



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 14, 2023

### 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
- Danielle Bond - Parent
- Shirley Jean - Trustee
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Rima Mounayer - Superintendent of Education - Presenter
- Aaron Stephens - Presenter
- Karly Baker - Presenter
- Dawna Harrison - Recorder

### Regrets

- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Tracy Bryson - Presenter
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent

## Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

Judy Wawia began the meeting with a prayer.

Shirley Jean read the statement of acknowledgement.

## Agenda/Minutes:

### Resolution #16/22

Moved By: Lisa Copp

Seconded By: Danielle Bond

**THAT** the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 14, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

### Resolution #17/22

Moved By: Andrea Stach

Seconded By: Lisa Copp

**THAT** the [minutes](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on January 10, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

1. [Math Presentation](#) - Math Team (Rima Mounayer, Karly Baker, Aaron Stephens)

The math team introduced themselves - Karly Baker, Aaron Stephens, Rima Mounayer.

Student & Teacher Supports exist for students with exceptionalities. The Math Team will continue to support principals, teachers, and staff with mathematical needs. Digital subscriptions such as Reflex, Frax, IXL, and Gizmos are available.

Teacher PD Day - Math UP - Teachers were trained on how they can use Math UP in their classrooms. The program is a one stop shop resource that supports all learners. It allows Teachers to go back to see students' progress as well as

forward to see the next steps. It also allows students to learn at their own level. Video tutorials are available for Teachers to help with assisting their students by making small changes. Math UP is a core math program that provides diagnosis assessments for teachers through the Leaps and Bounds program in order to assist with individual student needs. Everything can be modified by teachers to help with inclusivity.

EA PD Day - Number Talks Resources - Educational Assistants were trained using number sense and numeration manipulatives and digital resources such as Relational Rods.

EQAO Divisional Sessions - available for Grade 3 & 4 classes and Grade 5 & 6 classes. All students grade 3-6 will write the EQAO. These sessions assist the students in preparing for the EQAO by aiming to increase their confidence. Accommodations are available for students who need it including extra practice. EQAO accessibility supports are available and these sessions will explain how to access and use them properly.

Aaron and Karly are available if teachers have any questions or need assistance with individual students' needs. Resources are intentional and geared towards each students'/teachers'/schools' individual needs.

### New Business

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

Tracy was unable to make the meeting but asked Kerry to share some updates.

The Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Team met on January 26, 2023. They are leading initiatives involving mental health and wellbeing. They are currently planning Pink Shirt Day.

Noojimo Health provides holistic services. Currently three classrooms have students who are working directly with them. They provide additional resources through a cultural lens.

All schools have shared the Stress Busters Program which gives students aged 8-12 the opportunity to participate in an after-school program and to be supported in a peer to peer environment. The deadline to signup has been extended to Thursday, February 16, 2023.

#### 2. **Director's Report - Kerry Desjardins**

Deana Figliomeni shared the Director's Report system wide. It highlights at a high level all of the incredible things done throughout the 2021-2022 school year including the great activities and learning opportunities that occurred for staff, students and families.

Please take time to read through the report and celebrate what is happening at Superior North Catholic District School Board.

**3. Educational Assistant Professional Learning - Kerry Desjardins**

Module 2 training with Confederation College started in January. Currently, ten EAs are participating. Kerry has joined in as well. This module is focusing on supporting the EAs in regards to the IEP. An EA Binder was implemented at each school as a result of the module, for example. A memo was sent to principals explaining the purpose and use of the EA Binder, which allows new or supply EAs to step into the role more easily, knowing what the EA they are replacing does each day. Kerry is working on creating an EA handbook as well which will be taken to all principal and educator stakeholder groups for input and feedback.

**4. Geneva Centre - ASD Training - Kerry Desjardins**

ASD Training was offered consistently across the system. Eighteen staff members, primarily EAs, are currently participating. The courses and modules are done on their own time. Two EAs are also taking the Positive Behaviour Therapy Course which is a Ministry funded course. Participants are registered through the Ministry itself.

**5. Kindergarten Registration Update - Kerry Desjardins**

Kindergarten Registration is continuing. Our numbers are higher at this time than in previous years, at all schools. Promotion has had an impact. This is the first time ever that a Kindergartener was interviewed live on CFNO which has had a very effective outcome. Lainey Mauro, age 5 of Holy Angels Catholic School was interviewed live by Al Cresswell. Both of her parents are Teachers.

**6. Correspondence Received:**

[Deaf Youth HUB](#)

**7. Service Provider Updates (if available):**

**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**  
Not available for update.

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

We are cruising along. A new, in-house BCBA started in January. Moving into Spring, we will have three SLP students join us. They will be in their final placements; they are from Thunder Bay, and hope to work in the North.

## Future Agenda Items

1. None at this time.

## Other Matters

1. **Next Meeting Date:** March 7, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. via zoom

## Adjournment

### Resolution #18/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean

Seconded By: Lisa Copp

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Carried.

Originally signed by

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Originally signed by

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date