



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 3, 2019

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay

### Regrets

- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Nicki Chik - Parent

### Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

### Agenda/Minutes:

#### Resolution #01/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow

Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

**THAT** the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on September 3, 2019 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

### Resolution #02/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow  
Seconded By: Nicole Beaulieu

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on June 4, 2019 be accepted as amended.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

#### 1. Special Education Plan 2019

Kerry shared the Special Education Plan for 2019. As discussed at the June meeting, the recommendations received from Learning for All teachers, Principals and SEAC were updated in this document. There were minor changes made. Information on the Fair Start Program was replaced with Ages and Stages. Kindergarten teachers and Early Childhood Educator's have implemented this screening tool within all schools, beginning with all new Kindergarten registrations. Every child with an IEP needs a transition plan. Kerry will continue to carry the Special Education portfolio this year.

#### 2. Parents Guide to Special Education 2019

The format has changed a bit this year. There was an addition of our mission, vision and values statements into the document as well as some other minor changes. It is important to note that if parents do not agree with the IPRC decision regarding identification and/or placement, the guidelines for the appeal process is included. The Parents Guide must be given to parents annually.

In sharing this document with SEAC members, it was mentioned that the format is great, it highlights the main ideas and is very reader friendly.

### New Business

#### 1. Recruitment of New Members - SEAC Brochure

Kerry shared the SEAC brochure with committee members. We will continue to reach out to all schools with sharing the brochure with Principals to be sent

home to parents with students with special needs, as well, we will make sure that a poster is created and shared in schools and on social media. Kerry asked if there were any groups that we may like included in our committee membership. In September, Kerry will check with school Educational Assistants to see if there is an interest for a representative to sit on SEAC.

### **2. SEAC Chair for 2019-2020**

Judy has offered to continue as SEAC Chair for this coming year.

### **3. 2019-2020 School Year Calendar & Highlight New Administration at SNCDSB**

We will send out a hard copy of our school year calendar to each SEAC member.

#### **New Administration:**

We have a new Superintendent of Education. Leah Vanderwey comes to us from the Ministry of Education and has previously worked for our Board as a Superintendent. We are excited to welcome her back to our Board.

Tracy Bryson is now our Mental Health Lead. Last year we hired an Attendance Counsellor from funding for Multidisciplinary support. Our Positive Behaviour Support Worker Kathleen Mahon will continue to support our northern schools.

We hired a replacement for our previous Positive Behaviour Support Worker, Megan Miller. Her replacement is Kelli Adams who will support Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Saviour School and St. Martin School. Ophelia Amponsah was hired as well to support St. Edward School, St. Hilary School and Holy Angels School.

### **4. Learning for All Professional Learning Focus for 2019-2020**

Empower Kits were ordered for Our Lady of Lourdes School, Holy Angels School, St. Martin School, Holy Saviour School and St. Joseph School. School based training will be held on September 9/10, 2019.

### **5. Mental Health and Well-Being Focus for 2019-2020**

We will be concentrating more on Mental Health and Well Being with the addition of our new staffing.

### **6. Service Provider Updates (if available):**

#### **North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu**

No update at this time.

### Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

Helen participated in a continued education course through the summer. Helen indicated that she was very happy to hear of Tracy's new position.

### George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available for an update.

### Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Fred shared that there are no current updates at this time but that services are going as usual and that they are excited to be available to the city and rural areas. Fred mentioned that there is a Social Worker who is completing their MSW and as part of this course is doing a dedicated project in the rural areas in the communities, on an environmental profile on our needs, etc. She will be interviewing with stakeholders such as school boards and mental health organizations for feedback. This survey will be completed by the end of December or early January.

### Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

The community wide training date for FASD, Trauma Training will be held on Thursday Oct 10th in Thunder Bay at the Italian Culture Centre. A poster with further information will be sent out.

### Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Not available for an update.

## Other Matters

1. **Future Agenda Items** - Math Coaches, Lena Stahl and Peter Kutok would like to share with SEAC a presentation on the math strand, at the October meeting.

If you have any agenda items you would like to include please email Kerry Desjardins or Maria Lapenskie with your topics.

2. **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 9:30 AM at St. Edward School.

## Adjournment

### Resolution # 03/19

Moved By: Fred Schmidt  
Seconded By: Maureen Parkes

**THAT** we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Carried.

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SEAC Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
SEAC Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date