



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on December 1, 2020

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre

Regrets

- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #12/20

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Gilbert Rondeau

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 1, 2020 be accepted.

Carried.

Resolution #13/20

Moved By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee virtual meeting held on November 3, 2020 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. [Accessing Jordan's Principle: A Resource for First Nations Parents, Caregivers, Families and Communities](#)

Kerry shared a resource that was received from the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Jordan's Principle covers many aspects including Educational Assistants, supplies, computer systems, etc. A Parent or Guardian needs to be involved in the application process. There are also group applications. Four temporary Educational Assistants have been hired for this school year and are located at St. Edward, St. Hilary, St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima schools. One more application is in the review stage for St. Joseph School. Typically applications are received and processed within a 48 hour time period.

New Business

1. **Mental Health Update**

Kerry provided an update on Mental Health and Well-being. Many committees have been

established due to the Covid-19 situation. The BIPSA goal for Mental Health & Well-being has been created with an action plan for this year. One thing that is a challenge is the lack of supply teachers for our schools. We will have monthly Principal check in meetings as well. We are fortunate to have 3 Positive Behaviour Support Workers working for our Board.

We will provide Gilbert Rondeau with the names of our Positive Behaviour Support Workers.

2. Urgent Supports Funding (NSI)

This funding is for brief intervention to supply urgent support to students until we get the services in place for the child. We submitted 2 applications with both being approved through NOEL.

One application is for ten week support and the other is for thirteen weeks. We retained two Educational Assistants on a temporary basis for these students. This funding is from the group of NOEL boards and has been provided annually based on applications (5 year term available for funding).

3. SIP and SEA Process for 2020-2021

The Ministry announced a different process for this year due to Covid-19. One year change process - continuing to supply the support for students that have been approved from the previous year plus additional funding for any new students to boards for 2020-2021. We are waiting on the final process from the Ministry. SIP is based more on a health and safety need for an individual student within the school.

4. IPRC 2020-2021

All of the IPRCs for students in all of our schools have been completed for this school year. Several of our IPRC identified were removed for students.

5. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Not available for an update.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Hoping for weekly services, but not possible with the paperwork involved. Students are being seen more this year. Some parents are wondering if their child would be returning to school after the break. Schools have been very accommodating.

Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Information item shared on psychology. There is an increase of mental health needs with teenagers - high anxiety.

The Children’s Centre focus has been on continuous quality services that are focussed on our clients. Staff have been involved and participating in a new training protocol.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Not available for update.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Not available for update.

Future Agenda Items

If you have any future agenda items you would like to discuss, please let Kerry Desjardins or Maria Lapenskie know. The following topics will be considered for our upcoming meetings.

1. Attendance Counsellor Presentation on student attendance and updates in this area
2. Math Team - Presentation on BIPSA and Board Action Plan

Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date:

The next SEAC zoom meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held on **January 5, 2021** beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Resolution #14/20

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

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Carried.

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date