



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 6, 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
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Lena Stahl - Presenter
- Peter Kutok - Presenter
- Tracy Bryson - Presenter

### Regrets

- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Tara Patterson - Parent

## Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

## Agenda/Minutes:

Motions were not able to be made due to the small numbers of participants, resulting in a lack of quorum. Therefore, this meeting continued as an information meeting only.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

#### 1. [Math Team Presentation](#) - Peter Kutok and Lena Stahl

Kerry introduced the Math team and welcomed them to the SEAC meeting. The presentation provided information on the new Math strands and changes to the curriculum. The Math curriculum is only available digitally.

### New Business

#### 1. [Mental Health Update](#) - Tracy Bryson

The main focus has been the planning for Spirit Week. We collaborated with Dilico and have also offered social emotional training. Tracy shared the number of students that participated in the mental health events that were offered. We continue to host monthly virtual mental health sessions for principals. Mental health promotion and information has been difficult in sharing, so each week we unpack a resource and highlight a resource for sharing. Our Positive Behaviour Support Workers are continuing to work in our schools. The focus right now is on empowering our system with resources and summer planning for PD for staff, parents and students. Ms Wawia thanked our System Support Team for the excellent work in planning the events held during March week.

#### 2. [Special Education Plan September 2020](#) - **Consultation & Feedback**

Kerry shared the current Special Education Plan with members and is looking for input/recommendations on any changes/revisions for our upcoming year's plan.

Please send your comments/suggestions to Kerry Desjardins or Maria Lapenskie by April 30th. This will then be brought forward to the Board of Trustees for approval.

### **3. Fee for Service Speech/Language Services**

Our fee for service has increased from previous years. This year we have 37 students registered for these services, with our 2 service providers. We have used our funding provided and have been able to use funding from other sources to maintain this service through the remainder of this school year. Funding from Jordan's Principle will be reviewed to see if we may qualify for this funding for any of our students during the 2021-2022 school year.

### **4. Psychoeducational Assessment Referrals**

We subcontract this service that is being funded through the Board.

We had ten referrals for Psychoeducational Assessment Referrals. Parents will travel to Thunder Bay for this service. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, these referrals have not currently been completed. We hope to complete these referrals by year end.

### **5. Summer Learning Funding for Special Education & Mental Health**

We have received summer learning funding for Special Education and Mental Health. We are offering virtual sessions and Kerry explained where the funding can specifically be used. We are unsure at the moment on the staffing and interest in this learning and are working on ideas on what will have students interested.

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

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

Not available for update.

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

Not available for update.

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

Not available for update.

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

Norwest continues to take referrals and assessments and continues with FASD diagnostic clinics. On March 29th virtual training session was held on FASD. The same presentation will be held Monday April 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

#### **Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore**

Not available for update.

#### **Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons**

The organizational name has changed, but local services and contact information

remain the same. We are now called “Home and Community Care Support Services North West”.

## Future Agenda Items

Please send any future agenda items you would included in the agenda to K. Desjardins or M. Lapenskie.

## Other Matters

### 1. Next Meeting Date:

The next SEAC zoom meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held on **May 4, 2021** beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## Adjournment

We adjourned the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:01 a.m.

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SEAC Chairperson

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Date

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SEAC Member

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Date