



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 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
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Tara Patterson - Parent

Regrets

- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Nicki Chik - Parent

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #21/20

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

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

Carried.

Resolution #22/20

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Helen Gibbons

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee virtual meeting held on February 2, 2021 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. Math Team Presentation - postponed until April 6, 2021

New Business

1. Mental Health Update - Kerry Desjardins

The monthly meetings with Principals have continued. Tracy Bryson is sharing with Principals different resources/information that can be shared weekly with staff in the Monday Memo. Tracy has participated in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) sessions. The purpose of the training is to see how CBT can be used in our Board in the future. The annual Mental Health scan was completed as requested by School Mental Health Ontario. Weekly meetings with our Positive Behaviour Support Workers have continued. The EMH ware is being used within our board. We are continuing to partner with Dilico for our Wellness Wednesday activities.

2. Professional Learning Update (Special Education/Early Years) - K. Desjardins

Staffing is a challenge right now. Professional learning is more of an independent learning model. Our Learning for All teachers and Educational Assistants are continuing with Autism training through the Geneva Centre, with one teacher and 2 Educational Assistants currently registered in the RBT Training. Release time funding is also available, as it is a 40 hour training program. Twelve special education staff participated in FASD training. We participated in ASQ training with our early years educators.

3. Roots of Empathy Recovery Program - K. Desjardins

Kerry met with three staff from the Roots Of Empathy program with regards to facilitating this program virtually. It has been offered to all educators in our schools. Five educators are interested in participating in this program and have been partnered with families.

<https://rootsofempathy.org/covid-19-resources/>

<https://rootsofempathy.org/through-the-lens-of-temperament/>

4. Government of Ontario & March Break Delay - K. Desjardins

Kerry discussed the government's decision to change the time of “March Break” this year. Our System Support Team gathered together to create a full week of programming supports during the March 15 to 19 break period. Every single day offered numerous activities for students. Kerry shared the schedule of events with committee members.

5. Communication Items:

- a) [Durham District School Board Letter](#)
- b) [Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Letter](#)

The letters are for reference and to be shared with SEAC members.

6. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

We are providing face to face on a case by case basis. Referrals from schools continue to be low at the moment. Virtual group work via zoom is also ongoing. There is more available training now due to the availability of it being available virtually.

George Jeffrey Children’s Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available for update.

Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Still managing through this COVID crisis. Most of the work is being done virtually. Experiencing some challenges as staff with family currently participating in virtual learning, are also working.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Most work is being done virtually due to the COVID-19 crisis in Thunder Bay. We are continuing to do assessments and holding our diagnostic clinics. On March 29th at 1:00 p.m. we will be doing a two hour workshop which will be held virtually on Managing Emotional Dysregulation In Children with FASD. Registration is still available.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Presently Dilico is doing virtual connections with clients. Mobile crisis response services are being done as well. A Youth Gathering with regards to traditional teachings will be held virtually from April 12 to 16, 2021.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

We continue to offer face to face virtual connections, as well as phone calls. We appreciate the support and guidance from Maureen Parkes.

Future Agenda Items

1. Our Math Team will be presenting at the next meeting. If you have any other ideas for future meetings, please share with Kerry Desjardins or Maria Lapenskie.

Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date:

The next SEAC zoom meeting for the 2020-2021 school year, will be held on **April 6, 2021** beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Resolution #23/20

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Nicole Beaulieu

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

Carried.

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date