



# Special Education Advisory Committee

## Meeting held on February 4, 2020

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Nicki Chik - Parent

### Regrets

- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre

### Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

## Agenda/Minutes

### Resolution #16/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow  
Seconded By: Mia Laframboise

**THAT** the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 4, 2020 be accepted as amended.

Carried.

### Resolution #17/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow  
Seconded By: Mia Laframboise

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on January 7, 2020 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

#### 1. Trauma Informed Professional Learning Video (Part 2) - Dr. Kristen McLeod

This will be moved to the next meeting due to the meeting being teleconference only.

### New Business

#### 1. January PD Day for EA's, ECE's and Principals - The Willing Learner & Cultural Appreciation

The day was spent with professional development for Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators and Principals. For the morning portion we had a zoom session with Shiri Bartman, Clinical Director of Shining Through Centre, who did a presentation to the group on The Willing Learner. This was a session on supporting students in an inclusive environment and the strategies we (educators) can put in place in managing their behaviour and reshaping their current behaviours. She talked about the interactions that we have with our students and how important it is to have them trust us. We will meet with Shiri again for a follow up on our strategies. Principals will have this presentation on March 2nd.

The afternoon session was with Colleen Sheriff on Cultural Awareness and Appreciation. She embedded the learning we are doing with the Dr. Sinclair video with the restoring of relationships. She included conversations on policy, and engaged her participants in games and hands on activities. Each school team had time to develop an action plan for Treaty Week next year.

### **2. RSEC (Regional Special Education Committee) meeting - January 15th & 16th with NSI (Northern Supports Initiative) - Update**

Kerry attended this meeting and discussed looking more about NSI (Northern Supports Initiative) and budget to see how we can further support our support staff and move our learning agenda forward. The main priority is maintaining collaborative service agreements with Child Care services. There is funding for Urgent Response. If there is an emergency in the schools, we would have temporary support available. Through NSI we have an agreement with NOSP for a Mental Health counsellor to work in the Greenstone area for our 2 elementary schools in Geraldton and Longlac.

### **3. Transition to Kindergarten and High School for Students with Special Needs**

In January, Kerry Desjardins met with Children's Centre Thunder Bay and other regional service providers regarding Kindergarten students with special needs and the transition process. A package has been created and will be sent to all schools.

High School students' transition plan has also been started.

### **4. Mental Health and Well-Being Update**

We are continuing to have telephone and coaching conversations with the School Mental Health Ontario coach assigned to SNCDSB. Tracy Bryson and I will have Principals Professional Development with Mental Health and Well-being zoom sessions beginning in February.

The Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) are looking for candidates to sit on their Council.

Appointments to the Council will normally be for a three year period. The deadline to apply is March 6, 2020. Further information has been emailed to SEAC members.

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

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu  
Not available for an update.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons  
Not available for an update.

George Jeffrey Children’s Centre - Gilbert Rondeau  
Not available for an update.

Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt  
No new updates at this time.

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

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

### Other Matters

#### 1. Future Agenda Items

- Dr. Kristen McLeod video continuation
- Dilico Travelling Health Team - Curtis Hildebrandt - he is available for a presentation at our March meeting

#### 2. Next Meeting Date: March 3, 2020

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

### Adjournment

#### Resolution # 18/19

Moved By: Tara Patterson  
Seconded By: Marline Ilijow

**THAT** we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Carried.

*Originally signed by SEAC Chairperson and SEAC Member*