



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 6, 2022

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Andrea Stach - George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Lisa Copp - Educational Assistant Representative
- Erin Montelpare - NOSP - Greenstone
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Shirley Jean - Trustee
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead

### Regrets

- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent

### Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

## Agenda/Minutes:

### Resolution #01/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean  
Seconded By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer

**THAT** the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on September 6, 2022 be accepted.

Carried.

### Resolution #02/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean  
Seconded By: Lindsay Costa

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on June 7, 2022 be accepted.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

#### 1. September 1st and 2nd PD Days

The September 1st Professional Development Day included training and sharing of the Lexia Program with staff. Greenfield Learning presented on the Lexia platform and resources and tools available for all staff. Our Second Language Teachers had their own meeting to plan for the school year. The Wellness activities that occurred in the afternoon session at our schools were shared. The September 2nd Professional Development Day was used for staff to complete their health and safety courses, as well as the Sexual Abuse training course.

### New Business

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

We would like to start the year off in a good way by promoting Mental Health and Well-being with our staff. Training sessions in the future will include the Mental Health First Aid First Nations course. We have hired two Child and Youth Workers for our Board. There is one position that is still vacant. These are school

based positions. Our partnerships with Dilico will continue this year as well as student engagement sessions.

Monthly newsletters will be shared with schools as well.

### 2. Update of [SEAC Members 2022-2023](#)

Kerry shared the SEAC members for this school year.

#### Recruitment of Parent Members - [SEAC Brochure](#)

We will reach out to add parent members to our SEAC team. Schools will send information to parents regarding membership.

### 3. SEAC Chair for 2022-2023

Judy Wawia will remain as SEAC Chair for the 2022-2023 school year.

### 4. Special Education Staffing & [Special Education Funding 2022-2023](#)

We have eight full time Learning for All Teachers. We have 27 Board Educational Assistants and 11 Jordan Principles Educational Assistants. There is difficulty in filling these positions. The Special Education Funding for 2022-2023 was shared with members.

### 5. [Special Education Plan 2022](#)

This has been finalized and has been added to our Board website.

### 6. [Parent's Guide to Special Education 2022](#)

This has been updated for this school year. Every parent that has a child in Special Education should receive this pamphlet.

### 7. Correspondence Received:

- [Upper Canada District School Board](#)

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

#### [North of Superior Programs - Erin Montelpare](#)

Moving to a more virtual platform. We are offering the *Triple P Program* virtually for parents on October 11th.

#### [Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt](#)

Not available for updates.

#### [Norwest Community Health Centre \(FASD\) - Maureen Parkes](#)

There is an upcoming in person training on October 26th in Thunder Bay. The theme this year is education and the FASD environment.

**Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore**

Not available for updates.

**George Jeffrey Children’s Centre - Andrea Stach**

Our Entry to School program is a new program that started in March. It allows children that are getting ready to enter kindergarten to start school 6 months prior to school start.

Our goal is for a successful start for these children. One and one support is then continued in the classroom based on the needs of the children. This is a 3 year commitment from the Ministry.

The Centre is struggling with staffing as well. We have a new role of an Infant Children’s worker for Greenstone which they are currently recruiting for. A. Stach is asking for a SEA letter/tip sheet on what information our Board requires for SEA equipment. Kerry will follow up with this request.

**Future Agenda Items**

**Other Matters**

- 1. **Next Meeting Date:** October 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via zoom

**Adjournment**

**Resolution #03/22**

Moved By: Andrea Stach  
Seconded By: Shirley Jean

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Carried.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date