



Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting held on September 6, 2018

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - Aboriginal Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- BJ Mercier - St. Hilary School Principal
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone

Regrets

- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Niskanen - Parent

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

Judy began the meeting with a prayer and read the statement of acknowledgment.

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #01/18

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on September 6, 2018 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Resolution #02/18

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on June 4, 2018 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. The Special Education Plan 2018

Kerry shared the completed copy of the Special Education Plan 2018 that has been approved by the Ministry and is available for all on the Superior North Catholic District School Board website.

The following link is the approved plan for 2018: [Special Education Plan 2018](#)

2. Parent's Guide to Special Education

Kerry shared the completed copy of the Parent's Guide to Special Education 2018 that has been approved by the Ministry and is available for all on the Superior North Catholic District School Board website.

The Learning for All teachers and the Principal's are preparing for their IPRC's and all are aware that this guide must be provided to all parents during the IPRC review or be distributed during the IEP parent consultation meeting. The following link is the approved guide for 2018: [Parent's Guide to Special Education 2018](#)

New Business

1. Recruitment of New Members - SEAC brochure

Kerry shared that a recruitment brochure has been created and will be shared with the schools for recruitment of new SEAC members for the 2018-2019 school year. It was discussed how the newspaper has not yielded new membership in the past so was not the best form of advertisement. An advertisement will be created and posted on the board website.

The committee spoke about how they would like to see teachers and/or Educational Assistants represented on the committee as they will be able to speak to the needs of the students within the schools and the classrooms. Kerry will email the Learning for All teachers to recruit an interested member of OECTA to represent the teachers. Kerry will speak to the Principals about an Educational Assistant being available for one hour a month to represent SEIU as they work with our most vulnerable students.

2. SEAC Chair for 2018-19

Judy Wawia indicated that she would continue with as SEAC Chair for 2018-2019 with BJ Mercier being the Vice-Chair on the occasions that Judy is unavailable for a meeting.

3. 2018-2019 School Year Calendar

Copies of the Superior North Catholic District School Board calendar was distributed to all SEAC members and it was shared that all important dates for SNCDSB were identified in the calendar for future reference.

4. Learning for All Professional Learning Focus 2018-19

This year the Learning for All teachers will work collaboratively in the [Learning for All document](#), specifically focusing on Knowing the Learner. This will also be supported with work from the Northern Supports Initiative and professional learning opportunities with the psychiatrist hired to support all 8 regional boards.

5. The Third Path

The Third Path resource has been purchased for all principals this year and the professional learning around this resource will be delivered by one of the writer's of the resource, Tom Boland. A link was shared that describes the components of the resource and how it will support the students and educators at SNCDSB.

6. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Nicole shared that NOSP is happy to share that they have a social worker that has been hired to support Superior North Catholic District School Board and Superior Greenstone District School Board. This worker will work in each of the four elementary schools one day a week.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

Helen shared that there has been recent changes to Management, including a new CEO for the Northwest LHINs, including Nipigon, Geraldton, Manitouwadge, etc. With new management there will also be improvements to the system.

Helen continues to service Manitouwadge, Marathon and Terrace Bay but the needs are not as necessary in the Terrace Bay area as there is a full complement of NOSP workers that are able to provide direct and consistent services.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available for update.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Fred shared how rural psychology has been extremely busy with referrals and numerous requests for consultation around Autism. There seems to be an over-identification at this time for Autism and there is worry that these diagnosis's might not be genuine, as people are not using the available resources well. Genevieve Berube is doing consultations up front which includes a meeting with the child an observation in the home. This screening measure will flag the need for further referral and/or assessment. The belief is that the increased talk about Autism within the Ministry and on TV is driving the increase in referral requests.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Not available for update.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Not available for update.

Future Agenda Items

1. Support Services available from Children's Centre Thunder Bay
2. Further Dilico Presentations
3. Mental Health Presentations
4. Positive Behaviour Support Lead

Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date: October 2, 2018

Adjournment

Resolution #03/18

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Helene Gibbons

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 1:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Originally signed

SEAC Chairperson and SEAC Member

Date