



Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting held on October 3, 2017

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - Aboriginal Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Margie Rondeau - NOSP
- Helen Gibbons - CCAC/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Mary-Beth Minthorn-Biggs - Inclusive Education Clinician
- BJ Mercier - St. Hilary School Principal
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Maureen Parkes - FASP Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Niskanen - Parent

Regrets

- Kristie Nicholas - NOSP - Nipigon
- Lynda Moffat - Parent
- Jennifer & Ray Ross - Parents

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

Kerry began the meeting with a prayer and read the statement of acknowledgment:

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the ancestral territory of the Anishinaabe and the Metis. I wish to recognize and show respect to the long history and contributions of the First Nations and Metis Peoples in Ontario, as well as, the Inuit People of Canada.



Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #04/17

Moved By: Margie Rondeau
Seconded By: Marline Ilijow

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on October 3, 2017 be accepted.

CARRIED

Resolution #05/17

Moved By: Margie Rondeau
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on September 7, 2017 be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Board Presentation

1. HERE Campaign

A link to the Northwestern School Board Regional Campaign was shared on the Agenda and the rationale for campaign launch was shared with the committee member,

Superior North Catholic DSB is currently the 5th highest school board in the province for chronic absenteeism. We need to impress upon parents and guardians the importance of consistent attendance as chronic absenteeism is currently impacting student achievement and well-being.



New Business

- FAST Program, NSAP & BRISC Process - Mary-Beth Minthorn-Biggs**
FAST (Families and Schools Together) will take place in 3 communities this year. This is a 10 week program for families that involves meal preparation for families following by sessions on positive parenting techniques. This program will focus on skill development for families and will develop the schools as hubs of capacity in the communities

SNAP (Stop Now and Plan) Program is a 13 week program for Grade 2-6 that will begin in January. The home site is in Toronto and training will occur in November, following by Learning for All teachers being trained in the region to deliver the program. NOSP has agreed to be a community partner for the facilitation of this program, especially for families that will need more intensive support. This will allow for wrap-around service.

The BRISC program focuses on youth and is intended to build capacity to support them in solving problems. This program will build skills in the students and is both practical and strategic in the teaching of the skills. It would be great if the Mental Health and Addictions nurse could be trained as it would support in local facilitation as it focuses on anxiety and depression as well.

- EQAO 2016-2017 - Kerry Desjardins**
The School Board EQAO Report for 2016-2017 was shared with the Committee. The public report only contains information for Board results, as our schools are small and therefore most individual results are embargoed due to number of students.

Grade 3 Results: Reading 61%, Writing 70%, Mathematics 42%

Grade 6 Results: Reading 81%, Writing 70%, Mathematics 34%

Our focus for 2017-2018 continues to be on Math and we now have 2 Math coaches who can support the entire system, including co-planning and co-teaching lessons and direct professional learning opportunities at school based PLC's



3. **SNCD SB Math PD September 29, 2017 - Kerry Desjardins**

On September 29th all employees of SNCD SB spent the day together at St. Edward School in Nipigon building their mathematical understanding and capacity in Mathematics. The feedback on this day was very positive as the breakout sessions were facilitated by our own educators and everyone was able to choose the sessions that related directly to their own needs based on the grade that they teach.

The launch of a new on-line tool for building student understanding in Math was launched during the day as well. All schools and all students will have access to Matific which can support the learning in the classroom and students can continue to practice at home.

4. **Service Provider Updates (if available):**

North of Superior Programs - Margie Rondeau

Margie shared that they have successfully recruited a family support worker in Armstrong. All NOSP employees will be engaged in an Annual Retreat on November 7th and 8th and many will be attending ARC training in Thunder Bay on November 16th and 17th. There have been Triple P Parenting opportunities in Thunder Bay that have attended by staff. Margie shared that she was invited to be a part of the Welcome Back Barbeque for students and parents at St. Joseph School.

Community Care Access Centre - Helen Gibbons

Helen attended the FASD Training Workshop in Thunder Bay that was organized and offered by Norwest Community Health Centre. The learning was excellent and was well-attended by the North West LHINS. This is officially the new agency that Helen is employed by.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

There have been additional proposals for further support in the District that would allow for a centre based SLP that would primarily be used to support the North Shore, including Schreiber, Marathon and Manitouwadge. This would allow for a reduced workload for Gilbert. Tiffany Fei is the centre based SLP that will



travel on a 8 week rotation to the district, allowing a 6 week rotation system now for Gilbert. This will reduce Gilbert's workload to 110.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Fred spoke of the ARC (Attachment Regulation and Competency) model and that training will occur on November 16th and 17th for all interested organizations. Any questions of interest can be directed to Fred.

Lise Trudeau has now retired from Rural Services Psychology and Jen Berube is the new Psychometrist that has been hired.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

The FASD Conference that was held on September 18th was well received and the attendance numbers were good. The feedback was very positive from that organizations and attendees.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Dilico has just recently begun a new round of the Roots of Empathy program. The First Nation schools are currently running the SNAP program and Thunder Bay has extended this program to the district, including Ginoogaming and Long Lake 58. The Early Years Centres are currently conducting Fair Start Screens.

Dilico has already begun planning for the 2018 Dilico Conference which may be open to additional registration for a fee. They continue to maintain recruitment in all communities. PIC Mobert, Long Lake 58 and Ginoogaming have been specifically identified as High Risk reserves for our area. This allows for additional funding for Mental Health support services.

Future Agenda Items

1. Dilico Services Session with Brandy Brake-Weldon
2. FAST Program

Other Matters

1. **Next Meeting Date:** November 7, 2017



Adjournment

Resolution #06/17

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Jennifer Niskanen

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:36 am

CARRIED

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date



Meeting Date: October 3, 2017
