



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on January 5, 2021

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse

Regrets

- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #15/20

Moved By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on January 5, 2021 be accepted.

Carried.

Resolution #16/20

Moved By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer
Seconded By: Lindsay Costa

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee virtual meeting held on December 1, 2020 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. Attendance Presentation by Michelle Legacy - February 2, 2021
2. Math Presentation by Peter Kutok/Lena Stahl - March 2, 2021

New Business

1. Mental Health and Well-Being Update

Tracy Bryson, our Mental Health Lead, attended SEAC and provided an update on Mental Health and Well-being. The monthly principal meetings have been a great success. It's also an opportunity to get together to share resources between each other. We have started a partnership with Dilico and CSDC Aurores Boreales and attended an innovation highlight meeting. We continue to shout out blogs and challenges to our students. Our Positive Behaviour Support Workers have been engaged in our schools doing individual student success plans for those that needed them. Our Multidisciplinary team is meeting on a weekly basis.

2. Kindergarten Registration 2020-2021

Kindergarten registration is still scheduled for January 18 to January 22, 2021. Due to Covid-19, the registration process will be different this year. Appointments will be made with parents to attend the school after hours. Registration packages will be available to parents. Posters have been distributed to all schools. Packages will be delivered to schools during the week of January 11th.

3. Ministry of Education School Closure (January 4-8)

The Ministry of Education contacted School Boards regarding the pivot to online learning. We had planned for this prior to the Christmas break so all schools had distributed their resources and technology in preparation for the pivot to distance learning. The idea of pivoting is to limit the transmission of Covid-19. Our students with special education needs have participated in distance learning, have received the support they needed in the past and are supported as they had been previously. Educational Assistants' support is also available to these students. All schools have started their distance learning today.

4. Empower Update

We have had one school complete the full year Empower Program for three of their students. The students and educators at Our Lady of Lourdes school completed their first Empower Program. The progress the students made was incredible. This program has a huge effect on the students. All of our schools are participating in this program.

5. Special Education Funding Guidelines Special Equipment Amount (SEA) 2020-21

SEA funding guidelines have been received. Claim based funding model will still flow to Boards the same as prior years. The SEA guidelines and process were explained to SEAC members. OSAPAC software programs will now have to be purchased. For the SIP we will receive the same funding for this year that is received from last year.

6. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Not available for an update.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Basically everything is status quo. Will hopefully begin face to face services next week. Virtual services will also be available.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Not available for update.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

We are still doing our assessments and diagnostic clinics by zoom.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Not available for update.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

Helen has started back at the beginning of December. She has been meeting with students both virtually and in person when possible.

Future Agenda Items

- 1.

Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date:

The next SEAC zoom meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held on **February 2, 2021** beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Resolution #17/20

Moved By: Helen Gibbons
Seconded By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Carried.

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date