



# Anglophone East School District

1077 St. George Boulevard, Moncton, NB, E1E 4C9

## MINUTES

ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

**June 17, 2025 - 6:30 PM**

Livestreamed on the ASD-E District Education Council Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/asdedec>

### 1. Call to Order

The business meeting of the District Education Council, Anglophone East School District, was held in person and livestreamed, June 17, 2025, at 7:00pm.

#### **PRESENT:**

KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE

MACDONALD, DUANE

VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, VICE-CHAIR

CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN

HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN

OWEN, MARK

MORTON, ALEX

FOLKINS, MICHELLE

MACLEAN, RANDOLPH J., SUPERINTENDENT & CEO

CHIASSEON, JANIQUE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT & CEO,  
DISTRICT EDUCATION SECRETARY

#### **WITH REGRETS:**

DOYLE, HARRY, CHAIR

HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN

OH, MATTHEW

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

STEPHANIE PATTERSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

JACQUI EADLE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

AUBREY KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

*A Better Future Through Quality Education*



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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 Dominic Vautour.

### 3. Agenda Approval

***Moved by DEC member Michelle Folkins, and seconded by DEC member Kristin Cavoukian, to approve the amended agenda, with item 9.1 moved to follow item 9.12.***

***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 on:

**5.1.** May 20, 2025

***Moved by DEC member Michelle Folkins, and seconded by DEC member Jolyne Knockwood, that the minutes be approved as presented."***

***Motion Carried***



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### 6. Correspondence

As presented in the body of the electronic agenda.

### 7. Business arising from the previous meeting.

No business to report.

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

#### 8.1. Ed Spec Salisbury Elementary - ***Moved after 9.12***

Following the Superintendent & CEO's overview of various district initiatives, attention returned to the significant work completed to date on the educational specifications for the new K–5 school in Salisbury. Sincere appreciation was extended to all who contributed to the process.

The new *Salisbury Elementary School* is being designed to accommodate 450 students, with a maximum capacity of 622. This forward-thinking approach ensures that the school will open without the need for portables, avoiding the risk of underbuilding from the outset.

While the process faced some initial resistance, it ultimately evolved into a highly collaborative effort, grounded in data and persistent advocacy. The planning included input from district staff, school administrators, municipal partners, and community members. Given the school's rural setting, local voices advocated strongly for a design that embraces a more natural environment.

Key features of the new school will include:

- Modern, flexible learning spaces
- Accessible equipment rooms
- Two gymnasiums
- A full-service cafeteria
- Enhanced safety and custodial infrastructure

The specifications reflect a shared vision for a facility that supports student success, community values, and long-term growth.



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***Moved by DEC member Alex Norton, seconded by DEC member Michelle Folkins, that the District Education Council approve the educational specifications for the new K-5 school in Salisbury as presented.***

***Motion Carried***

### **8.2. Budget process**

The Superintendent & CEO addressed the recently issued letter and spoke about the ongoing budgetary shortfall. While the district had anticipated receiving \$18 million, the actual allocation was \$14 million, resulting in a significant funding gap.

It was emphasized that the Child and Youth Team positions are in addition to—not a replacement for—existing district-level staffing and were part of the conditional funding structure. The remaining funds will be distributed throughout the system to support instructional needs. Importantly, no additional FTEs will be created as a result of this allocation. The district will continue to move forward with a balanced budget.

For the 2025–2026 budget, a \$1 million cost reduction has already been implemented as part of a broader \$6.8 million reduction target. Recent negotiations led to an additional \$2.47 million in funding, along with a \$800,000 supplement, both effective from September 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. However, even with these additional resources, a \$4.4 million shortfall remains.

The supplementary funds are being directed primarily toward educational instructional budgets, ensuring that student learning remains the central focus.

### **8.3. Update - Shediac K-12 School**

The land for the new school has been purchased, and site preparation, including road clearing, is now complete. The Superintendent & CEO met with the PSSC Chair earlier today and confirmed that the target opening date for the school is September 2028. This remains the district's goal, and planning is actively moving forward.

It is important to note that the previously communicated date of January 2029 was an error in the provincial announcement; the correct and intended opening date is September 2028.



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### 8.4. Update - Dieppe K-12 School

Met with officials and confirmed that the land acquisition is still pending. All levels of government are actively advocating for the selected site to be located on Dieppe Boulevard.

### 8.5. Update - 2025-2026 School Calendar

The Superintendent & CEO provided an update regarding the proposed Alternative School Calendar, which has been developed over the past two years through ongoing communication and collaboration with schools and community partners. The objective has been to improve student and teacher learning, alleviate the burden of after-hours professional learning, and better support new educators—with one-third of current teaching staff having fewer than three years of experience.

To date, all 39 PSSCs have formally endorsed the proposed calendar, recognizing its potential to support educator growth, student outcomes, and family needs. The District Education Council previously provided its full support, and the proposal has the consent of all school and district staff across the system. Despite this, confirmation from the Department of Education to implement the calendar has not yet been received. The Superintendent expressed concern that the Francophone sector has already received approval, while the Anglophone sector remains without direction. He urged DEC members to consider advocating for a decision.

Kristin Cavoukian (DEC Member) expressed disappointment that approval has not yet been granted. She emphasized the need for clarity for parents, staff, and students, noting that while she was initially skeptical of the idea, there was virtually no pushback. All 39 PSSCs recognized the value of the additional professional learning and offered their full support. She stressed the importance of advocating for all students, not just a few.

Jolyne Knockwood (DEC Member), speaking from an Indigenous perspective, highlighted inequities in the process, stating that outcomes differ when starting points are not the same. She questioned why there is differing treatment between sectors when the goal is for everyone to be on the same page.

Michelle Folkins (DEC Member) emphasized that the approach should be “all or nothing.”



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Vice-Chair Dominic Vautour echoed this sentiment, noting that while some stakeholders were initially skeptical, support followed once data was presented and the process explained. He stressed that the change benefits the entire staff, not just teachers, and pointed out that similar practices are common in other professions. He further noted that the current situation creates inequity between the French and English systems.

Dominic also proposed that the Council draft a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a formal decision and opposing any pilot approach, citing concerns around inequity.

The Superintendent & CEO reinforced the issue of fairness and opportunity, noting that 42 % of students in the district are in French Immersion and the district shares its territory with the Francophone sector. Without equal approval, the Anglophone system risks being at a disadvantage in recruitment and service delivery, particularly for students and families.

Kristin Cavoukian (DEC Member) noted that she has not received any concerns from the public. She added that when questions were raised, parents were supportive once the rationale was explained, and that work has already been done to address potential impacts such as access to childcare. She further stated that the NBTA has endorsed this direction.

The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that only one anonymous concern had been received and that Human Resources has had no feedback from unions opposing the plan.

Kristin Cavoukian (DEC Member) then asked, "What exactly is the barrier?"

Vice-Chair Dominic Vautour responded publicly, asking, "Do parents want their children to receive less of an education than those in the French sector?"

Mark Owen (DEC Member) added that supporting teachers will have a ripple effect across the entire system.

The Superintendent & CEO concluded by providing an overview of staffing across various disciplines and the services provided to more than 21,000 students within the district.



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***Moved by Kristin Cavoukian, seconded by Michelle Folkins, that a letter be drafted and sent to the Minister of Education, formally requesting a decision on the Alternative School Calendar and reiterating the Council's position that a pilot project would not be equitable. All members were in favour.***

***Motion carried.***

### **8.6. District Improvement Plan Report**

The Superintendent & CEO provided an overview of the presented District Improvement Plan. Will eventually be asking the members to approve the \$244 million dollars is driven by this document.

Dominic Vautour, Vice-Chair, congratulated the Superintendent & CEO and his team, noting their data-driven approach, strong awareness of the District Improvement Plan, and the clear testament this represents to the work that has been accomplished.

### **8.7. Journey to Excellence – Summer Learning Week**

The Superintendent & CEO provided an update on the upcoming professional development event scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 25–27, 2025. A total of 527 staff members are registered to participate in this large-scale initiative.

This year's theme, "By Us, For Us," emphasizes a commitment to collaborative, relevant, and meaningful learning, developed by district educators and staff.

Compared to the previous year, participation increased significantly, with 132 workshops scheduled. Topics will include sessions for new teachers and principals, behavior mentorship, and corporate services.

Council members are invited to attend any part of the event. The program will begin on Wednesday with a Blanket Exercise, promoting reflection and cultural understanding. On Thursday evening, a family BBQ will be held, featuring a bouncy castle, snow cones, and additional family-friendly activities.

The Superintendent & CEO also noted that there are no caps on workshop participation. Any teachers or members interested in attending sessions are asked to contact



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Janique Chiasson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & CEO and DEC Secretary, who will facilitate their registration.

The event is expected to be a valuable and engaging few days focused on professional growth, connection, and celebration.

### **8.8. Wabanaki Grand Opening**

The Wabanaki School Grand Opening, held during the week of June 9, 2025, was a vibrant celebration of culture and community. The event featured four hours of performances, including drum groups, traditional dancers, and the participation of approximately 800 students. With the valued support of Elders, cultural support workers, and members of the Indigenous community, the celebration was a powerful reflection of tradition, pride, and collaboration. Sincere thanks were extended to all who contributed to making the event a memorable success.

### **8.9. School Improvement Plan meetings follow up**

All 39 schools in the district have now been visited, with each school receiving two visits annually, with one in the fall and one in the spring. These twice-yearly visits provide valuable opportunities to engage directly with school leadership teams, review progress, celebrate successes, identify areas for growth, and plan targeted actions. They are a vital component of both district and school improvement planning. Sincere thanks are extended to everyone involved in supporting and contributing to this important work.

### **8.10. Enrollment updates**

As of today, our total enrolment stands at 20,442 students, reflecting a net increase of 11 students since the last report on June 2. Enrolments across schools remain relatively stable, with fluctuations ranging from 1 to 4 students per school.

An additional table has been included to show current enrolment in the Alternative Pathways to Graduation program at Hillcrest. Please note that these students should be subtracted from their designated homeschool numbers in the primary table.

We also received an update from MAGMA: they have successfully secured federal support for pre-employment initiatives. Additionally, the Province has increased its immigration allocation by 1,500, of which 400 are asylum seekers.





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A high-level overview of individual schools indicates continued movement of students in and out, particularly in Southeastern New Brunswick, where the majority of new arrivals are settling. Certain schools, such as Edith Cavell, have seen a noticeable increase in enrolment. Projections suggest enrolment could approach 21,000 students by September 2025.

### **8.11. Dragon Boat**

#### **Greater Moncton Dragon Boat Festival**

**Presented by Ermen Plumbing and Heating**

**May 30–31, 2025**

#### **Final Update – 20th Anniversary Celebration**

Since 2006, Dragon Boat events have raised \$2.5 million, with \$273,000 raised in 2025. High schools contributed over \$192,000 this year for breast cancer support. Notable schools include Tantra Mariner and Riverview High School, with significant cumulative fundraising totals.

Special thanks to Minister Claire Johnson for taking time out of her day to attend, and to Norval McConnell for his continued support.

Next year's dates:

**Friday, May 29, 2026** – High School Festival

**Saturday, May 30, 2026** – Breast Cancer / Community / Corporate Festival

### **8.12. Recognition of Student DEC Member**

Matthew Oh, the District Education Council Student Representative, received a \$120,000 scholarship to Dalhousie University for engineering studies. His active involvement and advocacy for students across the district were acknowledged.

The Student DEC member will also be receiving a bursary from the DEC.



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### **8.13. Information items:**

**8.13.1.** Indigenous Education report

**8.13.2.** Anti-racism report

**8.13.3.** Professional Support and Growth report

**8.13.4.** 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. Staffing updates**

The director of human resources provided an update on recent work completed by the Human Resources team.

A shift in past practices related to CUPE 2745 was addressed, with the HR team successfully completing the transition process last week. This work will resume in the fall as needed.

In terms of teacher staffing, the team has made several realignments in response to budget adjustments and added FTEs. The process is well underway and progressing smoothly.

The HR team also completed the bumping and seniority process for nearly 600 CUPE staff, carefully managing the complexities associated with the seniority list. Staff adjustments resulted in the non-renewal of contracts for 70 C-contract teachers and 180 D-contract teachers, while B-contract teachers retained their positions.

The focus throughout has been on protecting staff where possible and ensuring fair, transparent processes during necessary reductions. Appreciation was expressed for the HR team's commitment and the professionalism shown by all staff involved.



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

#### **10.1. Finance**

##### **10.1.1. 2025-2026 Budget**

The Director of Finance and Administration presented a balanced operating budget of \$240 million for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, which was subsequently approved. This amount represents a \$14 million increase over last year's budget of \$226 million but also reflects a \$6.8 million reduction from initial projections. Notably, an additional \$2.5 million in funding was received in the week prior to approval.

Fixed costs, such as salaries, maintenance, and essential services, remain protected. The Director highlighted challenges in budget planning due to misalignment between the school and fiscal year, noting that approximately 25 % of the budget was already spent prior to formal approval. The importance of meeting contractual obligations was emphasized, and it was noted that budget reductions will be managed primarily through attrition.

Budget planning has been particularly challenging this year, as the government's fiscal year begins in Q2 of the school year, meaning a significant portion of the budget is already spent before formal approval is granted. It was noted that in some other provinces, school districts operate independently of government fiscal timelines, reducing this complication.

Key Highlights: First allocations focused on aligning with the average teacher salary, with a projected increase of \$1.5 million.

Previously, similar increases were absorbed primarily through Educational Assistant (EA) allocations; however, this year the Department has assumed this cost as of January 2025.

A strategic reallocation of funds and resource planning was conducted to maintain a balanced budget while meeting all contractual and operational obligations.

Despite efforts to protect frontline support, the district will see a reduction in EA staffing, impacting direct classroom support.



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In response to the fiscal constraints, the importance of managing staffing reductions through attrition rather than layoffs was emphasized. Essential services, including salaries, maintenance, and student services, remain priorities.

The Superintendent & CEO encouraged ongoing advocacy and dialogue with the provincial government to improve alignment and explore future solutions. It was proposed that Vice-Chair Dominic Vautour begin discussions with the Council of DEC Chairs in September to bring forward district-level concerns related to budgeting processes and timelines.

The balanced budget was presented and approved by the District Education Council.

***Moved by DEC member Duane MacDonald, seconded by DEC member Jolyne Knockwood, that the budget as presented by Mr. Kirkpatrick be approved. One member abstained.***

***Motion carried***

### **10.2. Transportation**

Nothing to add at this point.

### **10.3. Facilities**

Nothing to add at this point.

### **10.4. Community**

Nothing to add at this point.

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

### **11.1. Communication updates**

The director of communications spoke about the Wabanaki School Grand Opening, highlighting the significance of the event and extending appreciation to her assistant for her exceptional work and coordination. Recognition was also given to Tracy, Craig, and Jason for their support, with a special note that her assistant "did the heavy lifting" in bringing the event together.



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It was noted that media requests are particularly active at this time of year, and efforts are ongoing to respond promptly and appropriately.

School activities and celebrations continue to be shared across district social media platforms, showcasing the many positive events happening in schools throughout the region.

### 12. Members' Updates

Jolyne Knockwood (DEC Member) highlighted the Indigenous graduation ceremony, describing it as an amazing and meaningful event, made even more special by her own son's graduation. She extended a special thanks to Tracy and her team for their efforts. She shared that, while she does not speak her Indigenous language or songs, it was deeply moving to see her children experience that connection.

Kristin Cavoukian (DEC Member) reported a busy period, noting it was a privilege to attend the Indigenous celebrations and witness the personal time and energy invested in students. She attended several events, including the Inspire Awards on May 26, the DEC Symposium, curriculum sessions, the Minister's Excellence in Education Awards, and the grand opening and "Setting of the Sun" ceremony—an Indigenous version of Grade 8 graduation. She gave special recognition to Jacque LeBlanc for ensuring the school was ready to open on time.

Kristin also attended several PSSC meetings, noting concerns regarding entrances at Tidal Church, as shared by Principal Marr, as well as discussions about grade integrity. She reported that parents are very pleased with the data shared, and she spoke positively about the library at Wabanaki School and the success of the math intervention program.

At Lewisville Middle School, planning is underway for four additional portables next year. A bell schedule change will help stagger usage and free up the gym.

At Beaverbrook School, the UFLI program is supporting K–2 reading, and staff are looking forward to the new calendar, particularly the education assistants.

Kristin concluded by sharing insights from the DEC Symposium keynote by Kelly Lamrock, who spoke about teacher turnover and the potential for significant success if teachers are empowered to become professional learning leaders.



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Mark Owen (DEC Member) reported attending several PSSC meetings, where he presented updates on progression throughout the year. He attended the Inspire Awards, describing it as an enjoyable evening, and participated in the DEC Symposium, noting that two of the sessions were particularly impactful. He also appreciated hearing the story of the Wabanaki School opening.

Alex Norton (DEC Member) shared that PSSC data was front and center in recent meetings, generating meaningful conversations and appreciation from parents. He noted that Petitcodiac Regional School will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year, with plans to connect students to the community through activities with seniors. At Salisbury Regional School, parents engaged in discussions on curriculum and the My Blueprint program. At Salisbury Elementary, data presentations reflected high graduation rates, which the school community is proud of. He also spoke about the sunscreen policy, year-end celebrations including an ice cream cake, and the pen pal program with Riverview East, which culminated in an in-person student gathering.

Duane MacDonald (DEC Member) reported attending PSSC meetings, where Riverview Middle School discussed the launch of its eSports program. He noted that four district schools participated, with Maplehurst Middle School emerging as the winner. He spoke about the benefits of the breakfast program, particularly how it is being implemented. He attended the Inspire Awards and the DEC Symposium, praising the quality of the sessions. He will be attending the Riverview High School graduation ceremony on Thursday evening to bring greetings on behalf of the DEC.

Michelle Folkins (DEC Member) expressed her appreciation for attending the DEC Symposium and reflected positively on the event.

Vice-Chair Dominic Vautour shared that a recent health issue prevented him from attending some events; however, he remained engaged with PSSCs, attended the Shediac school announcement, met with the PSSC Chair for the new Shediac School, and held meetings with both the Minister and the Superintendent & CEO. He noted the value of the ongoing two-way communication between the DEC and the Minister.

It was agreed that the next two meetings, scheduled for July and August, will be suspended. The next regular meeting will be held on September 16.

No new business was brought forward.



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8:30 PM

**13.** End of meeting

***9:10 pm, 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