



Anglophone East School District

District scolaire anglophone Est

MINUTES

ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

February 17, 2026 - 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, February 17, 2025, at 6:35 pm.

PRESENT:

VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, CHAIR

OWEN, MARK, VICE-CHAIR

CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN

HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN

FOLKINS, MICHELLE

MORTON, ALEX

MACDONALD, DUANE

COTE, VERONIQUE, STUDENT DEC MEMBER

MACLEAN, RANDOLPH J., SUPERINTENDENT & CEO

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

WITH REGRETS:

DOYLE, HARRY

KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE

ALSO PRESENT:

STEPHANIE PATTERSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

JACQUI EADLE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

AUBREY KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



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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 Kristin Cavoukian

3. Agenda Approval

Moved by DEC Vice-Chair Mark Owen, seconded by DEC Member Michelle Folkins, that the agenda be approved as amended, with an item regarding security in schools added between Items 8 and 9, prior to the Director of Human Resources report.

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. January 20, 2026

Moved by DEC Member Alex Morton, seconded by DEC Member Michelle Folkins, that the minutes be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

6. Correspondence

The Chair reported that several pieces of correspondence were sent in recent weeks, including letters addressed to the public, all parents, and PSSC Chairs.

In alignment with this communication, the Superintendent & CEO also issued a message to all staff. Following the recent tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, correspondence was sent to recognize and support the affected community.



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A moment of silence was also observed in honour of the lives lost and the families impacted.

Additionally, a letter was received from the PSSC at Bessborough School advocating for the relocation of the school office.

The Chair noted that communication was also established with the Superintendent and the Board Chair of the Post Mountain School District following the tragedy.

7. Business arising from the previous meeting.
No business

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

8.1. School Pilot Calendar – Presentation

The Superintendent & CEO introduced three principals who were invited to present on the work taking place in their schools as part of the alternative school calendar pilot: Sandra Savard (Bessborough School), Thomas Andrews (Northrop Frye School), and Garry Wilson (Harrison Trimble High School). Members engaged in discussion with the presenters regarding the initiative and its impact. The principals spoke about the commitment within their schools to continue the work and to navigate challenges with the goal of demonstrating long-term success. They also encouraged continued support and advocacy from leadership.

The Superintendent & CEO explained that for the past year and a half there has been advocacy for an alternative school calendar. While not all 39 schools adopted the approach, 11 schools are currently participating in a pilot program that includes a mix of urban and rural K–12 schools. The pilot focuses on continuous professional learning for teachers using a “plan-do-check-act” cycle, allowing staff to lead learning sessions, collaborate with colleagues, and implement new strategies in their classrooms. This approach replaces traditional off-site professional development and strengthens Professional Learning Communities within and across schools.

Principals shared early observations from the pilot, including improved staff attendance, increased collaboration among teachers, and stronger engagement in professional learning. Discussion also highlighted work being done to address student behaviour and to build teacher capacity to better support students in the classroom. Members asked questions related to attendance and parental feedback. Principals noted improvements in student attendance in some areas and indicated that parents and PSSC members have been supportive and trusting of the work being undertaken. An example was also shared of Grade 11 students expressing support for the pilot calendar after observing positive changes in other schools.



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8.2. Education Staff Appreciation Week - February 9 to February 13

The Superintendent & CEO referenced recent messages shared on social media and through district communications over the past week, acknowledging the important work carried out across the district. He recognized the efforts of more than 4,000 staff members, including approximately 1,500 teachers, and expressed sincere appreciation for their continued dedication and commitment to students. The Superintendent & CEO thanked staff for the work they do each and every day to support learning and school communities.

8.3. Budget planning 2026-2027

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the discussions from the previous month regarding potential provincial budget reductions. He explained that the district operates with an approximate budget of \$244 million, of which about 95% is allocated to personnel. A potential reduction of 10–15% would have a significant impact; a 10% reduction alone would represent approximately \$25 million and would directly affect services, staffing, and student opportunities. The Superintendent & CEO noted that once additional confirmation is received regarding the scope of the reductions, the matter will be brought back to the table to inform members and discuss next steps, ensuring that all voices are heard in the process. He also noted that communication had been shared with families, PSSC Chairs, and staff regarding the provincial consultation process.

The Chair, Dominic Vautour, spoke to the correspondence sent to families, noting that it was intended to inform communities about the consultation process and to help protect all community schools. He emphasized that the Council is not willing to consider school closures and reiterated that any such discussion would have to follow the process outlined in Policy 409. The Chair also recognized a shirt worn by DEC member Michelle Folkins in support of community schools. Members expressed concern regarding the format and wording of the provincial survey, noting that some questions appeared unclear or leading. Examples were shared of questions asking respondents to choose between education funding priorities, such as school closures or maintaining health services. It was also noted that communities, including Dorchester, have expressed strong reactions to the potential for school closures.

Members discussed the broader implications of potential reductions. Alex referenced community concerns in Havelock and noted that the issue is not about difficulty but rather about ensuring that students continue to receive quality education. Kristin Cavoukian emphasized the importance of community schools and the role they play in students' overall experience, including access to extracurricular activities. She noted that schools have faced ongoing financial pressures for many years and that decisions regarding education should not be short-sighted or reduced to purely financial considerations. Members also noted that the district has welcomed approximately 5,000 additional students while continuing to operate with the same level of central office staffing, placing increasing pressure on existing resources. Michelle Folkins reflected on similar discussions that occurred more than a decade ago, noting that communities have remained strong and that schools



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continue to serve as the heart of those communities. The Chair concluded by reaffirming that the sustainability of schools will continue to be monitored, but at this time the district believes its schools remain sustainable. Members encouraged communities to participate in the consultation process by completing the survey or sharing their views through letters or emails.

8.4. 2026 Minister's Excellence in Education Awards

The Committee was established during the previous meeting. It was noted that the Committee will be working toward providing its input and recommendations by March 13. Further updates will be shared once the work of the Committee has progressed.

8.5. Forest Glen & Sunny Brae – Update

The Superintendent & CEO reported that the first Engineering Design Committee meeting has taken place. The Superintendent & CEO reported that the educational specifications committee has begun its work. Members discussed the composition of the committee and the scope of the work moving forward. The goal is to bring the proposed educational specifications and design to the District Education Council for review and approval prior to the June meeting. A document outlining the current information was included in the meeting package for members' review.

The Superintendent & CEO also provided updates on several capital projects within the district.

Progress is being made regarding the site selection for the new Dieppe school, and discussions are moving in a positive direction.

The Shediac project remains on schedule with no reported delays.

An update regarding the land acquisition for Salisbury Elementary School is expected in the near future.

The Superintendent & CEO also spoke about mid-life upgrade projects. Riverview High School is currently on the list for upgrades. Riverview Middle School was noted as being in significant need of improvements. A question was raised about the process for having other schools, such as Bernice MacNaughton High School, considered for inclusion on the mid-life upgrade list.

8.6. New Schools Construction – Update

An update was provided on current projects. Permits, road work, and footings were discussed, and the project is currently on schedule.

Regarding Salisbury, it was noted that an update is expected very soon.



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8.7. New office and relocation progress – Update

The Superintendent & CEO reported that the Transportation and Facilities teams have moved to the new office located on Westmorland Street. Once the space is no longer considered an active construction site, the Superintendent & CEO noted that a tour will be arranged. It is anticipated that the remainder of employees will transition to the new location by the end of April, at which time the move is expected to be complete.

8.8. Black History Month

The Superintendent & CEO shared reflections on a recent experience related to the history and recognition of the past 400 years. He spoke about the importance of acknowledging this history and the ongoing efforts to learn, reflect, and grow as a community. The Superintendent & CEO noted that these moments of recognition and dialogue help ensure continued understanding and reaffirm a commitment that such history is not forgotten. He emphasized the importance of creating spaces where all individuals feel included, valued, and have a voice within their communities.

8.9. MLAs in schools

The Superintendent & CEO reported on recent school visits that took place over the past week and those continuing this week. The visits provided an opportunity for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to experience a “day in the life” within schools, allowing them to observe activities during hallway walkthroughs and classroom visits. These extended visits have created space for authentic conversations and a better understanding of the day-to-day realities within schools. Principals have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to showcase their schools and engage directly with MLAs.

8.10. Enrollment update

The Superintendent & CEO reported on current enrollment figures, noting that as of February 12 the district’s enrollment increased from 20,595 to 20,607 students. It was also noted that there has been an increase in the number of students with Personal Learning Plans (PLPs). The Superintendent & CEO emphasized that each student arrives with unique needs, and the district remains committed to continuing to meet those needs while navigating ongoing budget-related pressures.

8.11. Information items:

- 8.11.1.** Indigenous Education and Equity, Belonging, Decolonization report
- 8.11.2.** Professional Support and Growth Team report
- 8.11.3.** Enrolment Management & Newcomer Services

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



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A new agenda item was introduced regarding school safety and preparedness. Kristin Cavoukian noted that following the news from Tumbler Ridge and the reaction from parents and communities, there is a need to reassure families that schools are prepared and equipped to keep students safe. The member shared a personal experience working locally as a supply teacher under a local permit and indicated that they had not received formal safety training, such as procedures related to lockdowns. As a result, the member requested that the district explore the possibility of implementing mandatory, paid safety and security training for staff, including supply teachers, to better support preparedness in schools.

The Superintendent & CEO acknowledged the concern and confirmed that strengthening training in this area is important. He referenced the work of Craig and his team in supporting school safety and noted that various training opportunities are already offered throughout the school year. It was also noted that the district has begun a “supply teacher learning series,” which currently includes classroom management and will continue to expand. The Superintendent & CEO indicated that compensated safety training will be incorporated into this series moving forward, recognizing that the cost of not investing in such preparation could be significant.

9. Director of Human Resources’ Report – Jacqui Eadle

9.1. Department updates

9.1.1. 2026-2027 Teacher staffing

Quick update – Posted leadership positions, now closed and team vetting the applications. We have had a number of acting positions and now will be hiring.

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

10.1. Department updates

10.1.1. Finance

10.1.2. Transportation

10.1.3. Facilities

10.1.4. Community

Community of Schools - An update was provided on activities taking place through the Community of Schools. This includes literacy workshops, Fry Festival activities, and other initiatives taking place in schools. The team is also involved in civic engagement work and is partnering with Public Health to support Nutrition Month in March.

Facilities - An update was provided on Facilities operations. The department receives approximately 100 work orders each week and currently has a backlog of about two months. Staff continue to work through requests as quickly as possible. It was noted that the district has 17 tradespeople, compared to 54 in Anglophone South.



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Transportation - Transportation reported that a floater bus driver position has been added to help improve service reliability. All Motor Vehicle Inspections (MVIs) have been completed ahead of schedule. A crew is also available to move buses as needed to help respond to daily changes and events.

Budget and Accounting - An update was provided on the district's budget. Work is underway to close the fiscal year, with the goal of finishing with a small surplus.

Health and Safety - It was noted that a new Health and Safety Consultant has been hired to replace Melissa Michaud and will support health and safety work across the district.

Facilities Staffing - A question was raised about why Anglophone South has 54 tradespeople while Anglophone East has 17. It was explained that there is no clear formula for this and that the numbers are based on historical allocations. It was noted that this issue is raised each year, and a suggestion was made that it should also be raised at the political level.

Student Support Staffing - A concern was raised about student support positions. It was noted that the district has funding for 7 positions but currently has 32 in total, meaning many are not funded. The need for additional positions is connected to the number of Personal Learning Plans (PLPs).

11. Director of communications' Report – Stephanie Patterson

11.1. Baragard update and websites

The Director of Communications spoke about the district's ongoing partnership with Baragar, the school profile software platform used to provide public information about schools. The district is exploring opportunities to expand the information available through the platform to increase transparency and public visibility. An example from a western Canadian school district was shared, demonstrating how a broader range of data can provide meaningful insight into schools and district performance.

The Director also shared that she is leading a project to develop online profiles for all 40 schools in the district. The profiles are expected to launch in September and will provide consistent branding, increase transparency, and offer publicly accessible school information to help build trust with families and the community. A preview of the profiles is anticipated in May and June.

An update was also provided on the artwork that will be featured on the glass within the new central office space. The design elements are intended to reflect the identity and spirit of the district.



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The Director concluded by highlighting the accomplishments of former Moncton High School Highlander, Courtney Sarault, who is now a three-time medalist. Her achievements were acknowledged as a source of pride for the district and community.

12. Chair's report

The Chair provided an update on several recent and upcoming activities. These included participation in press interviews regarding the provincial budget, attendance at PSSC meetings focused on online safety and parent communication, and participation in the Council of DEC Chairs meeting held last week.

The Chair noted that a Minister's Forum is scheduled to take place tomorrow, followed by a Town Hall meeting in the evening.

An update was also shared regarding the new district office space, noting that the future DEC meeting room will be a significant and welcoming space for Council meetings.

The Chair referenced work being undertaken by Amanda Ham, Chair of Anglophone South, who is leading work related to the development of education specifications. As part of this work, a visit was organized with the Superintendent & CEO and district staff to review school design features. The group visited Northrop Frye School and Wabanaki School to examine building features and gather insights.

The Council discussed the District Education Council Code of Conduct, noting that a copy of the existing document from 2014 had recently been located. Members indicated that additional time would be beneficial to review the document in detail. It was also noted that the Code of Conduct should be made available again on the district website.

By consent, the Council reaffirmed the existing 2014 Code of Conduct.

Members also discussed the DEC Handbook, noting that the current version included in the materials is outdated. It was suggested that the handbook be removed from the documentation and replaced with a link to the most current version online.

The Council also discussed potential updates to the DEC bylaws, with the intention of ensuring that the bylaws are clear and in place for the next District Education Council. Members discussed avoiding overly rigid language related to meeting dates and times, and instead using language that provides flexibility while maintaining clear expectations.



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Proposed amendments include setting the monthly public meeting on the third Tuesday of each month and requiring that the agenda be posted by the preceding Friday at the latest.

It was agreed that an updated bylaw document will be brought forward at the next meeting for further review.

13. District Education Council - Members' updates

Mark Owen - reported that the first International Baccalaureate (IB) music students are now in the program.

Michelle Folkins - reported that she attended two of the three Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) meetings held at Dorchester School. At Dorchester School, the PSSC welcomed Melanie Belliveau, RCMP Communications and Community Policing Officer, as a guest speaker. She spoke about online safety and shared information on ways to strengthen communication and connections with parents.

At Port Elgin Regional School, PSSC members are exploring ways to make school information and community events more accessible to families. The group is considering providing a welcome package to new parents beginning next year to help share this information.

Duane MacDonald - reported attending PSSC meetings at Claude D. Taylor School and Hillsborough Elementary School. At Claude D. Taylor School, members discussed the importance of Autism Support Teacher (AST) positions. Updates were also provided on the outdoor classroom project, including fundraising and grant applications for equipment. The school is exploring tapping maple trees on school grounds as a learning activity, with assistance from community member Chris Folkins. During Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, billboards were displayed to recognize school staff.

Ian Hebblethwaite - reported on a PSSC meeting at Sunny Brae Middle School. The school is having trouble filling PSSC positions and the DEC member is considering creating a promotional video to encourage participation, with support from the Director of Communications.

Véronique Côté - reported on activities related to the Lunar New Year calendar. She also noted that Salisbury's basketball team placed in the top 12 and will compete in Saint John.

Alex Morton - reported on a meeting at Petitcodiac Regional School. The school hosted a guest speaker from Toronto who presented on online safety and cyber safety. Discussion also included programs focused on experiential learning and community involvement.



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Kristin Cavoukian - provided updates from several schools. At Edith Cavell School, there are 406 students enrolled, including 71 newcomers. Of those newcomers, approximately 61% cannot converse fluently in English. This has resulted in linguistic challenges and changes in classroom composition.

At Bessborough School, fundraising has started for a new playground. At Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS), fundraising is underway to replace theatre seating. The school recently presented *SpongeBob the Musical*. BMHS and Wabanaki School continue to work together on collaborative activities. BMHS PSSC members asked about repair needs and eligibility for midlife upgrades.

The Superintendent & CEO will ask the Director of Finance and Administration about midlife upgrade eligibility and timelines.

Dominic Vautour - thanked the Wabanaki PSSC for accommodating the town hall meeting. He also reported on a Glow Party fundraiser at Arnold H. McLeod School in support of a new playground. At Mountain View School, the bridge connecting the school area to the community centre is being repaired to improve safety during emergency evacuations. At Shediac Cape School, the PSSC received results from a new benchmark assessment that will be used to support decision-making.

14. End of meeting

At 8:58 pm, meeting adjourned. Ian Hebbletwaite.

Original signed by Harry Doyle

Harry Doyle, Chair

Original signed by Janique Chiasson

Janique Chiasson, Secretary to the District Education Council