

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

**MINUTES
September 21, 2026
Dalhousie Education Center**

Present: Joe Petersen, Chair
Sheila Rogers, Vice-Chair
Gilbert Cyr
Carmel Hambrook
Ed Gilchrist
Corey Chantler
Christie Caplin
Dean Mutch, Superintendent
Alexis McAllister, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Paul Maurant

	AGENDA ITEMS
A.	CALL TO ORDER Mr. Joe Petersen, Chair, called the District Education Council meeting to order at 5:23 p.m. 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.
B.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA IT WAS MOVED BY Ed Gilchrist and seconded by Gilbert Cyr to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.
C.	PRESENTATION: Krista Cabel, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Annual Report to the DEC 2025-2026 Ms. Cabel introduced herself and immediately dove into her presentation opening with the mission and vision statements of the Curriculum Team. The team creates collaborative professional learning opportunities for educators, support the development of relevant and meaningful learning communities and provide curricular resources and support. Their vision is to empower and

	inspire educators to engage in professional learning to support the achievement of all learners. The team's values are collaboration, commitment to learner success, equity, and engagement. Ms. Cabel showed council members that all educators have access to the district Curriculum Team SharePoint site, which is an access point for shared resources and up to date information. She continued with the holistic areas of focus, which were: -PLC Cohorts (Cohort 2 complete – 11 schools completed training) -Leaders in Learning Academy (42 teachers trained as of June 2026) -District Benchmark Assessments cont. (grades 5-8) -Report Card Alignment (27 schools completed by June 2026) - ASD-N High School Exam Guidelines -AI PLC -AST Initiative – 25 in 2025-2026 school year Ms. Cabel provided updates on the areas of literacy, numeracy, French literacy, science and social studies, physical education and wellness, technology, the arts and English as an additional language. The Curriculum Team is really targeting areas based on learner performance data (assessments results), but then used data collected from their own teams' resources to determine progress. "Data driven" was a term used to describe how the team is zeroing in on areas that need immediate triaging to help educators build skills, that will in turn help learners. Data showed that 410 requests were made for literacy supports, which lead to school visits. 31 beginning teachers were supported by district-based literacy leads and Subject Area Coordinator. And 319 ASD-N and First Nation Community teachers accessed PL with the curricular team. Mr. Chantler asked that if teachers are meeting to collaborate in an effort to help correct deficiencies in younger grades, is that taking away their focus from their own classrooms? Ms. Cabel explained that teachers still have their preparation time for their regular scheduled classes and that using PLC to collaborate on problem areas in the school, should not take away from their teaching assignment. Mr. Chantler went on to say that parents do not understand what the PILOT days are and were never offered a clear explanation. Mr. Cyr offered a simplified explanation that teachers need time to build skills to help them meet the needs of their students. PLCs are about correcting problems now to help students transition and then ultimately prepare for post-secondary when the time comes. Mr. Chantler and Mr. Cyr agreed that the purpose of PLC and PILOT days should be better communicated to parents.
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For numeracy, a new K-5 math curriculum was implemented in September 2025. EECD has come up with a new resource to help with this curriculum. Also new for 2026-2027- the district hired two new numeracy leads. The intention is to focus on improving math automaticity (the ability to recall math facts) to build foundational skills. The curriculum team had 276 teacher support interactions and 30 math teachers involved in district based common assessment development. French Literacy – a new grade 9 curriculum has been implemented, teachers have received PL on its components. Three schools received funding to deliver 20–25-day targeted interventions and two schools offered 15-day interventions. Through an ongoing partnership with France, four French language assistants were supporting our schools. “Building Bridges for a Successful French Immersion Program is an initiative in place to support middle and high schools in the Bathurst/Dalhousie/Campbellton areas. Because we saw students leave the FI program in grade 9, we launched Franco Nord to encourage grade 8 students to continue with FI. Miramichi, Sunny Corner, Rexton and Blackville students come together for a day of workshops and experiential learning opportunities in French. For science there were 220+ documented teacher/classroom science supports and the development of a district wide middle school science PLC. New for 2026-2027 development of district wide PLC for specialty areas focusing on high schools. Technology education focused on a new digital literacy framework and AI achievement indicators, including understanding the appropriate and ethical use of AI. Highlights from the Arts- ASD-N Elementary Drama Fest- featuring four elementary school productions, four artists in school grants, over \$15,000 in funding from the Provincial Creative Arts Infrastructure Initiative, teachers from SSHS, BLMS, DRHS and BHS received high level Visual Arts PL training, four song writing camps took place, and seven bands participated in a Battle of the Bands hosted at BHS. English as Another Language (EAL) data showed a steady increase in the number of multilingual students within ASD-N. The demand for support in our schools greatly increased from 2021 to 2025. Currently there are 811 multilingual language learners in ASD-N, 600 (of 74%) of these learners required language support. 12 FTEs were committed to supporting MLLs in 2025-2026. For 2026-2027 this increased by 1.5 FTE, an additional EAL Lead for Bathurst/Dalhousie/Campbellton. All high schools with significant MLL population have a Newcomer SPR, PL for their Leadership Teams and a focus on increasing EAL class offerings in high schools. Mr. Petersen thanked Ms. Cabel for her informative presentation and her time, as well as the hard work from her and her team.
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D.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mr. Chantler requests the August 19th, 2026, minutes be revised for his comments to include more detail. This will be completed by Ms. McAllister and then sent back to council members. IT WAS MOVED BY Sheila Rogers and seconded by Carmel Hambrook to approve the minutes of the August 19th, 2026, meeting. MOTION CARRIED.
E.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES None.
F.	CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS Policy Monitoring (i) GP 1,2,3,4,5,7 – Meeting Review Form (ii) EL-2, EL-5, EL-8 – In Compliance – See Attached Briefing Notes IT WAS MOVED BY Ed Gilchrist and seconded by Gilbert Cyr to approve the Consent Agenda Items. MOTION CARRIED.
G.	CORRESPONDENCE Honorable Minister Claire Johnson approved the appointment of Mr. Ed Gilchrist as the DEC representative for Subdistrict 6. Ms. McAllister swore Mr. Gilchrist in with a solemn affidavit, dated September 21, 2026. IT WAS MOVED BY Gilbert Cyr and seconded by Sheila Rogers to accept this correspondence and move to file. MOTION CARRIED.
H.	NEW BUSINESS (a) Regulation 309 – Use of Cell Phones and Personal Devices The new policy, handed down from EECD, partially bans the use of cell phones during class time from September to the end of January 2027 with some exceptions (medical), with the intention of a full ban, with exceptions, to be implemented in February 2027. Mr. Chantler asked why a full ban was not implemented immediately beginning in September? Mr. Mutch explained that the idea was to have some time for students and parents to make accommodation and get used to the idea of their child not having instant access to their phones throughout the day. Mr. Cyr chimed in that the changes to the policy were poorly publicized and maybe EECD should have put more thought into communication. Mr. Chantler added that a ban on social media in school, and not necessarily the devices would make more sense.

	(b) Restigouche River School Update Mr. Cyr asked Mr. Mutch to provide an update on the potential completion date for the new Restigouche River School. Mr. Mutch said that as an incomplete project it is still under the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and there has been no communication of a completion date. Mr. Cyr intends to contact the department for some answers.
I.	CHAIR'S COMMENTS • Mr. Petersen attended the Council of DEC Chairs meeting, online. The meeting focused on the planning for the training and onboarding sessions held on September 19th. The next meeting scheduled for the CDC will be in-person on October 13th. • The training held on September 19th went well with enthusiastic participation from many. The Minister attended for three hours. • On September 18th, Vice-Chair, Ms. Rogers, and Mr. Petersen held a private meeting with the Minister where they delivered the data collected to support the inclusion of all ASD-N schools in the PILOT Project, they also discussed the improvement of the inclusive system. There was no time to discuss the review of the current remuneration that DEC members receive, Mr. Petersen will send this request to the Minister via email. • On September 23rd, Mr. Petersen will be attending the meeting for provincial education partners council, online. Then on the September 24th, he will be attending another online meeting in preparation for the ARC Summit, hosted in Fredericton, NB, on October 14th.
J.	SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS • Mr. Mutch reported that Opening Days for teaching staff went well. Teachers appreciate the professional learning sessions offered. • The provincial lunch program launched as of September 8th; schools order their food online. • PILOT Schools will spend September 22nd developing a comprehensive year plan. All schools have submitted their 10-day plan to Mr. Mutch. • The district has hired six retired teachers to help with the School Mentor Program. • Regarding Policy 321, ASD-N is tightening up the entrance of students from the francophone districts, in the past we were lenient on the guidelines, but we noticed an increase in newcomers who are fluent in French wanting to enroll in English, we now assess these on a case-by-case basis. • Enriched Academy is a new program for all staff that offers financial education.

	• Get Fit is back again for full-time staff wishing to purchase gym memberships, the district will cost share.
K.	DEC MEMBERS' COMMENTS Christie Caplin report: • Ms. Caplin attended the September 19th training sessions, as the incoming First Nations Representative to the ASD-N DEC. She said she enjoyed the training sessions and found it interesting in relation the oversight of policy as it correlates to her duties as councillor in Listuguj. • Ms. Caplin asked about some educational contacts in ASD-N, and who could she reach out to for more information regarding First Nations education in the district. Ms. McAllister will send her the contact information for Mr. Sweezey, Director of First Nations Education. Corey Chantler's report: • Mr. Chantler is going to reach out to his schools and plans to attend the scheduled PSSC meetings. He will have more to report back next month. Sheila Roger's report: • Ms. Rogers is interested in having an informed presenter come and speak with the DEC about AI in schools. Mr. Mutch will check on this. • Ms. Rogers attended the online CDC meeting on September 3rd in preparation for the DEC onboarding and training sessions. • Ms. Rogers contacted her subdistrict principals to welcome them back and to ask them to let her know when their PSSC meetings are scheduled. • Ms. Rogers and Mr. Petersen met briefly with Minister Johnson of EECD, before the DEC sessions on September 18th. They were able to discuss a few issues: the PILOT program, inclusion and classroom composition, ARC conference and private school. • On September 18th -19th, Ms. Rogers attended the DEC sessions in Moncton. She said it was great to see the experienced members and the new ones together. For the older members, it was a great refresher. Ed Gilchrist's report: • Mr. Gilchrist reached out to his subdistrict principals, waiting to hear about PSSC meeting schedules. • September 30th, Millerton School is having an open house, Mr. Gilchrist plans on attending to recruit some PSSC member for the school. • Mr. Gilchrist attended the DEC sessions and felt they were informative. Carmel Hambrook's report: • Ms. Hambrook reached out to her principals to welcome them back and to keep her updated on scheduled PSSC meetings.

	• Ms. Hambrook attended a meeting to discuss the expansion of Tabusintac Community School. The expected completion date is January 2028. • Tabusintac Community School hosted an open house, only three parents attended. They discussed how they can engage more parents to show an interest in the school and PSSC. Sports at the school are improving, 11 students recently attended a track and field event. The school would like to have an artist in residence. TCS currently has 89 students, and 2 new teaching staff members. • Ms. Hambrook is waiting for more PSSC dates. • She enjoyed the DEC Sessions. Gilbert Cyr's report: • Mr. Cyr has been fielding concerns from local parents regarding the new school • Mr. Cyr has no scheduled PSSC meetings yet. • He will continue to lobby and spoke with the minister on the PILOT program roll-out, and his concerns going forward, he wants to see it in the Dalhousie-Campbellton area. It is a disservice to the staff and students in his subdistrict to be missing out on this opportunity. • Mr. Cyr is watching for the completion date for the Restigouche River School building.
L.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the District Education Council will take place on Monday, October 19th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., at The Bathurst Education Center. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Alexis McAllister

Alexis McAllister
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/
District Education Council