



# Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

## MINUTES

### ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

**October 15, 2024 - 6:30 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

The business meeting of the District Education Council, Anglophone East School District, was held in person and live streamed on October 15, 2024, at 6:54 pm.

**PRESENT:**

DOYLE, HARRY, CHAIR

KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE

MACDONALD, DUANE

VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, VICE-CHAIR

FOLKINS, MICHELLE

CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN

OWEN, MARK

MORTON, ALEX

IAN HEBBLETHWAITE

OH, MATTHEW

MACLEAN, RANDOLPH J., SUPERINTENDENT & CEO

CHIASSON, JANIQUE, DISTRICT EDUCATION SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT/CEO

**ALSO PRESENT:**

STEPHANIE PATTERSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

AUBREY KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**REGRETS:**

JACQUI EADLE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES



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## 2. Land Acknowledgement

ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE UNCEDED, TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE MI'KMAQ PEOPLE. IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP, WE EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR THE HISTORY, CULTURE, RIGHTS AND TRADITIONS OF MI'KMAQ PEOPLE AND COMMIT TO RECONCILIATION THROUGH EDUCATION AND HONORING THOSE THAT WERE HERE BEFORE US.

The land acknowledgment was read by DEC member, Alex Morton.

## 3. Agenda Approval

***Moved by DEC member, Kristin Cavoukian, seconded by DEC member, Jolyne Knockwood, to approve the agenda as amended.***

***Motion carried***

- Agenda Item 9: No report will be presented in the absence of the Director of Human Resources.
- Agenda Item 10: The Q2 report will be deferred to November.

## 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No declaration of conflict of interest was presented.

## 5. Approval of the minutes from the meeting held:

5.1. September 17, 2024 – Regular Meeting

***Moved by DEC member, Dominic Vautour, seconded by DEC member, Mark Owen, to approve the minutes as amended.***

***Motion Carried***

## 6. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented or discussed.



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## 7. Business arising from the previous meeting.

Nothing added for this agenda item.

## 8. Superintendent/CEO's Report – Randolph J. MacLEAN

### 8.1. District Education Council Symposium

The Vice-Chair, Dominic Vautour, explained that the Symposium originally scheduled for November has been postponed to the last weekend in May. Traditionally, the DEC's hold two Minister's Forums each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Due to the recent elections, the fall Minister's Forum has been rescheduled to January. However, the November 30th date will still be held for the four Anglophone DEC's to discuss priorities and key focus areas to present at the next meeting with the Minister.

### 8.2. PSSC Handbook

The Vice-Chair explained that there has been a revision to the PSSC handbook; however, some issues have been identified. If anyone has feedback, please share it with Janique Chiasson, Executive Assistant, and we will compile all suggestions.

This invitation for feedback is also extended to PSSC members, who can share their input with either Janique Chiasson, Executive Assistant, Dominic Vautour, Vice-Chair, or Randolph MacLEAN, Superintendent & CEO.

### 8.3. Long term recommendations

The Superintendent & CEO shared that work is ongoing, with several working groups focused on multiple key topics, and the implications

Each group has a different timeline for completion, and once their findings are compiled, they will be presented at a future DEC meeting. At that time, DEC members will have an opportunity to provide feedback.

### 8.4. Provincial Principals conference

The Superintendent & CEO provided an update on last week's conference and expressed his gratitude to the Directors of Education for their support in organizing the event and coordinating the professional development sessions. Keynote speakers included



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Michael Fullan and Andy Hargreaves. The Superintendent & CEO led a workshop himself and shared insights from his personal experiences dealing with tragedy in the educational field.

The conference focused on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and spanned two days. The Superintendent & CEO extended thanks to the presenters and to the principals who took time from their busy schedules to attend and participate.

In response to a question from a member about whether Indigenous principals are invited to these sessions, the Superintendent & CEO will be looking into the matter and provide confirmation.

A member also inquired whether PBIS is specifically targeted at middle schools or applied system wide. The Superintendent & CEO clarified that it is not limited to middle schools.

## **8.5. Inclement weather plan**

The Superintendent & CEO shared that the provincial government has been involved in the process, discussing the report and a few recent changes made to it.

When schools close due to weather, teachers and staff are still expected to work, as it is considered a workday. Staff may work remotely or on-site, focusing not on direct teaching but on professional development. This provides valuable time for teachers to collaborate and for principals to work with their teams. However, in cases of full closures due to extreme weather, and when city buses are not operational, the day will be deemed a non-workday for all staff, with safety prioritized above service.

Vice-Chair Dominic Vautour openly expressed his support for this decision and its communication.

Administrative staff will need to prepare for snow days with a mix of real-time and site-based planning. These days will be structured as days of service, with flexibility to adapt to various needs.

And when necessary, schools' closures will be strategically planned.

## **8.6. PIECON 2024**

The Superintendent & CEO informed members that the Anglophone East School District will be hosting a Pride event at Riverview High School in late October. Details will be shared once the agenda is finalized.



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## 8.7. Student Leadership Conference

The Superintendent & CEO provided details on the upcoming Student Leadership Conference, set for October 24–26, which will bring together students from all high schools in the Anglophone East School District.

In addition, it was announced that students will participate in a new event in partnership with Université de Moncton, called French for the Future, which will host over 800 French immersion high school students. Finally, around 800 students are also expected to attend the Franco Vibes event on October 29 and 30.

## 8.8. District Artificial Intelligence work

The Superintendent & CEO continued the conversation by recalling the student DEC member from two years ago who presented on AI and its evolution and impact on education. Following a staff retirement, Randy restructured the portfolio to create a new role focused on Educational Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and Innovation. Jordan Smith now serves as the coordinator for this position and shared information on Armand Doucet's contributions to the Department of Education.

We are implementing seven different AI tools to support classroom learning. Jordan and her team are collaborating with schools across all grade levels, K–12, tailoring these tools to suit each grade's specific needs.

During the discussion, the Chair requested that Jordan provide the group with a demonstration. The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that Jordan would be available to give a demonstration after Christmas.

## 8.9. Enrollment update

As of late last week, we are at 20 238 students enrolled in our system. From October 1 to October 7, the enrollment went up 55 students. In provided names of some of the schools who were affected.

The Superintendent & CEO provided information at to students from certain affected catchment who are being bussed to Riverview in order to alleviate pressures off the system.

Last spring and again in the fall, the Superintendent & CEO met with the Moncton High PSSC and confirmed that no portables would be added to Moncton High.

The schools welcoming students are doing an excellent job, ensuring they feel supported through initiatives that address not only space needs but also strategic resource deployment.



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An announcement regarding the planned builds will be made later in the fall.

## 8.10. Information items:

- 8.10.1. Indigenous Education report
- 8.10.2. Anti-racism report
- 8.10.3. Professional Support and Growth report
- 8.10.4. Enrolment Management & Newcomer Services

These items are accepted and approved in a consent agenda format.

## 9. Director of Human Resources' Report – Jacqui Eadle

### 9.1. Department updates

#### 9.1.1. FTE (All occupations)

Jacqui is not present and will differ to November.

## 10. Director of Finance and Administration's Report – Aubrey Kirkpatrick

### 10.1. Department updates

#### 10.1.1. Q2 Report

The Director of Finance and Administration shared that, in the coming weeks, we should receive additional FTEs and resources to support our enrollment growth.

The Accounting team has been doing an excellent job managing the BMO account and ensuring all transactions are cleared within 30 days.

Community coordinators, busy planning the youth mental health summit, November 13, at the Wabanaki School.

The Director of Finance and Administration provided a brief update on the Health and Safety portfolio, noting that Melissa Michaud joined as the Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator in July. The in-house first aid training follows a two-pronged approach, offering sessions for both intermediate and entry-level certification, complemented by Saint John Ambulance. The Director also highlighted the responsibilities associated with meeting these safety requirements.



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## 10.1.2. Transportation

The Director of Finance and Administration shared updates on the upcoming driver training course, scheduled for next week, with 12 attendees. This is the third session since summer, and interested individuals were invited to reach out.

Jolyne Knockwood, member of the DEC, inquired about course requirements, which Aubrey clarified. With in-house training provided by staff, the program has achieved a high success rate of 90-95%. Additionally, the annual refresher course, required for drivers, will be held on November 1, 2024.

Regarding bus capacity, the overflow bus is currently transporting 40 students, and additional buses will be added soon.

When asked if all teachers need first aid certification, it was noted that this is required on a shift basis; at least one staff member must be certified.

This year, eight new buses have been added to the fleet, bringing the total number of electric buses to 12 out of 108. The electric buses have performed well, equipped with auxiliary heaters for cold weather. A ride on one of the electric buses will be scheduled to observe their performance firsthand.

## 10.1.3. Facilities

The Director of Finance and Administration provided an update on modular needs for the upcoming year, outlining the process used with EECD to assess these requirements. This year, 26 modular units were initiated, with additional units expected to come online soon.

## 11. Director of communications' Report – Stephanie Patterson

### 11.1. Updates

The Director of Communications provided an update on the following: After the September meeting, the DEC held a press conference at Legends, and identified the media outlets that were involved.

On October 1, a statement was released by a DEC member, which has been posted on the DEC's official page.



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In November, a photographer will be visiting the schools to take photos, including headshots for the DEC and senior administration team.

Next weekend, the communications team will be attending the CASE conference in Calgary.

The Chair expressed gratitude to Stephanie for her efforts in managing the media.

## 12. Members' Updates

Matthew Oh, Harrison Trimble High School – Student DEC member addressed the members for the first time and gave his member's report.

Dominic Vautour – Shediac Cape school PSSC, also talked about their Spine-a-Thon and the fundraiser raised \$20 000. They dressed Mrs. Loyd in a hot dog and sauced the boss. Next month, more PSSC.

Michelle Folkins – Attended meet the teacher night, in Tantramar, and find it's a wonderful way to meet with teachers and get to know them. The member also added that she attended the press conference.

Duane MacDonald – Duane MacDonald began his update by sharing details from his visits to Frank L. Bowser and Riverview Middle School. He noted that these schools previously had a behavioral intervention position, but it was reassigned, as the individual filling the role was a teacher. He expressed disappointment in seeing this support reduced.

Prior to the meeting, several parents from Frank L. Bowser reached out to Duane with concerns. They noted that while classes were initially organized, changes were made shortly after the school year began, leading to questions about the adjustment process. The Superintendent & CEO explained the reasoning and procedures behind these decisions, emphasizing that enrollment numbers are not finalized until students are physically present.

The new administrator at RMS plans to bring his experience to the new school, aiming to implement the program and work toward Apple accreditation. The recent repainting of the school has also made a significant positive impact on the environment.





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There was discussion about Riverview Middle School's interest in adding a second door to enhance usability of the area. The school is also looking to partner with Patricia Park and plans to engage with the town to install a barrier that would enable students to cross safely at specific times of day. Both Frank L. Bowser and Riverview Middle School would benefit from this initiative, and the PSSCs from both schools will collaborate on this effort.

Member Jolyne Knockwood raised the issue of one of the schools, possibly West Riverview or Frank L. Bowser, offering hot lunches with the option to pay through School Cash Online. Duane MacDonald asked Aubrey if this sounded familiar and noted that he would revisit the option. The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that the Director of Finance and Administration would look into the matter.

Harry Doyle - At Riverside-Albert, recent issues included teacher shortage and a bus problem, though the transportation issue has now been resolved. Riverview East School remains a strong community school; although the layout has changed, the PSSC meeting had an excellent turnout. While some concerns were raised, which seemed to unsettle the administrator, overall, it was a productive meeting.

The Chair made several visits to Hillsborough, including one for the event celebrating the naming of the ball field and the honorary dedication made in Harry's name. Additionally, Hillsborough celebrated its 50th high school anniversary. The Superintendent & CEO spoke highly of the event, the organizing committee's efforts, and provided an overview of Harry's accomplishments.

Alex Morton – The discussion included the positive developments at the Havelock school and its PSSC, where all is going well. At Salisbury Elementary, there is strong interest, though some apprehension remains about the school's future. In Petitcodiac, parents have expressed concerns regarding support for teachers, especially new teachers, and the challenges of burnout.

Jolyne Knockwood – Mentioned that she is not familiar with some of the schools, the member expressed appreciation for the list that was shared and looks forward to being invited to visit other schools.

Kristin Cavoukian – Although she hasn't attended a PSSC meeting yet, the member will be attending her first one tomorrow. She plans to coordinate with the PSSCs to avoid scheduling conflicts. She is pleased to see strong engagement in her catchment schools, with many people signing up to be on the PSSCs and is excited to collaborate with them as they recognize the important work being done within the system. Public involvement is truly energizing our efforts.



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Mark Owen – The statement expressed gratitude to all teachers and administrators for their dedication to implementing the district improvement plan and for the critical work being done. It also acknowledged the contributions of everyone, including janitors, whose efforts often go unseen but are essential to students and improving the entire system. The member attended a few

The member attended PSSC meetings at Maplehurst and Northrop Frye, noting particularly high engagement at Maplehurst, where participation reached capacity. They have yet to attend meetings at Evergreen and Magnetic Hill. Additionally, they participated in a press conference and "Meet the Teacher" night, which further highlighted the strong community involvement.

In November, Randy will be bringing it back to talk about the naming, ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Wabanaki gym.

### 13. End of meeting

*8:33 pm, motion to adjourn made by Dominic Vautour.*

*Meeting adjourned*

*Original signed by Harry Doyle*

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*Harry Doyle, Chair*

*Original signed by Janique Chiasson*

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*Janique Chiasson, Secretary to the District Education Council*