



# Anglophone East School District

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## District scolaire anglophone Est

### MINUTES

#### ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

**April 21, 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 on TEAMS, April 21, 2026, at 7:01 pm.

**PRESENT:**

OWEN, MARK, VICE-CHAIR

CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN

HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN

FOLKINS, MICHELLE

KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE

MACDONALD, DUANE

MACLEAN, RANDOLPH J., SUPERINTENDENT & CEO

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

**WITH REGRETS:**

VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, CHAIR

MORTON, ALEX

COTE, VERONIQUE, STUDENT DEC MEMBER

DOYLE, HARRY



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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 member, Michelle Folkins, seconded by DEC Member Ian Hebbletwaite, that the agenda be approved by consensus.***

***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. March 17, 2026**

***Moved by DEC Member, Michelle Folkins, seconded by DEC Member Kristin Cavoukian, that the minutes be approved as presented.***

***Motion Carried***

### 6. Correspondence

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

No business from the previous meeting.



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

#### 8.1. Presentation – Literacy

The Superintendent & CEO introduced Heather Howlett, Jason Burns, and Pamela Wilson.

Heather Howlett, K–5 Literacy, shared that she supports teachers who deliver English literacy instruction at the elementary level.

Mark Owen thanked the group for their presentation. The Superintendent & CEO also expressed appreciation to Heather, Jason, and Pam for their leadership in this work.

Kristin Cavoukian provided comments, acknowledging the work and effort being undertaken to support student learning and outcomes.

During discussion, Mark Owen raised a question regarding the difference in access to training and supports, noting that some teachers are part of the pilot while others are not.

Ian echoed Kristin's comments and expressed optimism regarding the new approach.

#### 8.2. School Pilot Calendar – Update

A letter was received from Riverview Middle School expressing interest in being part of the pilot calendar project.

The Superintendent & CEO indicated that, if invited by PSSCs, he would be willing to attend meetings to speak about the pilot calendar. It was noted that the pilot calendar for the upcoming school year has been developed.

During discussion, members raised concerns regarding a potential gap being created between schools participating in the pilot calendar and those that are not. When asked why the province would allow this situation, the Superintendent & CEO noted that he could not speak on behalf of the province.

The Superintendent & CEO reaffirmed his commitment to the 11 pilot schools to continue the work, while also committing to support the remaining schools in joining the initiative. It was noted that demonstrating proof of concept will take time.

DEC Member Ian Hebblethwaite raised the matter with members, and DEC Member Kristin Cavoukian expressed support. Members discussed the possibility of writing an additional letter to the Minister to express concerns about a potential widening gap between schools, while recognizing that a full evaluation of the pilot should take place over the coming years.



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The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that a letter could be prepared.

### **Motion**

***Moved by the District Education Council members, that a letter be written and sent to the Minister following the DEC meeting, expressing concerns regarding the potential gap being created between schools participating in the pilot calendar and those that are not.***

***Further, that the letter reiterate the previously agreed-upon and signed commitment from the Department of Education, and that the previously signed agreement received be included for reference.***

**Motion carried unanimously**

### **8.3. New Forest Glen & Sunny Brae (K-8) School – Educational Specifications – For approval**

The Superintendent & CEO thanked all those involved in the development of the project and presented the educational specifications for the new Forest Glen & Sunny Brae K-8 school, to be located on the current Forest Glen site. A motion was requested to approve the specifications as presented.

### **Motion**

***Moved by Ian Hebblethwaite, seconded by Duane MacDonald, that the District Education Council approve the educational specifications for the new Forest Glen & Sunny Brae (K-8) school as presented.***

**Motion carried unanimously**

### **8.4. New schools construction – Update**

The Superintendent & CEO provided updates on several capital projects currently underway in the district.

The Shediac K-12 School is progressing well and remains on schedule. The school is expected to be completed in June 2029, with an opening planned for September 2029.

Regarding the Dieppe K-12 School, the process of finalizing the land is ongoing. An announcement is expected once the land component has been confirmed.

For the Salisbury K-5 School, it was noted that an announcement regarding the land is anticipated soon. Architectural planning is expected to follow shortly thereafter, with the project continuing to move forward.



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It was also noted that capital project priorities for the upcoming year will be presented at the next meeting.

### **8.5. New office and relocation progress – Update**

The Superintendent & CEO reported that the transportation and facilities teams have already completed their move to the new office space. Over the next month, District Education Council members will be invited to participate in a walkthrough of the new location.

The Superintendent & CEO expressed appreciation to Aubrey and his team for their work in coordinating the move.

In response to a question from a member regarding parking, it was confirmed that access will be provided. It was noted that logistics will continue to be worked out as the transition progresses.

### **8.6. Inspire Awards**

The Superintendent & CEO confirmed the following roles for the upcoming Inspire Awards:

- Duane MacDonald will serve as Master of Ceremonies (MC)
- Mark Owen will serve as a presenter
- Kristien Cavoukian will serve as a presenter

Members who are interested in participating are asked to email Janique.

### **8.7. Staffing update - School & District Leadership**

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed recent changes in school administration.

### **8.8. Enrollment update**

The Superintendent & CEO reported that, as of today, student enrollment stands at 20,623.

A member noted that enrollment appears to be flattening. The Superintendent & CEO provided context, explaining that this is typical for this time of year and that fluctuations are expected as the year progresses.

### **8.9. Summer Learning – Journey to Excellence**

The Superintendent & CEO provided an overview of the upcoming professional learning event, noting that this will be the third year the initiative has been held. Last year, more than 500 teachers participated in the event.



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Members were informed that approximately 104 professional learning sessions were offered last year, with close to 90 sessions currently being planned for this year's event. It was also shared that more than 100 staff members participated in the Blanket Exercise during last year's sessions. As a result, the first half-day of this year's event will again be dedicated to the Blanket Exercise.

The Superintendent & CEO noted that registration will be opening soon, with priority access being given first to district staff, followed by supply teachers and then education students.

### **8.10. Professional development for substitute teachers**

The Superintendent & CEO shared that, in August, two days of professional learning will be offered to new teachers to support their transition into the district.

### **8.11. Reach for the Top at Bernice MacNaughton High School**

The Superintendent & CEO noted that Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS) and Wabanaki will be participating in and hosting the upcoming event. BMHS is the only high school in the district competing in this event.

The event will take place over the weekend of May 31 and June 1. Additional details will be shared as they become available.

### **8.12. Education sector plan**

The Superintendent & CEO spoke about the most recent Superintendent's Leadership Meeting, outlining how the various components align within the overall plan.

He explained how the different elements connect and work together, noting that the work is closely aligned with the District Improvement Plan.

### **8.13. Anglophone East School District – E-Sports update**

The Superintendent & CEO provided a high-level overview of the event and highlighted recent student achievements. Maplehurst Middle School was recognized for winning both the district and regional levels of the competition. Other participating schools included Riverview Middle School, Beaverbrook School, and Queen Elizabeth School.

### **8.14. Graduation**

The Superintendent & CEO shared that Indigenous Graduation will take place on May 27, along with the remaining scheduled graduation dates across the district.

Members were invited to advise if they wish to be added to any ceremonies. It was noted that members may bring a guest, and those interested in speaking at a graduation are asked to indicate their availability.



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### **8.15. Mental Health Summit**

The Superintendent & CEO shared that he participated as a keynote speaker at a recent event. He noted that he had also been invited in the previous year and has been invited again for next year, where he plans to bring a team with him.

### **8.16. Highlights**

The Superintendent & CEO acknowledged the important role of local representation and noted that the organization cannot function effectively without strong local voices and advocacy. A broad overview was provided highlighting the work and accomplishments across the district over recent years.

This included continued advocacy and progress on major capital projects such as Shediac, Dieppe, Salisbury Elementary, Forest Glen, Sunny Brae, Wabanaki, and nine additional projects across the district. Updates were also shared regarding growth management efforts, including the addition of approximately 85 portables and ongoing boundary review work to address enrollment pressures.

The Superintendent & CEO also referenced ongoing policy development and implementation work related to Policies 713, 126, 322, and 309. Staffing updates were shared, noting that approximately 95% of positions have been filled and that nearly one-third of teachers in the district have fewer than five years of experience.

Financial growth within the district was also highlighted, with the operating budget increasing from approximately \$181 million to \$250 million over recent years. Salary expenditure has grown from roughly \$143 million to \$200 million, alongside approximately \$11 million in capital investments.

Academic improvements across the district were also recognized, including 509 additional students achieving success, multiple schools reaching improvement levels of 80% or higher, reductions in chronic absenteeism, and an increase in graduation rates.

### **8.17. Information items:**

**8.17.1.** Indigenous Education and Equity, Belonging, Decolonization report

**8.17.2.** Professional Support and Growth Team report

**8.17.3.** 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.** Retirement Gala

**9.2.** Career Fairs



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### 9.3. Staffing

The Director provided a brief update on several ongoing initiatives and activities within the district. It was noted that invitations related to upcoming events were shared on May 5.

An update was also provided on recent career fairs, which have remained active over the past five years and continue to generate strong interest. It was shared that colleges and universities are increasingly familiar with the district and are now reaching out directly to ensure participation at these events. French Immersion representatives are also focusing their efforts on building stronger relationships with post-secondary institutions that are actively partnering with the district.

The Director also referenced current administrative staffing processes, noting that the Superintendent & CEO had already provided an overview of the work underway in that area.

An update was further provided regarding French Immersion staffing and planning efforts. Ongoing work continues to increase French Immersion teacher capacity through collaboration between Directors of Education, the district improvement team, and school staff. Maplehurst Middle School was specifically noted as working to increase French Immersion instructional minutes despite current teacher shortages.

## 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

A portfolio report was shared with members. During the discussion, it was noted that the district continues to be funded based on 2012 levels, despite significant growth in student enrollment and operational demands. Concerns were raised that the district is falling behind in operational support and staffing.

Members were informed that Bernice MacNaughton High School, Havelock School, and Petitscodiac Regional School are participating in the Food Services Pilot initiative. It was noted that the pilot is expected to expand province-wide by September. Arnold H. McLeod School was recognized as having served as a model for the initiative.

Discussion also focused on the increasing operational pressures across the district. It was noted that the role overseeing operations functions similarly to a Chief Operating Officer or Vice-



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President of Corporate Services, supporting the day-to-day operations of approximately 40 schools and additional district facilities totaling close to three million square feet. Members heard that approximately \$11 million in capital projects are currently being managed with limited staffing capacity.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of operational staffing growth despite the district now serving approximately 21,000 students. Challenges were highlighted in areas such as finance, transportation, and facilities, with transportation specifically noted as being significantly under-resourced. New team coordinators and Occupational Health and Safety personnel have recently been added to help support district operations and large-scale events.

In response to a question from a member asking how the Council could assist, the Superintendent & CEO encouraged continued advocacy efforts with government and at the Minister's Symposium. It was noted that while the district has received improved support in areas such as teacher and educational assistant staffing, operational areas including trades, transportation staffing, and business office support have not seen the same level of investment or alignment.

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

#### **11.1. PSSC video / Progress report**

#### **11.2. PSSC Training 101**

The Director provided an update on the district recruitment video, noting that filming has been completed and edits are currently underway. The video is approximately two and a half minutes in length and is expected to be finalized and released in May once the final draft has been approved.

An update was also shared regarding the reintroduction of a training initiative for PSSC Chairs and Principals, which will return with a renewed format and interactive components. The draft materials will be reviewed by the Superintendent & CEO, with legal counsel also participating in the process. A legal session focusing on legislative responsibilities and requirements is expected to take place in June.

Members were informed that the training is anticipated to occur in September and will run approximately 90 to 120 minutes in length. The session will include group work and interactive activities. Supporting materials and toolkits are also being developed to help standardize meetings across schools, including agenda and meeting templates, references to Robert's Rules of Order, and additional governance resources.



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### 8:00 PM – DEC reports

12. Chair's report
  - 12.1. Sunny Brae and Forest Glen announcements
  - 12.2. QBL briefing

These items were skipped due to the absence of the Chair.

### 13. District Education Council - Members' updates

*Jolyne Knockwood* – No member's update

*Kristin Cavoukian* – The DEC Member provided updates from recent PSSC meetings. At Bernice MacNaughton High School, the April 8 meeting included recognition of student athlete Courtney Sarault and discussion surrounding several successful school activities and events held around St. Patrick's Day. It was also noted that the girls' lacrosse team is continuing to grow and develop.

Discussion also focused on ongoing traffic and congestion concerns surrounding Highlander Avenue, particularly during times when simultaneous events are taking place at Bernice MacNaughton High School, Wabanaki School, and Tidal Church. Concerns were raised regarding overflow parking, vehicles parking on both sides of the road, and the impact on traffic flow. While emergency vehicle access remains available, it was acknowledged that congestion becomes challenging when multiple venues are hosting events at the same time. Members discussed potential solutions including improved communication, signage, and continued collaboration with the City. Questions were also raised regarding road ownership and ongoing discussions involving Tidal Church and surrounding traffic concerns.

Additional discussion took place regarding portable classrooms and climate-related concerns at Bernice MacNaughton High School. The Superintendent & CEO acknowledged the ongoing challenges and noted that planned pathway construction is expected to help improve the situation. It was also shared that the district will continue working toward solutions.

At Bessborough School, members were informed that Principal Erika Traikov will be moving to Salem Elementary School. DEC Member Cavoukian also spoke about the important role of PSSC Chairs and noted that communication between schools and the district has not always been seamless. The Superintendent & CEO acknowledged these concerns, took responsibility on behalf of the district, and expressed a commitment to improving communication moving forward.



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A question was also raised regarding a previous request from Bessborough School related to relocating the school office to improve safety. It was noted that no update is currently available, but that further discussion is expected to take place in May.

Finally, discussion took place regarding “Friends of” groups and Home and School Associations, specifically around confusion related to banking processes and financial management. The Superintendent & CEO noted that the matter would be looked into further to help provide clarification.

*Duane MacDonald* – The member reported having attended seven (7) PSSC meetings since the previous update. At Claude D. Taylor School, members heard about a grant-supported sugar bush activity, and it was also noted that student athlete Courtney Sarault had recently visited the school.

At Riverview Middle School, discussion took place regarding a request to use Patricia Park as an additional space for school and student activities. Frank L. Bowser School shared updates regarding the repainting of the school gymnasium.

Updates were also provided from Hillsborough Elementary School and Caledonia Regional High School regarding a greenhouse project currently underway. It was noted that Hillsborough Elementary School would welcome sufficient enrollment to support the addition of a French Immersion program for the community.

At West Riverview School, members heard that operations continue to run smoothly and that things are going very well overall.

*Michelle Folkins* – The member provided updates from several recent PSSC meetings. At Salem Elementary School, members were informed of changes within the school administration team. During discussion, it was noted that feedback received following a recent lockdown drill identified a security concern in one area of the school, which was addressed promptly.

At Port Elgin Regional School, members were advised that a new principal will be joining the school community, and that the outgoing principal will be formally introduced and recognized.

An update was also shared from the Marshview Middle School PSSC regarding the lunch program scheduled to be implemented next year. Questions and concerns were raised regarding how the program will operate at schools that are not supported through Chartwells, including food delivery, reheating capacity, and the availability of microwaves and related equipment.



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Discussion also took place regarding district facilities and infrastructure needs. It was noted that many facilities are in constant use and would benefit from continued upgrades and improvements to better support students, staff, and community activities.

*Ian Hebbletwaite* – No member's update

*Mark Owen* – The member shared updates on various school activities and achievements taking place across the district. At Evergreen Park School, discussion included recent student activities and the continued visits of student athlete Courtney Sarault to schools throughout the district. Members also referenced the recent announcement regarding the new Sunny Brae and Forest Glen school project.

Recognition was given to Lewisville Middle School for participating in the March 29 cheer competition in Quispamsis. Congratulations were also extended to Wabanaki School, which continues to perform very well as a Level One team despite being a brand-new school. It was further noted that on March 30, members participated in signing the team banner during the national semifinals competition.

At Maplehurst Middle School, members discussed fundraising efforts supporting the Reach for the Top program, with approximately \$425 raised per student to assist six students attending the competition. The school was also recognized for its success in a recent math competition.

Members also heard about a new trading card initiative introduced at Maplehurst Middle School, which has generated positive engagement among students. It was humorously noted that students are now looking for a Superintendent & CEO trading card.

Discussion also took place regarding French Immersion programming, with concerns raised about ongoing teacher shortages and the challenges this creates in efforts to improve and expand programming opportunities.



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**14.** End of meeting

***At 9:33 pm, meeting adjourned. Ian Hebbletwaite.***

*Original signed by Dominic Vautour*

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Dominic Vautour, Chair

*Original signed by Janique Chiasson*

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Janique Chiasson, Secretary to the District Education Council