



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

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Maria Vasanelli - Director of Education (Presenter)
- Michelle Legacy - Attendance Counsellor (Presenter)
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead (Presenter)

### Regrets

- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Nicki Chik - Parent

## Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

## Agenda/Minutes:

### Resolution #18/20

Moved By: Helen Gibbons  
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

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

Carried.

### Resolution #19/20

Moved By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer  
Seconded By: Mia Laframboise

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee virtual meeting held on January 5, 2021 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

#### 1. Student Attendance Presentation - Michelle Legacy

Michelle shared a presentation on the role of the Attendance Counsellor.

### New Business

#### 1. 2020-2024 Strategic Plan - Maria Vasanelli

The Director shared the 2021-2021 Strategic Plan with SEAC members. It took time to bring this plan together due to the pandemic. SNCD SB wanted the plan to be very simple, very doable and easy to follow. There are four pillars that are important to our Board and they were described to members in detail. If members have any feedback on this plan, please send your comments to Kerry Desjardins.

## 2. **Mental Health Update - Tracy Bryson**

We recognize that relationships and connections are key and we realize we can not support students alone so engaging with community partners has been a priority. We continue to meet on a biweekly basis. Meetings are arranged with NOSP and Dilico around Wellness Wednesdays. We are hoping to bring this back in the coming months. We now have a data collection system that allows us to provide programs to our students. We continue to offer parent workshops. We had a session with Sheri Bartman and she continues to provide support to our Principals, Educational Assistants and staff. We were provided with an Action Kit for educators which will be shared with Principals.

PBSWs are continuing with the blogs and school support has been the primary focus.

## 3. **Professional Learning Update - Special Education - Kerry Desjardins**

Unfortunately in Special Education and most areas, we have not been able to do a lot of Professional Development due to the lack of supply teachers, as a result of COVID-19. We had a Professional Development Day on Friday January 29th, with teachers involved in an assessment day and the Educational Assistants and Principals attending a morning session on understanding Autism and ABA through the George Jeffrey Children's Centre, as well as a session on supporting students with Speech/Language needs. The afternoon session had the same participants, including the Mental Health and Wellbeing team involved in BMS Training.

## 4. **ISNC Funding 2020-2021 - Kerry Desjardins**

We have received funding from the government for services for students that require assessments. The ISNC funding is also being used in supporting students with TinyEYE Therapy Services and Superior Speech Services.

## 5. **[PAAC - SEAC Chair Survey Results Letter;](#)**

**[PAAC on SEAC Survey - Executive Summary and Action Items;](#)**

**[Results of the PAAC on SEAC 2020 Survey](#)**

Some of the survey results have mentioned the availability of SEAC training and orientation, which we would like to provide, hopefully by the end of the school year.

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

### **North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu**

Not available for update.

### **George Jeffrey Children’s Centre - Gilbert Rondeau**

Not available for update.

### **Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt**

Not available for update.

### **Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes**

Not available for update.

### **Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore**

Still working from home with as much virtual as possible. Continuing with our partnerships with Tracy Bryson and other agencies. We are planning for our annual Empowering First Nations Conference virtual this year. We have also started the Harm Reduction Strategies First Nation and staff training sessions offered to First Nations front line staff.

### **Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons**

Everything is status quo from the last meeting. Appreciated the presentation of the Strategic Plan shared by the Director.

## **Future Agenda Items**

1. Our Math Team will be presenting at the next meeting.

## **Other Matters**

### **1. Next Meeting Date:**

The next SEAC zoom meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held on **March 2, 2021** beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## **Adjournment**

### **Resolution #20/20**

Moved By: Bobbi Lin Mercer  
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Carried.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date