional facility.

The school recently completed a three-year plan targeting behaviours and derogatory language. It was a problem identified in student and staff surveys, post pandemic. This campaign was implemented through positive measures, as much as possible, and did prove successful.

The new school improvement plan is centered on leadership, teacher efficacy and alignment of data, after realizing that as a collective, staff were not great at understanding generated data and statistics. Ms. Ryder said the goal is to help staff better understand data results and to help build outcomes and improved methods for working together as a team.

The other piece of the improvement plan are PLCs. The pilot will begin this coming semester and is focused to help fill gaps in grade 9 math and grade 9 English.

The third piece is to revise the school's vision and mission statements.

Ms. Ryder spoke to the obvious strengths of the school. She is proud of the students and school environment. The staff and school are also striving for continued improvement and leading change.

While the school has easily identified their strengths, they have also identified pressure points that they can focus on improving moving forward:

- growing educational support services
- French immersion retention
- growing educational assistant needs
- classroom space
- succession planning and retirements

The school has a thriving extra-curricular sports program. Students brought home three provincial banners for boys and girls soccer, and field hockey in 2024.

Ms. Ryder spoke to some recent student highlights. The school's Girls 4 Girls mentor program where grade 12 female students visit the middle school to help middle school girls navigate the transition to high school, but also self-image, and friendships.

In November, a group of students were recognized for the Remembrance Day video they created and submitted for a national competition. These students travelled to Ottawa for the national ceremony.

The school's recent Student Showcase had 300 members of the public attend to review student's projects.

	<p>After wrapping up, Ms. Ryder answered a few questions from the members. Mr. Petersen thanked Ms. Ryder for her excellent presentation.</p>
D.	<p>PRESENTATION: Kim Cripps, Director of Planning and Improvements – Provincial Assessment Results</p> <p>Ms. Cripps joined the meeting to discuss the results from the 2023-2024 Provincial Assessments (these results are accessible to the public). The focus of the presentation was to share how ASD-N students performed in comparison to the province. In 11 of the 15 assessments ASD-N students out-performed the overall provincial results. The overall percentages still indicate room for improvement in all categories of reading -English, reading- French, science, and numeracy.</p> <p>After presenting, Ms. Cripps discussed the results with members to answer any of their questions. Mr. Petersen thanked Ms. Cripps for her time and expertise.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Ed Gilchrist to approve the November 18, 2024 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>No business from the previous minutes.</p>
F.	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>Policy Monitoring</p> <p>(i) GP 1,2,3,4,5,7 – Meeting Review Form</p> <p>(ii) EL 1 – Meeting Review Form</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Andy Flanagan and seconded by Gilbert Cyr to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>No correspondence.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) PSSC Appreciation Dinner 2025</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Ed Gilchrist to continue with local appreciation dinners for our Parent School Support Committees, within the parameters for spending that align with the budget. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

<p>I.</p>	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Petersen attended a steering committee meeting on November 26th, 2024, in Fredericton. All Superintendents were in attendance. A variety of topics were discussed, including absenteeism, which appears to have returned to pre-Covid levels, and the steps remain in place to help improve numbers. Also discussed, the role of educational assistants. The results of the recent educational assistant survey will be released in March 2025.</p> <p>Mr. Petersen attended a meeting with Lisa Lacenaire of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, regarding the new draft of Policy 713.</p> <p>On December 3rd, 2024, Mr. Petersen attended the PSSC meeting at Dalhousie Regional High School.</p> <p>Scheduled for January 29th, 2025, Mr. Petersen plans to attend the Minister's Forum in Fredericton.</p> <p>The District Education Councils' Symposium is scheduled for May 30, 31 and June 1st. The province is requesting six to eight PSSC members from each school district attend to provide input.</p>
<p>J.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Mr. Mutch shared the most recent award recipients:</p> <p><u>Student Starfish Award:</u> -Ella Carrier, student, Bathurst High School</p> <p><u>Staff Starfish Award:</u> -Maria Bustin- Educational Assistant, Miramichi Valley High School -Lisa Anderson- Teacher, Dalhousie Regional High School -Alicja Merifield- EAL Tutor, Bathurst High School</p> <p><u>Superintendent's Merit Award:</u> -Barb McFarlane - Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator -Brody Knockwood -Student at Bonar Law Memorial School</p> <p>Mr. Mutch shared that the district is changing how student releases from Francophone schools to our schools are processed. This change was needed as we are unable to accept transfers without initial review for space and resources at schools with high enrollment numbers.</p> <p>The district has created a new position within the Maintenance Department. We are seeking a painter for the many painting needs waiting to be completed</p>

	<p>across our schools. The idea is also expected to offset what we currently pay to hire 3rd party contractors to fulfil this work.</p> <p>Mr. Mutch updated the members on the implementation of a couple special projects; developing a new teacher on-boarding resource and the implementation of four Long-term Recommendation projects (Strengthening French Language Learning, Encourage Movement, Leveraging Technology, and Middle School Learners).</p> <p>The new district website is up and running, there is continued work taking place on individual school websites.</p> <p>The district is working to develop a policy regarding succession planning that will look like the District Education Council's Executive Limitation - 5 (EL-5). This will also be done for each school.</p> <p>Mr. Mutch has scheduled a professional learning event for senior staff on "Strength Development Inventory". It is designed to improve communication, collaboration, inclusivity, all aspects on interpersonal interactions.</p> <p>Lastly, the district is investing in EAL training for teachers. There is a growing need to provide EAL services to our student population.</p>
K.	<p>DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS</p> <p>Gilbert Cyr's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cyr attended one PSSC meeting on January 20th and two other meetings are scheduled for next week. • Mr. Cyr expressed his continued concern of the bussing of students between Campbellton and Listuguj. Delays remain in the approval process. • Mr. Cyr said he had some items he'd like to discuss regarding the new Campbellton school build, but that he would reach out to the Superintendent at another time. <p>Sheila Rogers' report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Rogers attended the Council of DEC Chairs meeting December 4th, 2024. Preparations were made for the upcoming Minister's Forum and the Spring Symposium. On January 14th, 2025, the CDC meeting was held virtually to create an agenda for Minister's Forum and plans for the May Symposium. • Attended the PSSC for Terry Fox Elementary School, January 13th, 2025. The school improvement plan was discussed, they are in year one of three. The school is also in year two of the PBIS program, it is reported to be going well. • The PSSC meeting for Bathurst High School has been postponed due to exam week.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Rogers will be attending the PSSC meeting for Janeville Elementary School on Monday, January 24th, 2025. • Wednesday, January 29th, 2025, Ms. Rogers plans to attend the Minister's Forum in Fredericton. • Ms. Rogers has an upcoming Inclusion Steering Committee meeting in Fredericton at the end of February. <p>Carmel Hambrook's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hambrook reported that the PSSC for Max Aitken Academy was postponed, a new date was not rescheduled. • Ms. Hambrook was not able to attend the Curriculum and Assessment Committee meeting in November, 2024. She has not received the minutes from the meeting. <p>Ed Gilchrist's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gilchrist attended the PSSC meeting at Blackville School last week, the school improvement plan was discussed. • Millerton School's PSSC meeting is scheduled for next week, Mr. Gilchrist will be attending. <p>Nancy McBain's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McBain expressed concern about her work schedule being quite busy, which she felt was preventing her from fulfilling her role on the District Education Council, giving her thought to resigning her position on the council. However, after chatting with Mr. Petersen, Ms. McBain will remain with the council for the time being. Ms. McBain had no other news to report. <p>Paul Mourant's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mourant attended the Rexton Elementary School PSSC meeting, where the main concern is space within the school, they are making do for now, but a solution to this problem is needed. • Bonar Law Memorial School is experiencing the same issue, space within the school needs to increase to help with high enrollment numbers. <p>Andy Flanagan's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Flanagan has nothing to report, aside from an upcoming PSSC meeting at one of his schools next week.
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will be held virtually on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6.59 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Alexis McAllister

Alexis McAllister
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/
District Education Council