



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

MINUTES

ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

March 18, 2025 - 6:30 PM

TEAMS link on the ASD-E District Education Council Facebook page

1. Call to Order

The business meeting of the District Education Council, Anglophone East School District, was held in person and on TEAMS, March 18, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT:

DOYLE, HARRY, CHAIR
KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE
MACDONALD, DUANE
VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, VICE-CHAIR
CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN
OH, MATTHEW
HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN
OWEN, MARK
MACLEAN, RANDOLPH J., SUPERINTENDENT & CEO
CHIASSEON, JANIQUE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT & CEO,
DISTRICT EDUCATION SECRETARY

REGRETS:

MORTON, ALEX
FOLKINS, MICHELLE

ALSO PRESENT:

STEPHANIE PATTERSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
JACQUI EADLE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
AUBREY KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

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 Ian Hebblethwaite.

3. Agenda Approval

Moved by DEC member, Ian Hebblethwaite, seconded by DEC member, Duane MacDonald, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

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. February 18, 2025

Moved by DEC member, Kristin Cavoukian, seconded by DEC member, Duane MacDonald, to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion Carried



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

6. Correspondence

No correspondence at this present time.

7. Business arising from the previous meeting.

No business to report.

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

8.1. Minister's Excellence in Education Awards

The Superintendent & CEO shared that each school submitted at least one nominee for the Minister's Excellence in Education Awards, resulting in over 40 submissions reviewed by the selection committee. From these, three names will be forwarded to the Minister for formal recognition. To honour all nominees, a gala celebration will be held in September. The Superintendent & CEO expressed his sincere appreciation to the principals, staff, students, and committee members for their dedication and contributions throughout the process.

8.2. Enrollment update

Current enrollment stands at 20,381, a slight and expected decrease due to mid-year graduations. Projections indicate enrollment will surpass 21,000 students by September. Kindergarten registration is ongoing, and staffing preparations are well underway. In addition, several administrative positions are currently in the hiring phase.

8.3. Update - New Salisbury Elementary, Shediak K-12, and Dieppe K-12

On March 6, a meeting was held with the department to initiate the design process for Salisbury Elementary School. The approved plan is for a K-5 school, but there was a request to consider expanding the scope to include grades K-8. However, in order to pursue this change, the initial K-5 application would need to be withdrawn. The Superintendent & CEO, acting on behalf of the District Education Council (DEC) and its members, declined this option, as it would result in significant delays that could ultimately hinder the project.



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

For Shediac K–12, we are currently awaiting an announcement regarding the land.

As for Dieppe, we are still waiting for the finalization of the land location, but it has not been confirmed yet.

8.4. ELEVATE: Empowering Black Youth, Black History Month

The Superintendent & CEO shared that the event, held just before March break, was organized by students from Harrison Trimble and the student support team.

It was attended by 70 Black-identifying students (Grades 10–11) from various high schools across the district.

The program featured panel discussions with Black community leaders, with notable attendance from the Minister and the Mayor.

Staff involved included Donna Godfrey (Director of Education), Nathaniel Fells (Anti-Racism Lead), and Tracy Landry (Indigenous and Anti-Racism Coordinator).

The Superintendent & CEO highlighted Julie Stewart, the first Black administrator in Anglophone East, and shared that her inspiring story was featured on social media.

8.5. Budget consultation meeting

The Superintendent & CEO mentioned that before March Break, Dominic Vautour (Vice-Chair), and himself attended a budget consultation with the Minister and Finance representatives to discuss the district's needs and priorities.

The Vice-Chair added that they participated in a roundtable with all four Anglophone districts, discussing key priorities, potential efficiencies, and cost-saving measures to better direct funds to students. Despite tough decisions, the budget seems like a positive step for education.

The Superintendent & CEO also added that the Minister was engaged and attentive, and while the budget process is challenging, the government has prioritized education. The education budget grew by over \$200 million, with increases for educational assistants, academic support teachers, recruitment, retention, and enrollment growth. He also thanked the Premier for her efforts in navigating the economic challenges.



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

8.6. Canadian Supreme Court 150 Visit

The Superintendent & CEO explained that in late spring last year, we were contacted about an event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada. The justices visited Moncton as part of a national tour, and we were invited to bring students to hear from them. Over 340 students attended the event, which was held at the Capitol Theatre. Students from several high schools had the opportunity to listen to the Chief Justice and other justices discuss the judicial system, followed by a Q&A session. The students' thoughtful questions impressed everyone, and the justices even extended their time to ensure all questions were answered.

This was a proud moment for our students, who engaged deeply in the conversation and showed great respect and curiosity. It was a day to celebrate the strength of our community and the dedication of our students and staff.

8.7. 2025-2026 School Calendar

The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that we have begun the consultation process for the 2025-2026 school year calendar. Principals and staff are working with their teams to gather feedback, focusing on the needs of the system, including professional development and staff collaboration. The process will involve consensus-building and should be completed by the end of March. The finalized calendar will then be sent to the Department of Education for further discussion.

8.8. 10 Year Education Plan

The development of a new 10-year education plan is underway, with consultations beginning for a new plan to replace the current one, which ends in 2026. We're seeking input from schools and staff on key indicators of success and how these can align with our district and school improvement plans. Feedback will be provided to the Department by April, and further discussions will help refine the plan moving forward.

We are also exploring whether a strategic plan with measurable short-term goals may be a more effective approach, but for now, the focus is on the 10-year plan.

8.9. High School Student Leaders meeting with Superintendent & CEO

Before the break, student DEC member and the Superintendent & CEO met, and he asked him to connect me with student government leaders from high schools. The Superintendent & CEO plans to be meeting with them twice a year, but also soon to discuss the 10-year Education Plan, instructional calendars, district improvement plans, and gather their feedback on how to improve the educational experience. This will be an ongoing initiative, and I thank the student DEC member for facilitating the connection.



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

8.10. Central Office Relocation

The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that the District Central Office will be moving to the former Rogers building at 100 Westmoreland in downtown Moncton, with relocation planned for January next year. This will also include services like Child Youth Services and Early Learning, currently located in schools. A new training center for 150 staff will be part of the design, and we'll be able to hold DEC meetings in a more accessible space for the public. I'll share the office design in the next meeting.

DEC member Ian Hebblethwaite inquired whether the space for the DEC meeting would accommodate not only DEC members and staff but also members of the public. The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that this is indeed part of the design plan, emphasizing that, as representatives of the people, they are committed to making the space accessible and inclusive for everyone.

8.11. Information items:

- 8.11.1.** Indigenous Education report
- 8.11.2.** Anti-racism report
- 8.11.3.** Professional Support and Growth report
- 8.11.4.** Enrolment Management & Newcomer Services
- 8.11.5.** Meeting with City of Moncton administration
- 8.11.6.** C21 CEO Leader to Learner Insights

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

9. Director of Human Resources' Report – Jacqui Eadle

9.1. Department updates

The Director of Human Resources provided an update on the current status of active supply teachers. She mentioned that the numbers shared were for January to date. The team had conducted over 123 interviews and successfully added 86 new supply teachers to the list, all of whom are actively working. Additionally, Jacqui noted that over 50 applicants are in the process of being interviewed for the next school year. This includes candidates who are either completing their certification or relocating to the area. Conditional offers had been extended to 25 individuals, in compliance with the teachers' collective agreement. This preparation is for the upcoming school year, indicating a forward-looking approach to staffing.



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

The Chair, Harry Doyle, acknowledged the information and expressed appreciation for the update, confirming that the situation pertains to both the current and future staffing needs.

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

10.1. Department updates

The Director of Finance and Administration provided an update on the district's budget, noting that only nine days remain in the fiscal year. The team is focused on closing the books and preparing the new budget. Aubrey also shared that the New Brunswick Big Crunch, an event coordinated by the community team, was successful, with over 23,000 apples and pears crunched across the district.

He reported that the district had logged 70,000 hours of after-school usage, including 16,000 events and 6,000 external user groups. Schools are used into the evening and on weekends. Additionally, a third bus will be added for the D App Overflow next week, and the seven extra buses previously discussed will arrive soon. Aubrey concluded by sharing the monthly occupational health and safety report, which tracks incidents to ensure a safe environment for staff and students.

The Chair, Harry Doyle, asked the Director of Finance and Administration about the monthly incident reports, to which he responded that incidents had slightly increased due to winter-related accidents, with a decline expected as the weather improved. He also highlighted ongoing efforts to address incidents involving educational assistants.

The DEC member, Mark Owen, inquired about the fiscal year transition in the new system, and the Director of Finance and Administration and The Superintendent & CEO explained that while still in progress, the system would be streamlined over the next few years.

The Chair, Harry Doyle, inquired about the status of the seven new buses, which are not electric. The Director of Finance and Administration confirmed they would be added to the system as soon as they arrive, with the Superintendent & CEO adding that the team is ready to deploy them immediately.

They discussed how the delay in bus operations isn't due to a lack of drivers, but rather because the buses haven't arrived yet. The Superintendent & CEO reassured that once the buses are here, they'll be ready to roll, as both the department and DTI are responsive.



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

The DEC member, Kristin Cavoukian, also asked about potential conflicts with provincial procurement policies regarding sourcing buses from outside Canada.

And following an additional question from DEC member, Ian Hebblethwaite, the Superintendent & CEO reassured that the buses are sourced through the provincial government, following their guidelines, and confirmed that school bus manufacturers are predominantly based in the U.S., as there aren't many options available in Canada

The Chair expressed appreciation for the progress and upcoming improvements with the buses.

11. Director of communications' Report – Stephanie Patterson

11.1. Updates

The Director of Communications spoke of the rebranding project, with the unveiling of a new logo at an upcoming leadership meeting. The project has been a year-long effort, and she shared the challenges she faced with the digital formatting, which involved incorporating a scannable QR code. The Director of Communications expressed excitement about finally seeing the project come to fruition.

the Superintendent & CEO praised the District Education Council for their open-mindedness regarding the logo and thanked the Director of Communications for her leadership in coordinating the rebranding.

Stephanie also spoke about her work with local media, highlighting the positive relationships they've built and their coverage of stories from the schools. The Chair commended her efforts in working with the media and emphasized the importance of those relationships for sharing positive news.

12. Members' Updates

Ian Hebblethwaite – Thanked everyone for their in-person reports. No PSSC meetings to report.

Matthew Oh – Mentioned that he toured the IDEA Centre with Gerard Reinders. He shared highlights from his recent meeting with the Superintendent and CEO and offered suggestions for potential ideas and topics. He also spoke about his involvement in the Minister's Education



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

Award, upcoming school trips, and preparations for the Dragon Boat event. With mid-terms this week, students are currently focused on studying.

Duane MacDonald – Shared that he visited several schools, including Riverview Middle School, where a community yard sale is scheduled for April 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — donations are welcome. West Riverview Traffic Concerns - Traffic and safety remain concerns at West Riverview School, with some parents driving the wrong way during drop-off. A simple fix like painted directional arrows could help, especially with planned spring paving.

According to the member and the information he gathered, late buses also contribute to the issue, pushing more parents to drive their kids. Ensuring more available drivers, especially during delays, could reduce congestion.

Dominic Vautour – There is no update to provide at this time.

Jolene Knowckwood – No member updates at this time. There is a PSSC meeting scheduled at Marshview.

Kristin Cavoukian – Since the last meeting, the DEC member has visited Lewisville and Wabanaki for PSSC meetings.

At Lewisville, their math and English SRP initiatives are showing positive results. They're using their newsletter to share strategies with parents to reinforce classroom learning, and the WIN Block system is helping students engage and connect. They're considering bringing in a district literacy lead to offer an evening class for parents.

However, overcrowding is a concern, particularly in the hallways, with current enrollment at 663 and a projected 698 for next year. The school was built for 400 students, and adding more portables would create outdoor space issues. This has raised safety concerns.

At Wabanaki, their open house on March 13th was a success with 1,000 visitors, student performances, and a cheer performance. The cafeteria is nearly ready, awaiting a new manager from Chartwells.

There are still issues with the drop-off zone, where cars are passing where they shouldn't. I suggested creating a video to show proper procedures. Wabanaki is raising \$500,000 for a new playground, with \$2,000 raised so far. Lastly, a reminder: Nutella contains nuts, so please avoid Nutella sandwiches as it's a nut-free school.



Anglophone East School District

A Better Future... Through Quality Education

Harry Doyle – The Chair shared that while there have been some challenges within our community, there has also been a great deal of positive feedback regarding the work of the DEC. A key change is the departure of the principal from Hillsborough, who will be transitioning to a classroom teacher. Her contribution has been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed.

The situation in the Fundy Albert region was more complex. There has been tension with the new MLA, who expressed dissatisfaction with Riverview East and made negative comments about our Superintendent & CEO. In response, the Chair defended our leadership.

As we consider the new calendar proposal, the Chair emphasized the importance of being open to new approaches. Without trying, we won't know if it will be successful.

On a personal note, the Chair was approached for a leadership role in the Albert region but ultimately declined due to family commitments. Despite some disagreements with the MLA, the Chair reiterated his commitment to defending our staff and schools.

Mark Owen – The DEC member shared that he attended several PSSC meetings, where they discussed the provincial test results. He also had the opportunity to learn about the new IB program at Harrison Trimble High School, which was impressive. Additionally, he was pleased with the high number of nominations for the Minister's Excellence in Education Award.

Since last October, things have felt more stable, and it seems like we're finally focusing on the work we're meant to do. The past couple of years had their challenges, with some meetings being tough, but recently, the atmosphere has shifted, and things are much more positive.

13. End of meeting

8:02 pm, motion to adjourn made by Ian Hebblethwaite.

Meeting adjourned

Original signed by Harry Doyle

Harry Doyle, Chair

Original signed by Janique Chiasson

Janique Chiasson, Secretary to the District Education Council