



# Special Education Advisory Committee

## Meeting held on October 2, 2018

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - Aboriginal Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- BJ Mercier - St. Hilary School Principal
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSD Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative (joined at 10 am)

### Regrets

- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Niskanen - Parent

### Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

Judy 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:

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. Draft Mental Health Goals for Superior North Catholic DSB 2018-19

Kerry engaged in an oral discussion that our interim Mental Health Lead, Tracy Bryson has been working diligently to create a Mental Health Plan based on the needs of the system and the schools. Tracy has worked in all schools as the Positive Behavior Support Lead and through conversations and observation has created goals that should be a priority within our board for the 2018-2019 school year in the following categories:

- Relationships
- Organizational Conditions and Structures
- School and Classroom Climate
- Evidence- based programming
- Transitions
- Student, Parent, Community Engagement

## New Business

#### 1. SEAC Brochure for Recruitment

A SEAC Brochure was created and circulated to all schools in our Board with the instruction that it was to be sent home to all families of students with special needs, thus ensuring that any parents interested in joining SEAC were able to do so. At this time, we have not received any notification from principals or parents of people interested in joining SEAC for the 2018-2019 school year but we will continue to engage in conversations and extend invitations to parents throughout the course of the year. An email was sent to all Learning for All teachers and many were interested in joining SEAC as a teacher representative so a selection process was done and Bobbi-Lin Mercer (St Joseph School) will be on SEAC for the 2018-2019 school year.

#### 2. After School Autism Program 2018-19

The funding for the Awesome Afternoon Program was extended for the 2018-2019 school year so this program will continue in Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Martin and St. Hilary Schools. The program will continue to be planned and facilitated from the individuals hired last year. The program was very successful in all school communities and has further evolved this year and will look at both Community Engagement and Gross Motor Skill as well.

### 3. North Supports Initiative Update

The NSI funding has continued for the 2018-2019 school year and will impact the following areas within the SNCDSB:

- Child Psychiatry Services
- Urgent Need Response
- Mental Health - Early Intervention
- Intensive Supports for Classroom Programs
- Leadership Development and Capacity Building

### 4. BIPSA/SIPSA PROCESS 2018-19

All Principals have engaged in the BIPSA process along with the Superintendents and the Director and the following priorities emerged - the need to be responsive to student needs in math and to create students who see themselves as learners. Similar processes were put into place at the school level, where similar priorities emerged. A DRAFT BIPSA will be shared at the next SEAC meeting.

### 5. Service Provider Updates (if available):

**North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu**

Not available for an update

**Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons**

Nothing new to report at this time

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

Gilbert reported that he has returned to full time work beginning in August and is working consistently with St. Joseph School, Our Lady of Fatima School and St. Edward School. There has recently been a SLP hired by George Jeffrey to provide services in the alternate locations. These visits are being coordinated for every 6 to 8 weeks and/or monthly in the district. Kenra Price is a new CDA at George Jeffrey and is providing programming support to the schools. She is able to support learning for educators on the enhancement of social skills.

Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt  
Not available for an update

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes  
Not available for an update

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore  
Not available for an update

## Future Agenda Items

1. Support Services available from Children’s Centre Thunder Bay
2. Further Dilico Presentations
3. Mental Health Presentation
4. Positive Behaviour Support Lead Presentation

## Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date: November 6, 2018

## Adjournment

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 10:06 am

Originally signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
SEAC Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date