



Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting held on April 7, 2020

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre

Regrets

- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre

Welcome and Opening Liturgy

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

Agenda/Minutes

Resolution #22/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7, 2020 be accepted as amended.

Carried.

Resolution #23/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

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

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

Special Education Plan Consultation

1. [Special Education Plan September 2019 \(v27A\)](#)

Kerry shared the current Special Education Plan and is looking for feedback from the Committee members. Transition plans for JK and High School will be updated this year.

Committee members' review would be from the School Board section. The other sections are mostly government driven. Consultation process allows for a couple of months, with the approval motion to be passed in June by the SEAC committee and the Board of Trustees.

2. [Parent's Guide to Special Education September 2019 \(copier version\)](#).

The Parent's Guide was shared with the committee, as we are also looking forward to input to this guide to make it clear and ensure it meets the needs of the parents.

New Business

1. COVID-19 and "Learning from Home" model at SNCDSB

The Ministry has given direction that all schools will be closed until May 4th. We have

posted the Learning at Home model for parents, students and classroom teachers. The Board launched this yesterday. Each classroom teacher has launched an electronic platform that their students will engage from home.

Most Kindergarten to Grade 2 classrooms have a communication tool that has been in place already so they will continue to use this. Primary Teachers will be online for one hour per day with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy.

All Grade 3-8 - teachers were encouraged to use the google classroom platform. The recommended daily classroom learning times are as follows:

Grade 3/4 - 1 hour

Grade 5/6 - 1 ½

Grade 7/8 - 2 hours

For some teachers, lessons have been recorded and uploaded onto the google classroom site. Other teachers are using google meet and are meeting online live. This will be the style of learning for now. Chromebooks were being picked up yesterday and today from the schools. Every teacher reached out to their families to see if they have access to wifi and technology. Training for parents was also shared through Board and School.

For families that do not have wifi, we are exploring the options at the moment. There is a PLG team looking at how to accommodate these students. The social aspect for online learning has been good for students, to once again see their friends. Ms. Mercer mentioned that at St. Joseph School, one of the classrooms presented a slideshow on what life is like at the moment, which was a great interaction opportunity for students and teachers.

2. Learning for All Teachers and Educational Assistants During COVID-19

We have been busy with the teachers with setting up of classrooms at the moment and will continue looking at this process for these teachers and Educational Assistants. Most are being included in the various google classrooms so they can continue to support our most vulnerable students and connect with them. Tiny Eye and Speech Language Pathology have agreed to continue weekly therapy sessions with the students. We will look at their role to support our students. We are also waiting for further direction from the Ministry.

We will also look at the role of the Educational Assistant (EA), with supporting the students that they have supported in the past. This is all being reviewed. Most of the EA's have continued on with their professional learning through the Geneva Centre. There will be some professional development for EAs during this closure as well.

3. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Not available for an update.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

Helen is still contacting students by telephone. Some students are anxious to return to school and some students are satisfied with being at home. The LHINs are partnering with telehealth Ontario - for the COVID-19 support. She is also continuing online professional learning.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available for an update.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

The agency has gone virtual but the office is not closed. They continue to be open as an essential service. Mental health and child development services are going well. A lot of the work has been able to continue. There is no travel but they are offering virtual services. Two staff members could provide virtual professional development for our staff.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

The Centre is still open as an essential service. Many of their programs have been put on hold for the moment. Intakes are still being processed through zoom or telephone. They are still reaching out to clients. They are looking at a virtual community wide training event.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Not available for an update.

Other Matters

1. Future Agenda Items:

Please let Kerry know if you have any other presentations you may be interested in. Student resocializing will be very important when we return to school - transitioning back to school after a pandemic.

2. Next Meeting Date: May 5, 2020

Our next meeting will be through a zoom link. It will connect each participant virtually.

Adjournment

Resolution # 24/19

Moved By: Marline Ilijow

Seconded By: Bobbi Mercer

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Carried.

Originally signed by SEAC Chairperson and SEAC Member