



MINUTES

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING, OCTOBER 19, 2021

The business meeting of the District Education Council, Anglophone East School District, was held virtually and live streamed on October 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

DOYLE, HARRY, CHAIR
HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN, VICE-CHAIR
FOLKINS, MICHELLE
MACDONALD, DUANE
MORTON, ALEX
OWEN, MARK
PLETZ, RACHEL
VAUTOUR, DOMINIC
FRASER, BERGEN

WILSON, PAMELA, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT
KINGSTON, DENISE, COUNCIL SECRETARY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harry Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Moved by Duane MacDonald, seconded by Mark Owen to approve the Agenda.

Motion Carried.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 MINUTES

The Chair called for the approved of the Minutes of September 21, 2021.

Moved by Dominic Vautour, seconded by Michelle Folkins to approve the Minutes of September 21, 2021.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

MONITORING REPORT 4.2 BUDGET/FINANCIAL CONDITION

Aubrey Kirkpatrick, Director of Finance and Administration gave a Budget Update for the period ended September 30, 2021. He also gave a Power Point presentation outlining the Budget Process and the Expenditure Plan for the present budget year. The major expenditure programs were broken down and explained. There was discussion surrounding the lack of fundings for Educational Assistants, budgeting forecasts, and funding norms.

Moved by Dominic Vautour, seconded by Duane MacDonald to accept and receive Monitoring Report 4.2 Budget/Financial Condition.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

BARGAR PRESENTATION

Aubrey Kirkpatrick, Director of Finance and Administration gave a presentation on the Baragar software system utilized by the District in facilities planning. He ran through some scenarios to demonstrate how the program works in determining possible remedies to overcrowding such as boundary changes, additions or new buildings based on different scenarios using the projected data on population assumptions and enrolment assumptions .

The meeting then adjourned for a break.

MEMBER UPDATES

- **Mark Owen** noted that his area is the north end which includes Magnetic Hill School, Evergreen Park School, Maplehurst Middle School, and Northrop Frye School. Many parents have expressed concerns with the operational days, the amount of at school time the children are missing and the challenge of finding suitable childcare on short notice. He attended the Magnetic Hill School PSSC meeting on September 29th; they are pleased that the flashing traffic sign will remain and that the lift has been fixed. The PSSC is presently focused on the School Improvement Planning and Mission and values statements. He advised that Northrop Frye School and Evergreen Park School are having challenges recruiting PSSC members.

Northrop Frye School has one nomination and one member returning and they are going to try to recruit more. They did come up with Mission and vision statements: *Mission Statement – “be kind, work hard and dream big” and Vision Statement – “Creating a diverse community of empathetic and resilient lifelong learners.”* Evergreen Park School had a planning meeting on October 12th to come up with a strategy to recruit PSSC members. They would like to recruit a more diverse PSSC group to better reflect the demographics of the school. Maplehurst Middle School has seven returning PSSC members. Their first meeting is October 19th, and they will be nominating five new members. The Principal expressed that the loss of extra covid cleaners is missed this year as the cleaning of touch surfaces between classes is falling to the Principal and Staff.

- **Dominic Vautour** gave a power point presentation highlighting information from each of the PSSC meeting he attended. Bessborough School has had a good start to the school year despite challenges due to Covid 19. He shared pictures of the community garden and pollination sanctuary. This year 32 varieties of vegetables and fruits were grown, and the school had a sweat equity program in which garden volunteers could harvest produce in exchange for their work. Also, any extra produce was donated to the Humanity Project. The school also held a socially distanced Terry Fox run raising \$1100.00 which far exceeded the goal of \$500. 00. Shediac Cape School held their annual spin a thon fundraiser. The funds raised count so far has reached \$16,000.00. Last year the funds were used to purchase iPads, a class set of ukuleles, art supplies, gym equipment, outdoor equipment, online subscriptions and books for in class libraries.
- **Rachel Pletz** advised that she has not attended any PSSC’s meetings yet but has been in touch with some schools and meetings will be held soon.
- **Bergen Fraser** has nothing to report at this time but is getting in contact with everybody.
- **Michelle Folkins** has been in touch with all her schools. She has heard back from some; they are starting to get their PSSC’s going. Tantramar Regional High School held their first meeting last week. The Principal went over the new Covid year and how it’s a completely different year than last year. There are more layers to teaching and it is much more stressful due to school days missed. There are concerns around how much time is being missed by the students due to operational days and how they are going to connect and catch up once they are back in the classroom. Progress reports are being done this week so there should be some data available soon. There are also issues with some of the supply teachers not having access to some of the necessary internet platforms.
- **Alex Morton** noted that his schools’ PSSCs have their first meetings coming up later this week and next week. He advised that the Mayor of Salisbury would like to discuss the location of the new Salisbury Elementary School which is on the Major Capital Request list. He invited the Mayor to make a presentation to the DEC at a future meeting and will provide him with the presentation request form.

MINUTES OCTOBER 19, 2021, DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING Page 4

- **Ian Hebblethwaite** advised that Queen Elizabeth School has had their first PSSC meeting but he was unable to attend. He noted that Harrison Trimble High School will be having their first meeting next week.
- **Duane MacDonald** has reached out to his six schools and he attended the virtual Hillcrest School PSSC meeting last night. Concerns were raised about the influx of people residing on school property and being on school grounds when the students are outside playing. Drug paraphernalia is being left on the school property and the school has had to stop their “forest school.” The Principal and others are spending time cleaning up things left behind. He suggested that the PSSC write a letter of recommendation of possible solutions to the DEC. The other PSSC’s meetings are coming up. He has been speaking with Principals and some of them feel their schools are under-utilized and perhaps this could be something that could be looked at when considering overcrowding in some schools.
- **Harry Doyle** touched base with Riverside Albert Consolidated School, they are in good shape. He attended a zoom meeting with Caledonia Regional High School. He noted that Riverview East School is still overcrowded, all facilities are being used for classroom, including specialty classrooms and a portion of the cafeteria. Options will need to be explored to alleviate the problem. He also attended a Zoom meeting with Edith Cavell PSSC. The school has many new students this year. Some are from out of Province while others are from other countries.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Pamela Wilson, Acting Superintendent updated the DEC on Student Enrolment and noted that after the September 30th data collection student enrollment is 16,766 which is up from 16,382 in June 2021. She advised that the District has confirmation from EECD of additional FTE based on the updated student enrolment. She explained the process involved when a positive Covid 19 case is reported in a school and explained the new rapid testing system. School Improvement Planning and District Improvement Planning were also reviewed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received by consent agenda.

- Letter from EECD regarding school name change for J.M.A. Armstrong/Salisbury Middle School
- Letter from ASD-E Anti-Racism Coalition Call for DEC member(s) to join the ASD-E Anti-Racism Coalition.
- Letter from Riverview East School PSSC re. overcrowding

MINUTES OCTOBER 19, 2021, DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING Page 5

Dominic Vautour made a motion to adjourn.

The next Regular Business Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

Original signed by Harry Doyle

Harry Doyle, Chair

Original signed by Denise Kingston

Denise Kingston, Secretary