



Meetings Minutes for the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Date: April 4, 2017

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Present

- Jennifer Moore (Chair) - Dilico
- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Judy Wawia - Trustee - Aboriginal Representative
- Margie Rondeau - North of Superior Programs
- Maureen Parkes - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Coordinator at NorWest Community Health Centres
- Helen Gibbons - Community Care Access Centre and SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Kristie Nicholas - Parent



Regrets

- Dean Burke - Principal
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Jennifer Niskanen - Parent
- Lynda Moffat - Parent
- Jennifer & Ray Ross - Parents

Welcome and Opening Liturgy

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

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the ancestral territory of the Anishinaabe and the Metis. I wish to recognize and show respect to the long history and contributions of the First Nations and Metis Peoples in Ontario, as well as, the Inuit People of Canada.

Agenda/Minutes

Resolution #19/16

Moved By: Marline Ilijow

Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on April 4, 2017 be accepted.

CARRIED

Resolution #20/16

Moved By: Judy Wawia



Seconded By: Marline Ilijow

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on March 7, 2017 be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning

1. **LD's at School Presentation** - Linda Houston
 - Linda shared her Presentation via Adobe Connect with all participants. As well the slides were sent to all (see attached).

New Business

1. **Renewed Math Strategy Spring Session and Math Learning Network**

Kerry shared that the next steps for our system in regards to the Ministry Math focus is the Spring Provincial RMS Symposium in Toronto on May 17th and 18th. During this session the Numeracy Facilitator (Aaron Baker), Superintendents (Kerry Desjardins/Rima Mounayer) and several school teams (Principal and Math Lead Teacher) will attend and planning for 2017-2018 will begin.

The Regional Ministry of Education Achievement team has created an additional math learning opportunity for our District School Board teams beginning on May 9th and 10th in Thunder Bay. This will support the development of a collaborative Math Learning Network that will meet several times throughout the school year to build their instructional leadership capacity in Math.

2. **Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Session and Administrative Dates**

On Tuesday, March 21st Patricia Tapp (Education Officer with EQAO) facilitated a session with all Grade 3, 6, & Learning for All Teachers and principals in our system. During this time she dispelled the myths regarding EQAO and supported the teachers in effective use of the EQAO resources to prepare our students for the assessment.



The administrative dates for this years EQAO will be May 23rd to June 5th. Schools have been requested to submit their EQAO Administration Plans.

3. Alternative Programming Feedback Session

On March 8th, Kerry Desjardins & Jennifer Moore attended the Regional Feedback Session in regards to the Draft Document that has been created for students on Alternative Programs within our school. Jen shared a brief overview of how the document will support schools in meeting the needs of these students and look at the gaps that need to be focussed on for the 1% of students who can not access the curriculum.

4. Healthy Kids Initiatives in Greenstone

Margie shared that this has become an integrated service in the area and that service providers are noticing similar trends and concerns among the students receiving and accessing services. Through the Healthy Kids Charter it has been noticed that many students have challenges with hunger and are often tired on Monday morning. Research from the United States demonstrates that this has led to failing marks and physical health issues, therefore the community is adopting the Weekend Backpack Program. Local community agencies and people sponsor a backpack for the kids on the weekend; the local food industry is looking to see if it doable and are introducing vendors to this. They are also hoping that schools will adopt it. This initiative would provide for 2 light meals and snacks over the weekend. Christmas Break and March Break would provide heavier backpacks to tide these children over. They feel that approximately 250 students would utilize this program, thus improving attendance, health and education.

5. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Margie Rondeau/Kristie Nicholas

Margie shared that Candace Davies is the new Regional Manager and staffing at North of Superior Counselling Programs (NOSP) is currently good. There is currently no vacancies in the program.

Kristie shared that there is a current vacancy in Nipigon for a Mental Health Nurse at the hospital who provides mental health service to children and adults.

Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) - Helen Gibbons

Helen reported that the transitions at CCAC are still ongoing. She also shared that she attended the Dilico conference in Thunder Bay - Empowering First Nation Communities.



George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available for update

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Fred shared that there is continued education and discussions on the ARC (Attachment, Regulation & Competency) framework is ongoing which will target our most vulnerable children.

Staff from CCTB also attended the Dilico conference in Thunder Bay and the feedback was good.

Norwest Community Health Centre, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Maureen Parkes

Maureen reported that there were no updates at this time.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Centre (Jennifer Moore)

Jennifer shared that the Annual Dilico Conference was a success and that emails have been sent to the organizer for the slide decks. Dilico is currently recruiting new workers in Marathon. Coffee chats have also been occurring between Dilico and North of Superior Counselling Programs (NOSP).

Other Matters

1. **Next Meeting Date:** May 2, 2017

Adjournment

Resolution #21/16

Moved By: Marline Ilijow

Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:26 am

CARRIED



SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date