



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 7, 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
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent
- Dawna Harrison - Recorder

Regrets

- Tracy Bryson - Presenter

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #19/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean
Seconded By: Lindsay Costa

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on March 7, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

Resolution #20/22

Moved By: Andrea Stach
Seconded By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer

THAT the [minutes](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 14, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. [Special Education Plan 2022](#) & [Parent's Guide to Special Education 2022](#) - **Consultation and Feedback**

Kerry shared the Special Education Plan, as well as the Parent's Guide, for the 2022-2023 school year which was originally distributed in September. The Special Education Plan is aligned with Ministry of Education guidelines. Please take time to read through the Special Education Plan and the Parent's Guide and provide feedback of any changes that may be needed in order to make them easy to read by both Superior North Catholic District School Board Staff and parents. Please forward any suggestions to either Kerry or Dawna by May 1, 2023.

New Business

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

Tracy was unable to attend today's meeting. She asked Kerry to share some updates.

On February 16, 2023, 11 Superior North Catholic District School Board staff members received Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training, specifically

the Autism Awareness Module. Feedback indicated that it was an incredible learning experience, especially for newer staff. There will be another training session on March 29, 2023 from 9am-1:30 pm.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Team collaborated with the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Team for Pink Shirt Day in order to promote kindness. Not only did all schools participate in Pink Shirt Day, activities were also planned throughout the week.

The partnership that Superior North Catholic District School Board has with Children's Centre Thunder Bay continues to grow. Two counsellors with their Masters of Social Work are now working with our students. To date, 28 students have been referred, and only 7 remain on the waitlist.

2. [SMART Hub Information](#) - Kerry Dejsardins

Kerry met with Jamie Foster, a SmartStart Hub worker at George Jeffrey Children's Centre. The flyer linked above was shared to be distributed with all families, as well as at the Welcome to Kindergarten Information Nights. SmartStart Hub helps families coordinate services and gives them the opportunity to connect them with child development agencies. SmartStart Hub can be accessed by families with children up to 19 years old.

3. [Fee for Service Providers 2023-2024](#) - Kerry Desjardins

Weekly services have been difficult due to location and available services. Superior North Catholic District School Board has entered into Fee For Service models with several agencies: Tiny Eye, Superior Speech Services, Ignite Consulting, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Dr. Sarah Sinclair (Sinclair Psychological Services).

4. [March Break & Summer Learning Opportunities](#) - Kerry Desjardins

A letter to parents went home explaining the opportunity to enroll in Coding Camps for students grades 1-8. The Superior North Catholic District School Board wanted to offer students who have nothing planned for the March Break something to do. Three students will be participating in the grade 1-4 Coding Camp.

We have received confirmation that Summer Learning funding will continue this year, additional options will be available for students to engage in summer learning opportunities. Staffing is currently being put in place.

5. [Regional Special Education Committee Update](#) - Kerry Desjardins

The Regional Committee, which includes the Leads from 8 School Boards, met in

February and discussed consistency from Board to Board. A Jordan's Principle navigator spoke about opportunities and how to navigate the process, as well as access funding. A lawyer also discussed exclusions and suspensions for students' with special needs and disabilities. This helped the Boards to understand through a human rights lens.

6. Correspondence Received:

[Ontario Autism Questions and Answers](#)

The above link will bring you to a Ministry of Education page with questions and answers regarding the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) entry to school program.

7. Service Provider Updates (if available):

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

No updates to report, everything is status quo.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

No updates to report, everything is status quo.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Dilico is coming to the end of the fiscal year, referrals remain high. Staff is back in the office and no longer using the hybrid model.

Dilico has received funding for Youth Empowerment Camps. There will be 4 virtual sessions held in March which will include beading and drum teaching, among other things. Children are reporting, however, that they are burnt out and getting tired of virtual sessions, so enrolment numbers are low. Wrist lanyards have been ordered to promote 'Hope' and have a crisis hotline phone number printed on them.

The Dilico brochure has been updated.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Andrea Stach

Interest has increased in the Entry to School Program. The program will be going into its third cohort. The first 6 months are in the Entry to School classroom and runs in the afternoons. There will be at least twelve students in the next two cohorts, which will run March to August. The positive impact on the eight students who have completed the first round of the program is evident.

The Infant Child Development Program is a brand new program being offered. Funding comes from the Ministry. A new Infant Child Development Worker, Chantal Barrett, has been hired to run the program. She is based out of the NOSP

office in Geraldton. The program supports children aged 0-school age.

Future Agenda Items

1. None at this time.

Other Matters

1. **Next Meeting Date:** April 4, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. via zoom

Adjournment

Resolution #21/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean
Seconded By: Danielle Bond

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Carried.

Originally signed by

SEAC Chairperson

Date

Originally signed by

SEAC Member

Date