



Anglophone East School District

District scolaire anglophone Est

MINUTES

ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

March 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, March 17, 2025, at 6:58 pm.

PRESENT:

VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, CHAIR

OWEN, MARK, VICE-CHAIR

CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN

FOLKINS, MICHELLE

HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN

KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE

MORTON, ALEX

MACDONALD, DUANE

COTE, VERONIQUE, STUDENT DEC MEMBER

MACLEAN, RANDOLPH J., SUPERINTENDENT & CEO

CHIASSON, JANIQUE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT & CEO,
DISTRICT EDUCATION 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 Alex Norton

3. Agenda Approval

The District Education Council approved the agenda as presented.

Approved by consensus

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. February 17, 2026

The District Education Council approved the minutes as amended.

Approved by consensus

6. Correspondence

The Superintendent & CEO spoke about two letters.

1. Letter from the Mayor of Tantramar to the Minister (copied to the Council), and the Minister's response.
2. A letter regarding the Minister's Excellence in Education Awards was also noted, and it was confirmed that nominations are now closed.

7. Business arising from the previous meeting.

No business arising from the previous meeting.



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

8.1. District Improvement Plan – Numeracy, growth, planning and support – Presentation

The Superintendent & CEO introduced the item, noting that numeracy remains a key priority within the District Education Plan, with a focus on all students achieving grade-level outcomes.

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction introduced the Math Subject Coordinators for K–5 and 6–12, who presented on district-wide numeracy supports and student achievement.

The presentation included an overview of assessment practices, including benchmarks and common assessments used to monitor student progress. Data shared indicated higher achievement in Grades 1–2, with lower results observed in Grades 3–9. A pilot Grade 10 common assessment showed 61% of students achieving a passing standard.

It was noted that the implementation of a new provincial math curriculum, combined with an increase in early-career teachers, has created a need for enhanced instructional support.

The math team outlined supports provided to educators, including professional learning, development of instructional resources, centralized access to materials, and in-class coaching. The role of Academic Support Teachers (ASTs) in providing targeted, small-group interventions was also highlighted.

Council members engaged in discussion regarding consistency of instructional practices across schools, the importance of early assessment and intervention, and ongoing gaps in student learning.

The Superintendent & CEO emphasized the importance of data-informed decision-making and targeted supports to improve student outcomes.

The Council thanked the presenters for the information provided.

8.2. 2026 Winter Olympics - BMHS Graduate - Courtney Sarault

The Superintendent & CEO provided a brief overview of Courtney Sarault's journey within the District and her path to the Olympics. A graduate of Bernice MacNaughton High School, she was named to the Olympic team for short track speed skating on December 17. At the February 2026 Winter Olympics, she earned multiple medals, including silver in the mixed 2000m relay and women's 1000m events, and bronze in the women's 500m and 3000m relay events. It was noted that an event is planned in her honour on Saturday, and discussions regarding her role within the school district are scheduled for Friday.

8.3. Recognition of Service

The Superintendent & CEO acknowledged the retirement of Clare Archibald, Director of Early Childhood Services, who will be retiring at the end of March 2026 after 13 years of service with the Anglophone East School District. Her work included supporting childcare centres, early learning programs, and both private and publicly funded partners. Members expressed appreciation for her contributions, including a personal acknowledgement of her support in helping families navigate services for children with autism.



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Chair Dominic Vautour also shared his personal experience and extended thanks to Clare for her assistance and support to his family.

8.4. Staffing Update - School & District Leadership

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed recent and upcoming administrative staffing changes, including principal and vice-principal assignments. An acting principal has been appointed at Salem Elementary School, and several new appointments have been made across the district for the upcoming school year. A new Director of Early Childhood has also been named. It was noted that vacancies remain due to retirements and reassignments, including principal and vice-principal positions at several schools. An overview of current postings and system-wide vacancies, along with the schools affected, was also provided.

8.5. Budget planning 2026-2027

The Superintendent & CEO thanked DEC members for their advocacy, noting that through ongoing communication with government, mayors, and community partners, the recently announced provincial budget will not include reductions to education. Instead, a modest increase in funding is expected, with planned investments in areas such as the universal lunch program beginning in September, as well as additional supports including ASTs, resource teachers, and school counsellors.

The Superintendent & CEO expressed appreciation for both the members' efforts, and the government's responsiveness, and confirmed that the district budget will be brought forward for review and approval at the June meeting.

8.6. 2026 Minister's Excellence in Education Awards

The Superintendent & CEO outlined the selection process, noting that the committee will select three nominees from the district.

8.7. New School – Updates

The Superintendent & CEO provided an update on several capital projects and thanked all those involved in the progress to date. It was noted that the design process for the Forest Glen and Sunny Brae project is nearing completion, with education specifications to be brought forward for Council approval, and a public announcement scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at Forest Glen.

An update on Salisbury Elementary School indicated that the project remains in progress, with further details, including the school location, expected to be shared once confirmed.

The Shediac project is underway, with construction progressing as planned and a projected completion date of May 19, 2028.

With respect to the Dieppe school, educational specifications have been completed, and efforts are ongoing with provincial partners to finalize a site location.



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8.8. New office and relocation progress – Update

The Superintendent & CEO provided an update on the office relocation, noting that transportation and facilities staff have already moved to the new location. The transition for the remaining offices is scheduled to begin in the second week of May and will include staff from Beaverbrook School, Riverview Middle School, and facilities on Maple Road. The new location will offer secure parking, bike racks, and potential EV charging stations, and is situated downtown near Service New Brunswick, the courthouse, and the waterfront.

8.9. Enrollment update

The Superintendent & CEO reported that current student enrolment stands at 20,617, an increase of 16 students since the last update. The district's largest high schools were noted, with enrolment pressures and adjustments across several locations, including the addition of portables at one school. It was also noted that one elementary school has seen a recent increase in enrolment. Overall growth is beginning to level off but remains modest, and no projection for September 30 is available at this time.

The Superintendent & CEO also highlighted that recent federal immigration changes are having an impact on enrolment trends.

8.10. Information items:

- 8.10.1. Indigenous Education and Equity, Belonging, Decolonization report**
- 8.10.2. Professional Support and Growth Team report**
- 8.10.3. 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

No further updates were provided following the Superintendent & CEO's report. Focus is now shifting to planning for the 2026–2027 school year.

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**

Budget and Accounting – There are 10 business days remaining in the fiscal year, with efforts focused on achieving a balanced budget. Work has begun on the next fiscal year's budget, which is expected to be received in May, approximately one month into the new fiscal year before allocation.



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Facilities – Approximately 500 work orders are received monthly, with the department operating 6 to 8 weeks behind. There is a significant staffing shortage, with 17 tradespeople compared to higher numbers in other districts.

Transportation – A comprehensive review of the transportation system is underway, with initial meetings scheduled.

Community – Experiential learning initiatives were highlighted, including provincially funded projects supporting curriculum-connected activities across schools.

Food – Progress continues on the lunch program, building on a successful pilot at Arnold H. McLeod School. Work is ongoing with EECD to establish additional “proof of concept” schools ahead of a broader rollout, with continued monitoring of uptake.

Occupational Health and Safety – Ongoing work with EECD and schools continues, with site visits taking place to better understand environments and support safe learning and working conditions.

Alex Norton - Shared an employee experience from the past two years. The Superintendent & CEO clarified that this is a human resources matter currently being addressed, with work ongoing in real time. It was noted that improvements have been made, while acknowledging that further work is still required.

Michelle Folkins – A question was also raised regarding how Council members can support addressing the facilities work order backlog.

Motion

Moved by DEC member, Michelle Folkins, and seconded by DEC member, Kristin Cavoukian, that a letter be sent to the Minister advocating for increased staffing levels to align with other districts.

Motion carried unanimously

11. Director of communications’ Report – Stephanie Patterson

11.1. Department updates

It was noted that Olympian Courtney Sarault will be in Moncton on Friday as part of a collaboration between the district and the City of Moncton. She will visit Magnetic Hill School for a K–8 assembly to speak about her experience, and will also return to her former school, Bernice MacNaughton High School, for a student session. Members were invited to advise if they wish to attend.

An update was also provided on the Salisbury Regional performing arts centre, highlighting its recent reopening. The project transformed the original 1982 theatre into a modern facility, with upgrades to lighting, audio systems, and seating. The theatre now includes 278 seats and features a professional-grade sound



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system. The project involved local contractors and community members, with strong positive feedback noted regarding the quality of the renovations.

Ian Hebblethwaite noted that individuals featured in the video are identified by name only, without context or role (e.g., no description provided alongside names). The member also raised concerns regarding the design of new school builds, where dedicated theatre spaces are often replaced with cafeterias or multi-purpose areas. It was emphasized that this approach may limit opportunities for students in the performing arts. While gymnasiums are considered essential, performing arts spaces are often reduced or omitted. Reference was made to older schools that include large theatre spaces, and the importance of maintaining such facilities in future school designs was highlighted to support student engagement in the arts.

8:00 PM – DEC reports

12. Chair's report

12.1. PSSC recruitment video

The Chair reported on recent engagements, including attendance at a Minister's forum on February 18. Prior to the forum, the Chair and the Superintendent & CEO toured Mountain View School with the Premier and the Minister. A town hall was also attended, where discussions focused on the provincial budget. It was further noted that a recent briefing was held with the Deputy Minister; however, no information is available for public release at this time.

13. District Education Council - Members' updates

13.1. PSSC Recruitment, Ian Hebblethwaite

Ian Hebblethwaite - reported that there were no formal updates but shared a proposed initiative to develop a recruitment video for Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) members. The project, initially intended for one school, has expanded to serve as a district-wide resource to better explain the role of PSSC and encourage participation. The video will be coordinated by Communications in collaboration with a freelance videographer. Participation will include members, school representatives, and administrators, with efforts to ensure balanced representation. Filming is planned for the new office on a potential date of Friday or Monday, with participants asked to commit approximately 90 minutes for filming.

Veronique Cote – shared updates on recent and upcoming school activities across the district. It was noted that *ManiMusical* has begun, with participation from French Immersion classes at the middle and high school levels, and that the Salisbury Theatre is currently in use. Schools also took part in various events, including March Madness activities in Moncton and recognition of World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, along with initiatives supporting students with special needs.

Additional highlights included a district coffee house hosted at Bernice MacNaughton High School, featuring students from multiple schools, and an upcoming Riverview leadership conference scheduled for April. Tantramar Regional High School is organizing a dragon boat team and leading a collection of non-perishable and sanitary items, alongside a month of school-based activities and competitions. It was also noted that the boys' hockey team is competing at the provincial level.



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Alex Morton – provided updates on recent school and PSSC activities. It was noted that Harrison Trimble High School’s Night of the Arts is taking place and progressing well. PSSC meetings have included discussions on assessment results and their meaning for student learning. At Salisbury Elementary School, student leadership initiatives were highlighted, including older students supporting younger students, as well as updates on playground equipment.

An update was also shared from a recent Havelock PSSC meeting, where assessment results were reviewed and discussions took place with the community regarding concerns about a potential school closure. The meeting was well attended, and it was noted that community members expressed satisfaction following the recent budget announcement.

Kristin Cavoukian - provided an update on recent PSSC meetings, including Wabanaki School, noting discussions on school improvement goals and the positive impact of a multilingual ASL teacher supporting students and behaviour. It was also noted that schools not participating in the pilot program have expressed concerns about limited time and capacity to implement similar initiatives due to a lack of training opportunities.

The Superintendent & CEO encouraged members attending PSSC meetings to invite schools not involved in the pilot to submit letters outlining their perspectives and interest.

The Chair noted that similar feedback has been shared at other PSSC meetings, including interest from schools in accessing the same opportunities.

Mark Owen – reported that the Northrop Frye PSSC meeting went well and shared observations from a recent visit to the school during dismissal with the Superintendent & CEO. Significant concerns were noted regarding traffic and safety, including improper parking, moving barriers, unsafe driving behaviours, and general congestion. It was noted that discussions have taken place to explore potential solutions, with a focus on reducing the number of vehicles rather than increasing space.

Michelle Folkins – No member’s update

Duane MacDonald – reported on recent and upcoming school visits, including Hillsborough Elementary, Frank L. Bowser, and Riverview High School, with a planned visit to Caledonia Regional High. Updates included new equipment at Frank L. Bowser School, such as CNC machines, digital microscopes, and 3D printers, as well as a painting project underway. At Riverview High School, a student-led fundraiser involving a “tattoo a teacher” initiative was noted, along with interest from other high schools in observing similar initiatives. It was also noted that bathroom renovations are scheduled to begin.



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14. End of meeting

At 9:11 pm, the meeting was adjourned, moved by Ian Hebbletwaite.

Original signed by Dominic Vautour

Dominic Vautour, Chair

Original signed by Janique Chiasson

Janique Chiasson, Secretary to the District Education Council