



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on November 2, 2021

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Lisa Copp - Educational Assistant Representative
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico Anishinabek Family Care
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Tara Kydd for Nicole Deschamps - George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent
- Tracy Bryson (Guest) - Mental Health Lead

### Regrets

- Christine Roszel - HCCSSNW/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Erin Montelpare - NOSP - Greenstone

### Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

## Agenda/Minutes:

### Resolution #05/21

Moved By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer  
Seconded By: Lisa Copp

**THAT** the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 2, 2021 be accepted.

Carried.

### Resolution #06/21

Moved By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer  
Seconded By: Brie-Ann Copp

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 5, 2021 be accepted.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

1. [PLEO](#) - Parent Support Group - Fred Schmidt [Hello Thunder Bay!](#)

Fred shared with committee members the history of how PLEO started and what resources and support is available for parents. They are a non profit family peer support organization for parents whose children to age 25 are facing mental health challenges.

### New Business

1. **Mental Health Update - Tracy Bryson**

Meetings with Principals are continuing with Kerry, Tracy and school Principals on a one on one need. Monday Memo communication is what is being shared for the week with Tracy contributing to this memo. Tracy will include Fred's information. Kids in the Know training - with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection services is being held for educators in grades 1 to 8. Resources were also purchased for schools. We will be partnering with Kenora Catholic DSB in the new year to host a parent evening on this topic. Our current Positive Behaviour Support Worker will be starting the Roots of Empathy training in our schools.

## 2. Empower Reading/Lexia Learning Update

Empower reading is being utilized in each of our schools. It is an intervention program for students struggling with learning to read. We are working alongside the Hospital for Sick Kids, as they are the creators and trainers of the program. This is being implemented in all of our schools. There is a huge impact on the development and growth of reading levels in our students. Empower is geared for Grade 2 to Grade 5 students.

Lexia Learning is a new initiative that we have taken on this year. It is not happening in all schools yet. It's another intervention program, that is virtual, that allows for teachers to see where their students are at in their reading levels and ability. It is geared for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8. It creates independent learning/planning based on students' needs. Training will begin in early November. A memo is being prepared to be sent out to staff. We are licensing the schools that have purchased it so far as we have a set number of licenses that we purchased.

## 3. [Special Incidence Portion 2021-2022](#) & [Special Equipment Amount 2021-2022](#)

Kerry shared the links to the updated SIP Guidelines and the SEA Guidelines which are similar to the past guidelines and described the two funding protocols.

## 4. [WIAT \(Wechsler Individual Achievement Test\)](#)

Kerry shared the link to the Pearson Assessment website for the WIAT assessment tool which has been purchased with funding received from the Ministry, to be able to provide diagnostic assessments. This has been purchased for all schools, so we have a consistent measure for assessment. Our Learning for all Teachers have been trained in its use.

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

- a. North of Superior Programs - Erin Montelpare

Not available for update.

- b. Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

No updates from Fred.

- c. Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

No updates from Maureen.

- d. Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

No updates from Jennifer.

- e. Home and Community Care Support Services North West - Christine Roszel

Not available for update.

- f. George Jeffrey Children’s Centre - Tara Kydd for Nicole Deschamps

Staff are back in schools. We are working on contacting families to start up again. They have consult clinics that we are working with virtually with families who have been on a wait list. Parent education sessions will be started to help and support your children with speech goals. Looking at small group sessions with students with similar needs in speech and language. Would be interested in participating in a PD session with our Board/schools.

### Future Agenda Items

- 1. [PLEO](#) - Parent Support Group - Fred Schmidt - continued conversation

### Other Matters

- 1. **Next Meeting Date:**

The next SEAC zoom meeting will be held on December 7, 2021 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

### Adjournment

#### Resolution #07/21

Moved By: Brie-Ann Copp  
Seconded By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer

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

Carried.

Originally signed by

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Originally signed by

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date