



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on October 1, 2019

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- 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
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Tara Patterson - Parent

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #04/19

Moved By: Bobbi Lin Mercer

Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 1, 2019 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Resolution #05/19

Moved By: Fred Schmidt
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on September 3, 2019 be accepted as amended.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. [Mental Health Lead Presentation](#) - Tracy Bryson (Mental Health Leader)

Tracy shared the attached Mental Health Presentation and included information on goals and programming, including the one-year action plan. As she is new in the role, she would like to concentrate on building relationships - committee memberships. One of the main goals from last year was to identify one person per school to sit on the Mental Health Champion Committee. Some schools have identified teams. These champions/teams will work in collaboration with the Mental Health Lead. This will ensure we have the proper training in our schools. October 28th will be the first meeting, including Safe-Talk training for all members. This way we will have at least one person trained at each school location.

Positive Behaviour Support Workers have been hired. This gives us one support worker for each of our 3 schools, with the main goal being supporting the facilitation and development of our Student Success Plans.

School Mental Health Ontario is funded through the government to support the implementation of mental health in our Boards. Each Board has a mental health coach.

Internal/external pathways - the board is looking to establish internal and external pathways - Positive Behaviour Support Workers and the next steps in referrals. We are working to ensure there is a clear system in place.

Fred Schmidt provided positive feedback on Tracy's presentation. He shared that the Ontario Child Health Study results from 2014 indicated more children and youth were seeking mental health assistance. Fred will share a brief summary of this study with Tracy and Nicole and other SEAC members.

Nicole Beaulieu thanked Tracy and gave positive comments on the relationships and collaboration that is happening in our schools.

Bobbi-Lin Mercer from St. Joseph School, indicated she would like to join the mental health team at her location. Tracy to follow up with this request.

New Business

1. **After School Program 2019-2020**

We have been approved funding for the following three years for the After School Program. The schools in Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay and Red Rock have secured a provider to run this program. Kerry will check with Principals in the remaining schools to see if they may be able to secure a provider for this program as well.

Students with ASD and typically developing students are involved in this program to develop social and peer relationships outside of the regular school environment. It has been very successful in the three communities that are currently operating the program.

2. [SEAC Brochure](#) and [Recruitment Poster](#)

SEAC Brochure - people that are interested in attending/joining SEAC, will be sent a brochure.

Recruitment Poster - This poster describes the role of SEAC, with contact information included. The poster will be added to our board website and sent to all schools.

We will look at having representation of an Educational Assistant on the committee. This will be discussed with school principals. We are anticipating that by the November meeting, we will have an E.A. representation.

4. [Parents Guide to Special Education](#)

The Guide is not changing, but we have added an addendum with a link to our names and organizations that are represented on SEAC. The online version will include this link.

5. **Multi-Disciplinary Team Update**

Our first meeting was held on our Professional Development Day. Referrals for student support are being received. The team will meet every second Friday.

6. [Developmental Trauma and FASD Training Event](#)

Training information was shared with the committee. An invitation to attend was sent to Principals to share with their staff. We have four staff that will be attending. The information from this training session will be brought back and shared with staff at their schools.

7. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Seema has returned and is working with children in St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima schools. Nicole attended Fourth R training and mentioned she is pleased with the support given to our students in our schools.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

There will be funding to support a Mental Health nurse in the Geraldton/Longlac region. Helen will share with SEAC any further information that she receives.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

No updates at the moment.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Not available

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Not available

Other Matters

- 1. Future Agenda Items** - Math Presentation at our November meeting.
- 2. Next Meeting Date:** November 5, 2019

Our next meeting will be through a zoom link. It will connect with each participant virtually.

Adjournment

Resolution # 06/19

Moved By: Fred Schmidt
Seconded By: Nicole Beaulieu

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Carried.

Originally signed.

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date