



Special Education Advisory Committee

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

DECEMBER 6, 2016

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Present:

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Jennifer Moore (Chair) - Dilico
- Judy Wawia - Trustee - Aboriginal Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Margie Rondeau - NOSP
- Helen Gibbons - CCAC/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Co-ordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Niskanen - Parent

Regrets:

- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Dean Burke - Principal
- Lynda Moffat - Parent
- Jennifer & Ray Ross - Parents



- Kristie Nicholas - Parent

Welcome and Opening Liturgy

Kerry began and ended the meeting with a prayer and read the statement of acknowledgment:

“We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Peoples, in the Robinson Superior Treaty area. I wish to recognize the long history of First Nations and Metis Peoples in Ontario, and show respect to them today”.

Agenda/Minutes

Resolution #07/16

Moved By: Judy Wawia

Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on December 6, 2016 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Resolution #08/16

Moved By: Judy Wawia

Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on October 18, 2016 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED



Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning

1. PPM 8: Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities:

Opportunity was provided to discuss this PPM and how we need to understand that Program Planning applies to any student who demonstrates difficulties in learning and who would benefit from special education programs.

New Business

1. Special Needs Strategy Update:

Overview of the meeting that was held in Thunder Bay on October 5th with the various Service Providers, School Board Personnel, and Ministry was shared and discussed among the committee. The Special Needs Strategy has been created to advocate for an integrated service approach for students with multiple needs, to allow for seamless delivery. Although the Special Needs Strategy will allow for the seamless delivery between service agencies, we continue to have areas that are not able to access service and students who are on wait lists for service not for assessment. Unfortunately our current process is also not meeting the need for finite services as it is convoluted at best. Assessment is completed and then often consultative services are the only level of service that can be provided. We will continue to discuss and update as more information becomes available.

2. After School Skills Development Program Application:

The After School Skills Development Program Application that Kerry submitted to the Ministry was shared and discussed. The communities that were selected for this application had at least 2 students on the Autism Spectrum within their schools that would benefit from additional opportunities to develop social skills with typically developing peers and further experiences to support them in gross motor skills development through after school physical activities.

3. New Website Launch:

Kerry shared that the new website has been launched and continues to use the same address (www.sncdsb.on.ca).



All SEAC information can be located on the website, including the SEAC members, previous meeting minutes and links to resource supports for Special Education.

4. Service Provider Updates:

4a) North of Superior Programs (Margie Rondeau):

Management team is currently in the second round of accreditation which enables them more legitimacy in the clinical community and thus more options for funding. The current manager, Neil Seich will be retiring in May 2017 and there is a current posting for two Regional Managers for the District. Two positions continue to be on a contract basis but NOSP is almost at full complement.

4b) Community Care Access Centre (Helen Gibbons):

Organization is continuing with business as usual although there are some changes that will be occurring in the future. CCAC continues to provide support for students and families. There is a new referral form that became official on December 1st and it has been shared with all schools.

4c) Norwest Community Health Centre - FASD (Maureen Parkes):

They have recently had a Grand Opening at their brand new building that has opened on Simpson Street in Thunder Bay. Everyone is invited to visit the Centre when they are in the city.

4d) Dilico Anishinabek Family Centre (Jennifer Moore):

Dilico currently has two Mental Health nurses in the district, although they will be losing one soon. One nurse provides service along the North shore and the other in Greenstone. They are currently working on Case Management for the youth requiring service as they want to provide seamless delivery and not duplicate services. Dilico is also offering a Cultural Program in Thunder Bay and the District and can be accessed through client or non-client referral. Currently it has offered support for healings and circles, as well as a boys drumming group in Longlac. This is a relatively new program and they are in a process of recruitment.



Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date: January 10, 2017

Possible Future Agenda Topics:

- Colleen Sheriff and team present and explain individual roles and responsibilities and how their individual services complement one another.
- Student and Community Engagement Leads discuss recommendations of the TRC's.

Adjournment

Resolution #09/16

Moved By: Jennifer Niskanen

Seconded By: Marline Ilijow

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:28 a.m.

CARRIED

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date