



Anglophone East School District

District scolaire anglophone Est

MINUTES

ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

May 26, 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, May 26, 2026, at 6:56 pm.

PRESENT:

VAUTOUR, DOMINIC, CHAIR

OWEN, MARK, VICE-CHAIR

CAVOUKIAN, KRISTIN

FOLKINS, MICHELLE

KNOCKWOOD, JOLYNE

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:

MORTON, ALEX

HEBBLETHWAITE, IAN

DOYLE, HARRY

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 Duane MacDonald

A Better Future... Through Quality Education



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3. Agenda Approval

Moved by DEC member, Kristin Cavoukian, seconded by DEC Member, Mark Owen, the agenda is 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. April 21, 2026

Moved by DEC Member, Mark Owen, seconded by DEC Member, Duane MacDonald, that the minutes be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

6. Correspondence

A letter was received from the Maplehurst Memorial School PSSC outlining concerns related to safety. Mark Owen commented on the measures that have been taken to help ensure a safer environment.

The Superintendent & CEO spoke about the letter and referenced Policy 409. He advised that no requests or recommendations were being brought forward at this time, but noted that the matter would be revisited next year.

The Superintendent & CEO also provided an update on the current rankings of the Qualitative Building List (QBL).

Members discussed pre-budget consultations and concerns that had been raised regarding potential school closures, including references to Havelock School. It was emphasized that there are currently no recommendations or proposals to close any schools. Members noted that annual reviews of certain schools are required; however, these reviews are conducted to determine whether further study is needed and do not initiate a school closure process. Public concerns regarding possible closures were acknowledged, and members reiterated that no schools are “on the chopping block.” The board is carrying out mandated summary reviews only, and no closure process is underway.

Under correspondence, it was noted that a response had been received from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding previous correspondence from the DEC.

The Superintendent & CEO also referenced the Summary Statistics of the English Sector report, noting that it provides a useful overview of the English education system.



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

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

8.1. Major capital projects

The Superintendent & CEO, Randolph MacLEAN, turned the presentation over to Aubrey Kirkpatrick, Director of Finance and Administration, acknowledging the significant work completed by Aubrey and his team in preparing the district's Major Capital Project submission.

Aubrey reported that district enrolment has increased by 5,007 students, representing the equivalent of approximately eight new schools. Kristin Cavoukian commented that the district has responded appropriately to this growth and has done what was necessary to accommodate students.

Aubrey reviewed the areas experiencing the most significant growth, noting that the first two portable units added were filled almost immediately. He highlighted that Moncton, Dieppe, and Riverview continue to experience substantial growth, placing increasing pressure on school facilities.

Aubrey then reviewed the Major Capital Project process, including the criteria used by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Quality Learning Environment (QBL) scoring process.

Dominic Vautour provided clarification regarding the annual Summary Review of Schools process. He emphasized that conducting a review does not mean that a Policy 409 process or school closure is being considered. Rather, the review determines whether a study should be undertaken and is a routine annual requirement for certain schools.

Aubrey highlighted opportunities in Riverview, including the anticipated return of the pool to the district by the end of June 2027, creating potential opportunities for additional gymnasium and physical education space. He also referenced the Friends of the Royals turf field project.

Discussion also focused on Birchmount School, which is approaching capacity. Aubrey noted that planned residential developments within the catchment area are expected to result in significant population growth, with more than 9,000 additional residents anticipated over the next 15 years.

The following Major Capital Project recommendations were presented:

- New K-12 School in the Birchmount School catchment area
- Marshview School Rationalization (#23 to #33)
- Tantramar Regional High School (#34)
- New K-8 School in Dieppe (#64)
- New K-8 School in Moncton North (#42)
- New K-8 School in Central Moncton (#47)
- Riverview Middle School Midlife Upgrade (#28)



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Aubrey advised that these recommendations represent the district's most pressing infrastructure needs and would help address current and future enrolment pressures throughout the district.

Mark Owen asked whether there was a way to ensure projects remained on the provincial QBL list. Aubrey shared his thoughts on the process and suggested that those responsible for scoring projects provincially communicate directly with districts to gain a better understanding of local circumstances and needs.

Aubrey then reviewed each section of the capital submission and the requirements associated with each category.

Michelle Folkins noted that Tantramar Regional High School had previously been ranked fourth and, following revisions, had moved to fourteenth on the list. She referenced student survey results indicating that more than 300 students reported not feeling safe at school and noted that concerns regarding cleanliness had also been identified. Michelle reiterated concerns she had raised in previous years and expressed a desire to see Phase III Incorporated into Phase II. She encouraged the Council to continue advocating with government regarding the project.

Duane MacDonald asked how the district could further advance the Tantramar universal washroom project.

Discussion followed regarding provincial funding expectations. Members noted that districts have traditionally received approximately \$2.5 million in annual funding, although additional projects could be considered should funding allocations increase. It was also noted that the Department may advise districts of available funding amounts and request prioritized submissions.

Clarification was provided that the district's submission is not a ranking of projects. All projects submitted by districts are ultimately evaluated and prioritized by the Department through the QBL process. Kristin Cavoukian reiterated for the benefit of the public that the recommendations presented do not represent a ranking by the District Education Council.

Motion:

That the District Education Council write to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development advocating for increased funding for major capital projects in order to address the growing infrastructure needs of the Anglophone East School District.

Moved by: Michelle Folkins

Seconded by: Kristin Cavoukian

Motion Carried



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Current Provincial Capital Priority List (2026-2027)

- Forest Glen / Sunny Brae Rationalization (#1)
- Riverview High School Mid-Life Upgrade and Addition (#7)
- Mountain View School Replacement (#12)

AESD Major Capital Recommendations Submitted to Government

- New K-12 School in the Birchmount catchment area
- Marshview Rationalization
- Tantramar Regional High School project
- New K-8 School in Dieppe
- New K-8 School in Moncton North
- New K-8 School in Central Moncton
- Riverview Middle School Mid-Life Upgrade

Motion:

That the District Education Council approve the Major Capital Project Recommendations as presented.

Moved by: Mark Owen

Seconded by: Michelle Folkins

Motion Carried

8.2. School Pilot Calendar – Update

The Superintendent & CEO presented the proposed school calendars as an information item.

During discussion, Aubrey Kirkpatrick asked whether the calendars presented were official. The Superintendent & CEO clarified that the calendars are currently recommendations and will be discussed further at the upcoming Superintendent's Leadership Team meeting.

The Superintendent & CEO noted that the 11 schools currently operating under the alternate calendar have provided very positive feedback. He stated that the alternate calendar has been successful and that early indicators suggest student achievement results are trending in a positive direction. While it is still early to draw conclusions regarding academic outcomes, additional data will be available in the future.

Kristin Cavoukian commented that she does not view the calendar as a pilot, noting that a similar model has been used within the francophone sector. She described the implementation as a gradual rollout and emphasized that language should not be a determining factor in access to the calendar model. She expressed disappointment that the expansion discussed earlier in the year had not occurred and stated that she continues to wait for commitments made by government officials to be fulfilled. She also raised concerns regarding inequities in access to professional learning opportunities, particularly in rapidly evolving areas such as technology, and questioned the disconnect between innovation initiatives and access to professional learning time.



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Dominic Vautour, Chair, echoed concerns regarding professional learning opportunities, noting that teachers are expected to implement district and provincial priorities while some schools continue to have less access to professional learning time than others.

Members discussed the importance of providing ongoing professional learning opportunities for all staff groups and the need to ensure equitable access across the district. Concerns were also raised about the impact of reduced professional learning opportunities during and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Superintendent & CEO advised that the matter will be revisited following upcoming leadership discussions, at which time additional information will be available and next steps can be considered. Several members expressed support for broader implementation of the alternate calendar model, citing its potential to provide professional learning opportunities at no additional cost while supporting continuous improvement across the district.

8.3. New schools construction – Update

The Superintendent & CEO provided an update on several major capital projects within the district.

He reported that construction of the new Shediac school is underway and progressing as planned.

Regarding the new Salisbury school project, he noted that the district is very close to announcing the location. He explained that the municipality and the province have been working through a land exchange process, which is nearing completion.

The Superintendent & CEO also advised that the district is close to finalizing the land acquisition for the new Dieppe school project.

In addition, he reported that the educational specifications for the Sunny Brae and Forest Glen projects have been approved, marking another important step forward in the planning process.

The Superintendent & CEO concluded that significant progress continues to be made on several key capital projects aimed at addressing enrollment growth and long-term infrastructure needs across the district.

8.4. Staffing update - School & District Leadership

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the list of recent leadership appointments across the district and provided an overview of the staffing changes resulting from these movements.

He noted that ongoing school reconfigurations and organizational changes continue to influence staffing decisions, including adjustments related to middle school configurations, shared spaces, and leadership assignments across multiple schools.

The Superintendent & CEO highlighted several recent principal and vice-principal appointments throughout the district and explained that leadership movements often create a domino effect, resulting in additional staffing requirements. As positions are filled, new vacancies are created that must also be staffed, such as classroom teaching positions, including French immersion roles.



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He concluded by noting that recruitment efforts and staffing postings remain active as the district works to fill vacancies created through leadership appointments and other personnel changes.

8.5. Graduations

The Superintendent & CEO reviewed the schedule of upcoming graduation ceremonies and encouraged DEC members to attend and support students as they celebrate this important milestone.

He congratulated Ryan Johnson on his appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA and thanked him for his service and leadership at Hillcrest School.

The Superintendent & CEO also congratulated Tammy Constantine on being named a recipient of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association (NBTA) Excellence in Leadership Award, recognizing her outstanding contributions to education and leadership.

DEC members who wish to attend a graduation ceremony or speak at an event were asked to notify Janique so that the information can be shared with the schools and appropriate arrangements can be made.

8.6. Enrollment update

8.6.1. Current enrollment

8.6.2. Projected enrollment

The Superintendent & CEO reported that district enrollment has reached 20,656 students, an increase of 23 students since the previous update. He noted that while the rate of growth is beginning to slow, enrollment continues to rise and the district remains one of the fastest-growing school districts in the province.

He explained that Anglophone East continues to have a high number of students per school compared to other districts, creating additional pressure on facilities, maintenance operations, and trades staff. He also noted that while urban schools often receive attention more quickly due to rapid population growth and capacity demands, many rural schools continue to face challenges related to aging infrastructure.

The Superintendent & CEO concluded that sustained enrollment growth continues to place pressure on both urban and rural schools, particularly in the areas of capacity, maintenance, and infrastructure planning.



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8.7. Summer Learning – Journey to Excellence

The Superintendent & CEO provided an update on the Summer of Learning event, noting that this year marks the third year of hosting the initiative. He shared that more than 500 teachers and staff have already registered and described the event as an incredible professional learning journey that continues to grow each year.

He also noted that this year's event will be expanded to include education interns, Bachelor of Education students from Crandall University, and substitute teachers, providing additional opportunities for learning, collaboration, and professional growth across the education community.

8.8. Teachers' collective agreement

The Superintendent & CEO reported that the teachers' collective agreement has been signed and acknowledged the significant compensation increases included in the agreement. He congratulated the teachers and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation (NBTF) on reaching the agreement and thanked the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and district staff for their work throughout the process.

He noted that while salary adjustments have been made for unionized employees, there have been no corresponding adjustments for management and non-union staff. He expressed concern that this may soon result in salary compression issues, creating challenges related to recruitment, retention, and organizational culture. The seven school districts are working together to advocate with a unified voice on this matter and may seek support from DEC members in the future.

DEC members expressed support for advocacy efforts and noted the importance of ensuring opportunities exist to address these concerns.

The Superintendent & CEO also provided an overview of the district's budget for the upcoming year, noting that it will increase to approximately \$260 million. He explained that while this represents a significant increase compared to the 1% increases received in the previous two years, past funding shortfalls have not been fully restored, with approximately \$4.7 million added to the current funding base rather than restoring previous baseline levels.

Additional funding will support teachers, educational assistants, classroom changes, and other educational priorities, with a substantial portion of the increase allocated to salary adjustments resulting from newly negotiated collective agreements. He noted that payroll staff are currently preparing for the implementation of salary and retroactive pay changes.

The Superintendent & CEO concluded that the budget is aligned with the district's operating needs and that the recently negotiated labor agreements will be a significant factor in salary adjustments and payroll implementation for the coming year.



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8.9. AI and Curriculum

The Superintendent & CEO spoke about the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and how AI literacy is being integrated into the curriculum. He explained that the Minister has announced that AI literacy will be infused throughout the curriculum, emphasizing that the focus is not on increasing screen time, but on helping students develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand and use AI responsibly.

He noted that the goal is to equip students from the early grades onward with the ability to engage with AI tools to support learning in areas such as reading, mathematics, and understanding the world around them. The Superintendent & CEO also highlighted the importance of providing professional learning opportunities for staff so that educators are prepared to support these curriculum changes and effectively use AI tools in teaching and learning.

He concluded by noting that AI literacy integration is underway and that ongoing teacher training, along with a culture of continuous improvement, will be essential to its successful implementation.

8.10. Greater Moncton Dragon Boat Festival

The Superintendent & CEO invited DEC members to attend the event, noting that it is a unique and engaging experience and encouraging members to come and see it firsthand.

8.11. Retirement ceremony

The Superintendent & CEO thanked Jacqui and her team for their leadership, dedication, and the excellent work they continue to do in support of the district.

8.12. Indigenous Grad Celebration

The item was skipped.

8.13. Information items:

8.13.1. Indigenous Education and Equity, Belonging, Decolonization report

8.13.2. Professional Support and Growth Team report

8.13.3. 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

The Director of Human Resources provided an update on staffing activities across the district, noting that staffing season is currently underway and continues to create a domino effect as positions are filled and new vacancies emerge. She explained that the staffing team is heavily involved in the process and is experiencing one of its busiest periods of the year.

She advised that preparations are also underway for the annual CUPE 2745 year-end staffing session scheduled for June 22. The staffing process has its greatest impact on educational assistants, and district staff



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continue to work closely with the Education Support Services team to provide support throughout the transition period.

The Director of Human Resources also reported that the payroll team is actively preparing for the implementation of retroactive payments and salary adjustments resulting from recently negotiated collective agreements. She acknowledged the significant work involved and thanked the payroll staff for their efforts to ensure the process proceeds smoothly and accurately.

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

The director of finance and administration provided an update on the district office relocation, noting that planning and preparation for the move has been underway for the past year. While the move is largely complete, a few remaining items continue to be addressed.

The Director of Finance and Administration reviewed facilities work order data, reporting that 647 work orders have been completed, while approximately 1,300 remain open. He noted that the district remains short 17 maintenance repair and trades positions. He shared regional breakdowns, noting 57 open work orders in the South, 37 in the West, and 19 in the North. He advised that the new budget did not address this situation.

The Director of Finance and Administration reported that the Finance team is currently focused on year-end activities and is reviewing data to ensure that a balanced budget can be presented to the DEC next month.

With respect to transportation, he advised that the district has created a new VMA position. He noted that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is interested in the work being undertaken and has agreed to fund the position for a three-month period, from April to June, provided that the district submits a report outlining the learning and outcomes from the project.

Regarding the food program, he reported that the district continues to work through implementation challenges. He noted that Port Elgin will be coming online next week and that a broader rollout of the program is planned for September.

He also highlighted the recent INSPIRE Awards event, recognizing the efforts of district and community partners in organizing and hosting the celebration.



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During discussion, Dominic Vautour thanked Duane MacDonald for serving as Master of Ceremonies and also recognized Kristin Cavoukian, Mark Owen, and Ian Hebblethwaite for their participation and support of the event.

11. Director of communications' Report – Stephanie Patterson

11.1. Department updates

Stephanie Patterson will provide an update on this matter at the next DEC meeting.

DEC reports

12. Chair's report

12.1. DEC vacancy – Subdistrict 4

The Chair, Dominic Vautour, discussed the vacancy in Sub-District 4 and explained that the current DEC could not make an appointment, as that responsibility would fall to the next District Education Council. However, he noted that the current DEC could begin identifying and encouraging potential candidates to express interest in the position.

The Chair suggested that notices of interest be shared over the summer so that the matter could be considered by the new DEC in August or September.

The Superintendent & CEO advised that he would work with Stephanie Patterson to support communications related to the vacancy.

Members also discussed sharing information with Parent School Support Committees (PSSCs) to help generate interest and encourage qualified individuals to consider serving on the District Education Council.

13. District Education Council - Members' updates

Mark Owen – Opened the member's update by reporting that, on April 24, the Parents for Bilingual Education group at Maplehurst received funding from the federal government. He attended a retirement event on May 5 and commented that the Harrison Trimble High School Choir did a fantastic job. On May 8 and 9, he attended the production of *Into the Woods* at Maplehurst and described it as a great event. On May 9, he attended Evergreen Park School's first community yard sale, which raised approximately \$600 for Kindergarten initiatives. At the Maplehurst Memorial School PSSC meeting on May 12, members again discussed safety concerns at the school. He also reported that the Evergreen Park School PSSC is working on a school handbook for families and staff and noted that concerns were raised regarding the implementation of the new school calendar, with reference made to a letter on the matter. On May 20, he attended a Grade 3 field trip and, on May 24, attended the Bernice MacNaughton High School 50th Birthday Bash. He also spoke about the INSPIRE Awards and gave a special shout out to a student from Wabanaki School for his energy and enthusiasm.

Lastly, highlighting Northrop Frye School's Family Fun Night, noting that the dunk tank was a popular attraction.



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Michelle Folkins – Marshview School's PSSC expressed appreciation for the advertisement that had been created for them. Members wondered whether a pamphlet or business card containing a QR code could be developed to help promote Parent School Support Committees and provide easier access to information about their role and activities. During the meeting, the principal also discussed the food program and the challenges associated with implementation, noting that Marshview does not have an on-site kitchen.

Duane MacDonald – Claude D. Taylor School is looking to start an esports team. At Frank L. Bowser School, a Spin-a-Thon was held, and the school also hosted its Spring Fair on May 9. Riverview High School's new kitchen design was highlighted, and members were encouraged to visit and see the space. At Riverview Middle School, strong results on the teacher perception survey were noted. The school is also exploring opportunities to work with the Town Council to secure additional outdoor space for students to play and help address space constraints.

Veronique Cote – The Student Representative reported that student council elections are coming to a close and preparations are underway for next year. High schools across the district are also preparing for prom, graduation, and Demonstration Learning Week, while students and staff continue to focus on year-end activities.

At Bernice MacNaughton High School, the school recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a birthday bash that included a barbecue and games. Salisbury Regional High School is preparing for its Senior Class Walk and, along with Riverview High School, was recognized as a Renaissance School of Distinction. The schools achieved Gold Standing for the second consecutive year, placing them among the top 2% of Renaissance schools in North America. Riverview High School is also hosting an open house for Grade 9 students.

Tantramar Regional High School is raising funds for the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation through a Duck Derby fundraiser. Harrison Trimble High School held its 55th Annual Teacher Variety Show in April and is preparing to celebrate student achievements. Harrison Trimble High School and Petitcodiac Regional School both attended the Atlantic Drama Festival and received awards. Moncton High School also raised funds in support of the Lions Sick Children's Fund.

Kristin Cavoukian – A DEC member reported attending PSSC meetings at Edith Cavell School and Bernice MacNaughton High School. At Edith Cavell, discussion focused on enrollment and the school's highly mobile student population, with approximately 70% of students transitioning through the school during the year. The member noted that results from the teacher perception survey improved significantly, increasing from 58% to 82%. The school also highlighted its Castle Hub initiative, which provides classroom-adjacent spaces where students can self-regulate. The initiative is reportedly working well for students with specific behavioural needs.

At Bernice MacNaughton High School, the member noted that the school will be hosting the Reach for the Top National Championships, while Wabanaki School will host the middle school competition. The school's PSSC provided funding for buzzers used in the competition. Plans are also underway to introduce a cheer team next year.



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The member further reported that the student representative at Bernice MacNaughton High School has been discussing the possibility of establishing a Council of Student Leaders, similar to a model used in Anglophone West School District. Under that model, a student leadership team meets four times per year, operates through subcommittees, and selects a representative to serve at the district level. The member outlined how the group functions and suggested the concept be discussed further at a future meeting. The Superintendent & CEO noted that Anglophone West previously had a student senate and indicated that he had been considering a similar structure for the district next year.

Jolyne Knockwood – No member's update

14. Office tour (after the meeting is adjourned)

Mentioned during the Chair's report, and inviting members to stay at the end of the meeting if they wish to have a tour of the new office.

15. End of meeting

At 9:37 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