

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

**MINUTES
September 22, 2025
Sugarloaf Senior High School**

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

Regrets: Andy Flanagan

AGENDA ITEMS	
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mr. Joe Petersen, Chair, called the District Education Council meeting to order at 5:32 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 Sheila Rogers and seconded by Gilbert Cyr to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
C.	<p>PRESENTATION: Jonathan Watts, Principal Sugarloaf Senior High School</p> <p>Mr. Watts gave a short presentation about Sugarloaf Senior High School. The high school currently has 358 students; this includes 120 First Nations students and 31 international students.</p>

	<p>Daily operations include 77.5 staff members. This includes 29 full-time educators (FTE), 3 administrators, 1 guidance, and 3 EST-resource. Support staff includes: 20 Educational Assistants, 1 Behaviour Intervention Mentor, 1 SIW, 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Librarian, 5.5 custodians, 17 Enhancement Staff, and 2 Positive Learning Environments.</p> <p>The school boasts a range of sports teams and clubs: golf, boys' and girls' soccer, basketball and volleyball, astronomy club, chess club, music club, renaissance, kindness club, robotics club and film club.</p> <p>There is an active student council, with co-presidents sharing duties this year. There is also a grad executive.</p> <p>School beautification is an ongoing project with murals, a unity wall, and mural depicting the Grand Council flag raising at the entrance of the school.</p> <p>The school is proud of their technology equipment and programs, which include a Glowforge, Cricut, large format Canon printer, audio recording studio, Gemini Veo- AI movie production tool, and heavy equipment simulators.</p> <p>There is a modernized music program: Mental Health Through Music. Students can write music in their own languages and access the recording studio software. The school also has a student-led rock band that plays at prom and other social events</p> <p>Sugarloaf Senior High School is an active PBIS, phase 2 school.</p> <p>Mr. Watts finished his presentation with a tour of the school. Mr. Petersen thanked Mr. Watts for everything he and his staff do for Sugarloaf Senior High School students.</p>
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Ed Gilchrist and seconded by Paul Mourant to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2025 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
E.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>None.</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-2, EL-5, EL-8 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Mr. Cyr inquired about receiving a response to the letter sent to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding the size of the new school build in Campbellton. The letter requested that the increased population be considered to avoid capacity issues. Mr. Cyr wanted it to be stated on record that we have not received a response to date.</p>
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Naming of New (K-8) School, Campbellton, Policy 409</p> <p>Mr. Mutch informed council members that the name of the new k-8 school in Campbellton falls under Policy 409. A committee must be formed for consultations among the community to help decide on the name for the new school. The council unanimously selected Mr. Cyr to be the DEC representative for the committee. Director of Schools, Mr. Craig Caldwell, was also selected and will be asked to participate on the committee as the school district official. Local schools (LBS and CMS) will be notified to select community representatives as well.</p> <p>(b) Potential School Reconfiguration</p> <p>A brief discussion was held regarding the future of two ASD-N schools, one with a dwindling population, potentially triggering Policy 409, and the other which is currently over capacity. There is a solution that Mr. Mutch would like to explore with the council's approval.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Sheila Rogers for the district to explore the proposed school's reconfiguration for potential implementation by September 2026. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>(c) Major Capital Projects Update</p> <p>The Major Capitol Projects list was sent out to council members before the meeting. The facilities team updated the group on the allocation of \$2.1 million for capital improvements across the district, prioritizing 26 out of 45 identified projects, including washroom upgrades and other essential repairs for ASD-N schools.</p>
I.	<p>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Petersen attended the Atlantic Rim Collaboration Summit in Wales, United Kingdom from September 11th to the 13th. Mr. Petersen shared that the Wales education system is similar the one here in New

	<p>Brunswick. Welsh is the second language they teach in schools, as Welsh would be their indigenous language.</p> <p>In October of 2026 the Summit is coming to New Brunswick and Mr. Petersen is excited to have the DEC involved in the gathering and celebrations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council of DEC Chairs has recently scheduled its meetings for the coming year.
J.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment numbers as of September 8th – 8152 students • Mr. Mutch wanted to share that opening day went well the last week of August. Teachers were appreciative of the Professional Learning sessions offered on opening day. • The Provincial breakfast program has rolled out as of September 12th. Schools ordered their food online. The first delivery will be this week. • The District Improvement Plan will be presented at the October DEC meeting by Ms. Krista Cabel, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. • The Pilot school calendar – Senior Admin. spent a day with the 10 schools developing a comprehensive plan. All schools have submitted their 10-day plan to Mr. Mutch. • The McKenna Institute invited Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Mr. Jamie O’Toole and Mr. Mutch to Montreal to the HUMANES AI Conference to spend a day with world class experts in the field of education and AI. • Mr. Mutch is dedicating September 23rd and 24th to doing school visits in Dalhousie, Campbellton and Bathurst areas.
K.	<p>DEC MEMBERS’ COMMENTS</p> <p>Carmel Hambrook’s report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hambrook has a couple of dates scheduled for the Curriculum and Assessment Committee but is waiting for official confirmation. • There is no news regarding the start date for the Tabusintac Community School expansion. • Ms. Hambrook had an inquiry from a concerned parent about a student being bullied at school, she consulted with the other members for some information.

	<p>Mr. Cyr's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cyr expressed his excitement and appreciation about the new school build and the upcoming tour tomorrow morning. • No PSSC meetings have been scheduled at his schools to date. <p>Sheila Roger's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Rogers attended the Council of DEC Chairs online meeting on September 8th. • On September 18th, Ms. Rogers attended the Inclusion Steering Committee meeting in Fredericton to review the Terms of Reference, round table discussion and presentations on policies and new guidelines for partial days and seclusion. • The Premier's Council meeting is scheduled to meet virtually on September 26th and 27th. • Ms. Rogers also reached out to her school Principals asking them to keep her in the loop about upcoming PSSC meetings. <p>Nancy McBain's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 14th, Ms. McBain attended the gathering of international students at the Heritage Garden with Debbie Walls and Sally Frees. There were over 100 students in attendance who participated in archery, scavenger hunts, medicine bags, and other activities. Ms. Frees expressed that she would like to do more Mi'kmaq teachings and Ms. McBain told her she would gladly offer her community again to further explore her culture and traditions. Ms. McBain said it was a pleasure to meet Ms. Walls and she hopes they can get together again. <p>Paul Mourant's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mourant stated that no PSSC meetings are scheduled yet. • Mr. Mourant asked Mr. Mutch if Bonar Law Memorial School had moved up on the list of upgrades/new school builds. • Mr. Mourant wanted it stated on record that he sent two letters to local representative Mr. Pat Finnigan, regarding concerns about BLMS, he has not received a response. <p>Ed Gilchrist's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gilchrist is waiting to hear from schools regarding PSSC meetings, and had nothing more to report.
L.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Tuesday, October 20, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at The Office of the Superintendent.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Alexis McAllister

Alexis McAllister
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/
District Education Council