



Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting held on May 5, 2020

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead

Regrets

- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #25/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 5, 2020 be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

Resolution #26/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

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

CARRIED

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. Mental Health Lead - Tracy Bryson

Ms. Bryson mentioned that the Positive Behaviour Support Workers have completed a blog [Example](#) to try to meet as many needs as they can with a variety of helpful information. Each worker took a section to complete. Ms. Bryson discussed the “All About Me” challenge, and at the end of the week, there was a draw for a student prize. There are a lot of activities planned for [Mental Health and Catholic Education Week](#).

Service Providers and Referrals

To support our educators and schools, we have taken the referrals off of their plate. Ms. Bryson is participating in the special education sessions and is available to staff as required.

New Business

1. **Virtual Therapy** (Tiny Eye, Superior Speech Services, George Jeffrey Children’s Centre

Virtual therapy has been put into place via virtual services. All of the above services are participating virtually. Tiny Eye has already completed 28 sessions virtually.

Therapy will resume for families when we return to school.

2. [Role of the Educational Assistant](#) and Learning for All Teacher

The Learning for All teachers are extremely busy and have connected with families to ensure that support is continued. They have also connected with our service providers.

They have also participated in a lot of live learning instruction. We have had four professional learning groups for them as well.

The Educational Assistants have been very busy as well, with online learning through the Geneva Centre and learning modules regarding Down's syndrome. Many are also supporting the weekly challenges that happen in the schools. The memo was shared with SEAC of what the Educational Assistant could be expected to do at home. This is to support their continued working from home.

3. [Ministry Memo for Special Education Update](#)

This memo describes the role of Special Education during our closure.

Students with assistive technology have chrome books. SEAC meetings will continue virtually.

4. [Special Education Plan and Parent's Guide for Special Education Consultation Feedback](#)

SEAC members are asked to share any feedback/suggestions regarding the Special Education Plan and Parent's Guide to Ms. Desjardins for updating these documents by the end of May 2020.

5. [Service Provider Updates \(if available\):](#)

[North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu](#)

Not available for an update.

[Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons](#)

Ms. Gibbons is still connecting with some students by phone.

[George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau](#)

Not available for an update.

[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

It has been busy with a lot of meetings. Ms. Moore is working from home and she misses the travel to First Nations. There have been a lot of telephone contact and visits to Reserves, when permission is granted, to touch bases with clients. There is telephone counselling available.

The toll free number available as well. The poster was shared with Tracy and she will share with SEAC.

They were successful in their proposal for joint Crisis workers/Wellness workers - with two being placed in the Greenstone area and two in Nipigon. Joint mobile workers will be working part time - 25 hours a week.

Other Matters

1. Future Agenda Items:

Please let Kerry know if you have any other presentations you may be interested in.

At the June 2nd meeting, we will pass the Special Education Plan.

2. Next Meeting Date: June 2 , 2020

Our next meeting will be through a zoom link and teleconference.

Adjournment

Resolution # 27/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Carried.

Originally signed by SEAC Chairperson and SEAC Member