



Anglophone East School District

District scolaire anglophone Est

MINUTES

ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

June 16, 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, June 16, 2026, at 6:57 pm.

PRESENT:

VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, CHAIR

OWEN, MARK, VICE-CHAIR

CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN

HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN

FOLKINS, MICHELLE

MACDONALD, DUANE

MORTON, ALEX

MACLEAN, RANDOLPH J., SUPERINTENDENT & CEO

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

WITH REGRETS:

KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE

DOYLE, HARRY

COTE, VERONIQUE, STUDENT DEC MEMBER



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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 Randolph MacLEAN

3. Agenda Approval

Moved by DEC Member Kristin Cavoukian, seconded by DEC Member Michelle Folkins, that the agenda be approved as amended:

- ***Item 8.1 becomes Item 8.2***
- ***Item 8.2 becomes Item 8.1, and***
- ***A new Item 12.4, Final Minutes, be added to the agenda.***

Motion Carried

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5. Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on:

5.1. May 26, 2026

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

Motion Carried

6. Correspondence

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the correspondence included in the meeting package.

During the discussion, Chair Dominic Vautour asked whether the letter regarding funding inequities had been sent to the Department. The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that it had.



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It was then suggested that a similar letter be sent to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, further emphasizing the inequities faced by the district and advocating for equitable funding and resources.

Motion:

That the District Education Council send a letter to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding funding inequities affecting Anglophone East School District and request equitable funding and resources for the district.

Moved by: Kristin Cavoukian

Seconded by: Duane MacDonald

Motion Carried

7. Business arising from the previous meeting
No business from the previous meeting.

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

8.1. Lunch program

Administration noted that the program is reaching more children and increasing access to nutritious meals. DEC Member Kristin Cavoukian expressed appreciation for the inclusion of vegetarian options. Aubrey Kirkpatrick thanked Ingrid and Heather Stordy for their excellent work on the program, as well as the Facilities team for their contributions. It was also reported that schools have experienced increased attendance and, to some extent, improved academic achievement. The province is rolling out a universal lunch program in 39 schools. While the program has been described as free for students, details regarding the funding model remain unclear, with discussion referencing families paying between \$4 and \$5 per meal and the province covering costs above \$4.50 per meal. Further information on the funding structure is expected.

8.2. Budget 2026-2027

The Superintendent & CEO presented a balanced budget and noted that almost 50 % of all enrolment growth in the anglophone sector is occurring within Anglophone East School District. Although some districts have approximately 30 more schools than Anglophone East, their schools are not as full. He confirmed that no employee groups were affected by balancing the budget.



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The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the six major budget categories and noted that approximately 80 % of the district's budget is allocated to personnel, with transportation, heating, and maintenance representing other significant expenditures. The budget was described as a living document that continues to evolve in response to changing needs and growth pressures.

Discussion focused on Education Assistants (EAs), with the district currently employing 602 EAs. It was noted that Anglophone East receives only 20 % of the overall provincial allocation despite its significant growth and needs. Members questioned the funding ratios, particularly as they relate to square footage and student enrolment. It was suggested that the funding formula should consider at least two factors, including student population, rather than relying primarily on square footage.

Further discussion highlighted inequities in the current funding model. It was noted by Aubrey Kirkpatrick that \$3.2 million in funding was received three months into the budget year, making effective planning challenging. The current model was described as inequitable and lacking a clear formula that adequately accounts for population growth and changing needs. Concerns were also raised regarding disparities in information technology staffing allocations compared to other districts. Administration advocated for a single, equitable funding model with adjustments for factors such as geography and enrolment growth, providing districts with greater flexibility to respond to local needs.

The Superintendent & CEO has presented a balance budget to the members of the DEC and asked for their consideration and approval.

Motion:

That the District Education Council approve the balanced budget as presented by the Superintendent & CEO for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

Moved by: Kristin Cavoukian

Seconded by: Michelle Folkins

Motion Carried



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Alex Morton asked whether the District Education Council could send a letter to the Minister, requesting additional funding. Michelle Folkins suggested including a clip from the live stream of Aubrey Kirkpatrick's presentation to help illustrate the district's concerns, and the Superintendent & CEO supported the idea.

Kristin Cavoukian noted that the matter should also be discussed with the Parent School Support Committees (PSSCs), as it is ultimately a political issue. She commented that the Department of Education is unlikely to make changes without public pressure and advocacy.

Discussion followed regarding the funding inequities facing the district, particularly in relation to maintenance staffing and resources. Members noted that the district has chosen not to reduce capital and maintenance spending, recognizing that delaying repairs today can lead to significantly higher costs in the future.

The Superintendent & CEO highlighted that Anglophone East has fewer schools than some other districts, but they are much larger and more densely populated, averaging 643 students per school. The district currently operates more than 90 portable classrooms, placing additional pressure on facilities and resources. Despite a 25% increase in student enrolment, there has not been a corresponding increase in maintenance or skilled trades staff, resulting in increased wear and tear on buildings. It was also noted that custodial staffing is based on student numbers rather than building use, making it increasingly difficult to maintain facilities as enrolment grows.

Finally, it was noted that the district's workforce consists primarily of a younger teaching population and an older workforce that includes bus drivers and educational assistants. While significant retirements are not anticipated, staff turnover is occurring, and hiring opportunities in some employee groups may be limited over the next few years.

Motion:

Moved by DEC Member Alex Morton, seconded by DEC Member Michelle Folkins, that the District Education Council write a letter to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding funding inequities affecting Anglophone East School District, particularly with respect to maintenance staffing and resources, and that the letter from the Bernice MacNaughton High School Parent School Support Committee be included as supporting documentation.

Motion Carried



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8.3. School calendar

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the important dates and events taking place over the coming months leading up to September 8, the first day of school.

He advised that New Teacher Induction will take place on August 25 and 26, followed by the return of administrators on August 26 and 27. All staff will return on September 1 for a district-wide gathering at the casino, which will include professional learning sessions and an awards ceremony. Students will return to school on September 8.

The Superintendent & CEO also noted that the district continues to operate under two school calendars and reviewed the professional learning days associated with the alternative calendar model. He advised that the Minister of Education has indicated that no additional schools will be added to the Professional Learning calendar for the 2026–2027 school year and that a review of the model will take place at the end of the school year to determine next steps for the following year.

The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that the district will continue its advocacy efforts to have all schools included in the alternative calendar model, with the goal of ensuring equitable access to professional learning opportunities for all staff.

Kristin Cavoukian asked whether the district had received letters from Parent School Support Committees (PSSCs) requesting to join the Professional Learning calendar. The Superintendent & CEO confirmed that numerous letters of support had been received, noting that there were too many to include in the information package. He further stated that schools and PSSCs are not simply requesting expansion of the model but are demanding it so that their schools can benefit from the same opportunities currently available to the 11 participating schools.

Discussion highlighted that the schools participating in the alternative calendar are experiencing the benefits of the professional learning model, while the remaining schools are unable to access the same opportunities. Reference was also made to research demonstrating positive impacts on teachers, which in turn benefits students.

Questions were raised regarding whether any complaints had been received from the public, including grandparents, and whether the number of complaints could be determined. The Superintendent & CEO advised that he could request that information. Kristin Cavoukian noted that she had not received or heard any complaints and referred to the situation as similar to the "three complaints" explanation.

Questions were also raised regarding the francophone sector, where a similar calendar model has already been adopted.



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8.4. New schools construction – Update

An update was provided on capital projects in Salisbury and Dieppe. The Superintendent & CEO noted that negotiations regarding the Salisbury project are ongoing and that further information is expected before September. The Dieppe and Salisbury projects continue to move forward, and stakeholder engagement with PSSC Chairs will take place once the initial designs are available. It was also noted that the new elementary schools are planned as kindergarten to Grade 5 schools.

8.5. Staffing update - School & District Leadership

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the list of staffing changes and provided an update on recent appointments, retirements, resignations, and administrative changes across the district. Information was shared for the Council's information.

8.6. Enrollment update

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the current enrolment numbers and future projections, noting that student enrolment continues to increase across the district. He advised that, due to capacity pressures at Lewisville Middle School, which is currently operating at 179 % capacity, a freeze on new student transfers to the school will be implemented effective August 1, 2026.

8.7. Summer Learning – Journey to Excellence

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the three-day schedule for the upcoming event and encouraged members to review the information and attend or participate in the BBQ.

A question was raised regarding the alarm system at Bernice MacNaughton High School, which is frequently triggered by the motion-sensor system. Members inquired whether there is an option to override or disable the system. The Superintendent & CEO agreed to look into the matter.

8.8. Student Senate

Following the last meeting, the Superintendent & CEO attended a celebration at Riverview High School to thank students and staff for their work at the INSPIRE Awards. During the visit, he discussed the idea of creating a district-wide student leadership group, and the students were very enthusiastic about the proposal.

The Superintendent & CEO outlined his proposed model for a student leadership initiative. Kristin Cavoukian shared that a similar model exists in Anglophone West, where student representatives meet four times per year. She explained that students identify the issues they wish to address, determine the process, gather information, and work collaboratively as a group.

Mark Owen noted that a similar idea had been brought forward to the student representatives last year. Alex Morton suggested that students could present their ideas and provide their thoughts to



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the District Education Council. Ian Hebblethwaite asked whether the student DEC representative should be included in the initiative.

The Superintendent & CEO indicated that additional information would be shared as the concept is further developed. Discussion included a proposal to hold a Student Leadership Summit twice a year for students in Grades 9 to 12, with representatives from across the district participating.

8.9. Auditor General Report

The Superintendent & CEO stated that the report is inaccurate. Kristin Cavoukian asked whether a correction would be sent, and the Superintendent & CEO confirmed that it would.

It was noted that the information package was incomplete and inaccurate, particularly regarding literacy targets, which the district indicated it has met. The Auditor General's office did not consult the district. Supporting documentation to correct the record will be sent.

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. Year-end review

Jacqui Eadle, Director of Human Resources, reported that, as the school year comes to a close, the district is recognizing the retirement of 65 employees, the majority of whom are teaching staff. Recruitment efforts resulted in the hiring of 221 casual employees, including supply teachers. The district also hired Contract B teachers and engaged 40 Contract C teachers. Since last spring, more than 384 NBTF positions and 37 administrative positions have been posted, along with 99 positions for CUPE and other employee groups, including NBU and PSAC. The recruitment team attended 21 career fairs, which have been successful in attracting candidates. Jacqui also noted that an HR ticketing system has been implemented to triage inquiries and better balance workloads within the department. Additionally, WorkSafeNB reported 72 compensation claims involving lost time, with education assistants, custodians, and bus staff accounting for a significant number of these claims.



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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

Item addressed during the Superintendent & CEO's report, with no further information was added. The budget remained a priority item, and a motion regarding the budget was presented and voted upon by Council.

11. Director of communications' Report – Stephanie Patterson

11.1. School profile updates

11.2. District website updates

11.3. Important dates

The Director of Communications provided an update on the redevelopment of the district website. Work is currently underway to create a more user-friendly and less text-heavy site, with a soft launch planned for mid-August.

She also shared plans for the redesign of school websites and profiles. The enhanced school profiles will include information such as achievement data, facility information, and survey results. The new website format will be presented to principals in August, with the public launch scheduled for September 8.

It was also noted that the alternate school calendar will be linked to the website calendar. Council members expressed their support for the concept and the direction of the website redesign project.

In addition, the Director of Communications advised that a calendar of significant dates and observances that are not included on traditional school calendars is being developed and will be made available through the district website and social media platforms.

DEC reports

12. Chair's report

12.1. PEPC

The Chair provided an overview of the role and responsibilities of the District Education Council and noted that the Council had met earlier in the month.



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12.2. Minister's Excellence in Education Awards

The Chair spoke about attending a recognition event and acknowledged the importance of celebrating the achievements and contributions of those being honoured.

12.3. Community group lunch

The Chair noted that he had attended a meeting with the Superintendent & CEO, and had a positive and productive conversation with a community member.

12.4. Final Minutes

Motion:

The Chair proposed that a committee of one (1) be established to review and approve the minutes of the final meeting of the outgoing District Education Council, as the incoming Council is unable to approve minutes from a meeting it did not attend.

Moved by: Alex Morton

Seconded by: Duane MacDonald

Motion Carried

Motion:

That the minutes of District Education Council meetings be distributed to members for review and accuracy no later than fourteen (14) calendar days following each meeting, beginning in September.

Moved by: Ian Hebblethwaite

Seconded by: Michelle Folkins

Motion Carried

13. District Education Council - Members' updates

Michelle Folkins - Reported that she attended the Parent School Support Committee meeting at Dorchester Consolidated School and had the opportunity to visit the school's aquaponics lab. She noted that the program cultivates approximately 20 heads of lettuce each week and that it was truly impressive to see the project in action, particularly as it is led and managed by students.



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She also extended congratulations to Marc Merhebi, principal at Dorchester Consolidated School, on being named a recipient of the Minister's Excellence in Education Award.

Then, a discussion took place regarding the importance of ensuring that all District Education Council members obtain a Criminal Record Check and a Vulnerable Sector Check. The need for these checks was emphasized as an important measure, and it was clarified that these checks will be required once at the beginning of each member's term and will not be required annually.

Motion:

That all District Education Council members be required to provide a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check at the beginning of their term, no later than September 1 prior to the start of the school year, and that a letter of authorization be provided to each member for presentation to their local RCMP detachment.

Moved by: Michelle Folkins

Seconded by: Kristin Cavoukian

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mark Owen – Thanked all members for their dedication and collaboration throughout their time on the District Education Council. He expressed his appreciation for having had the opportunity to work with each member, acknowledging their individual qualities and contributions to the Council's work.

He also spoke of the positive relationships built with Parent School Support Committees and their chairs over the years. In closing, he shared that he had greatly enjoyed his time on the District Education Council and wished all members the very best in the future.

Duane MacDonald – Reported that Claude D. Taylor School is looking forward to welcoming new students in the coming school year.

An update was also provided on activities at Frank L. Bowser School. The school's Spin-a-Thon fundraiser raised \$ 8,700, while the Spring Fair generated an additional \$ 2,700. The school community also presented two \$ 500 bursaries to graduating students attending Riverview High School.

Ian Hebbletwaite – The member emphasized the need for the District Education Council to continue advocating with the province regarding funding inequities affecting Anglophone East School District. It was noted that transportation challenges, including bus-related issues, are directly tied to funding and the lack of equitable resources within the anglophone sector.



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An update was also shared from the Parent School Support Committee at Queen Elizabeth School, where feedback highlighted the need for additional guidance and student services staff, as well as increased professional learning opportunities. It was suggested that teachers would benefit from having a menu of professional learning options from which to choose.

The member also attended the Parent School Support Committee meeting at Lou MacNarin School. It was noted that the school was named after a teacher, and discussion included the longstanding contributions of Robert Irving, including the turkey dinners he had provided over the years. The school community also expressed its desire to participate in the Professional Learning calendar pilot.

Alex Morton – The member reported that all his schools are currently participating in the pilot calendar and that he has not received any complaints.

He also provided updates from his schools, including positive safe and caring results at Havelock School, the 75th anniversary celebrations taking place at Petitcodiac Regional School, and the standard review process for Salisbury Regional School.

He also acknowledged the retirement of Mrs. Tammy Constantine, praising her contributions and noting that she will be greatly missed.

Kristin Cavoukian – Reported that the Parent School Support Committee at Lewisville Middle School continues to make significant progress toward its literacy goals, noting an 80 % improvement and a 50 % reduction in the number of high-risk students. She also highlighted the school's WIN (What I Need) blocks and the positive impact they have had on creating a safe and caring environment.

She attended a joint Parent School Support Committee meeting involving Bessborough School and Wabanaki Middle School, where there was considerable discussion regarding the pilot calendar and its benefits. Parents present expressed the view that the model should be better communicated within the community so that families have a greater understanding of its advantages.

An update was also provided on Hillcrest School, where many positive initiatives are taking place. Kristin attended the Hillcrest graduation ceremony and described the event as very moving, commending the students for their outstanding achievements.

The Superintendent & CEO also spoke about the students and their accomplishments, and Kristin continued by noting that she would be attending the graduation ceremony at Bernice MacNaughton High School later in the week. She also attended the Dragon Boat Festival and enjoyed witnessing the teamwork and community spirit on display.



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Finally, she shared that, despite poor weather conditions, the Bessborough School Bike-a-Thon was a success and demonstrated tremendous team spirit among students, staff, and families.

Dominic Vautour – The Chair, reported having attended the Asian Heritage Month Gala to present, in his capacity as the DEC Chair, an award. Also, attended Parent School Support Committee meetings at Arnold H. McLeod School and Moncton High School and advised that will be attending the upcoming graduation ceremonies at Harrison Trimble High School and Moncton High School.

14. End of meeting

At 10:23 pm, meeting adjourned. By consensus.

Original signed by Dominic Vautour

Dominic Vautour, Chair

Original signed by Janique Chiasson

Janique Chiasson, Secretary to the District Education Council