



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on May 2, 2023

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Andrea Stach - George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Danielle Bond - Parent
- Shirley Jean - Trustee
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent
- Tracy Bryson - Presenter
- Dawna Harrison - Recorder

Regrets

- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Lisa Copp - Educational Assistant Representative

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

Judy Wawia began the meeting with a prayer and Shirley Jean read the statement of acknowledgement.

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #25/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean
Seconded By: Brie-Ann Copp

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 2, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

Resolution #26/22

Moved By: Danielle Bond
Seconded By: Andrea Stach

THAT the [minutes](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 4, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. [Mental Health and Well-being Presentation 22-23](#) - Tracy Bryson
Tracy introduced herself and acknowledged Catholic Education Week and Children's Mental Health Week.

Professional Development Opportunities - we have been able to offer some exciting opportunities this year:

- letters were sent out to grades 7 and 8 parents offering 'Living Works' courses for parents and caregivers
- Anti-Human sex trafficking presentations with Beendigen were conducted for both parents and students in grade 7 and 8, as well as some in grade 6
- Mental Health First Aid First Nations was offered boardwide
- Behaviour Management Systems training was offered to all Educational Assistants, with an Autism Awareness module offered to teachers as well
- SNCDSB partnered with Superior Greenstone District School Board to offer a substance use awareness presentation through Drug Free Kids Canada

- Restorative Practices such as using 'I messages' and 'I statements' have been encouraged

Mental Health & Wellbeing Promotion:

- a boardwide Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Leadership Committee has been formed for all grade 5-8 students, students will board and chair the meetings moving forward
- a Mental Health & Well-being monthly newsletter is being sent to principals for insertion into their Monday Memo's
- schools participated in initiatives for Anti-Bullying Week, Pink Shirt Day, Bell Let's Talk Day, etc.
- Mental Health Week is this week with many events planned, it highlights the need for mental health now, this year's theme is 'My Story,' promoting what does mental health mean to you?
- Noojimo Health Clinic is running three programs for grade 7 and 8 classes at three schools, including three counsellor in the classroom programming and multiple student sessions.

Partnerships:

- two part time social workers are employed by Children's Centre Thunder Bay, 34 students have been referred since September 2022
- Partnerships continue with Dilico, NOSP, MHAN, Fee for Service Providers, etc.
- Stress Busters run through Strong Minds Strong Kids

What's next:

- community partnerships will continue
- Greenspace partnership will commence next school year
- Action Planning for 2023-2024 in underway, Tracy Bryson and Kerry Desjardins will meet with Principals and schools to ensure their voices are heard.

New Business

1. [Special Education Plan 2022 & Parent's Guide to Special Education 2022](#) - Final Request for Feedback - Kerry Desjardins

We are in the process of making any revisions to the plan and will bring the Motions to the SEAC Committee at the June meeting. This is the last call for any input from the Committee, please contact Kerry Desjardins or Dawna Harrison with any suggestions.

2. Summer Learning Program, including Summer Learning for Students with Special Needs - Kerry Desjardins

We are fully staffed for Summer Learning and are moving forward with registration.

We will be continuing our partnership with Tiny Eye throughout the summer and already have thirteen families committed to summer Tiny Eye learning.

3. [2023-2024 Education Funding : A Guide to Special Education Funding](#) - Kerry Desjardins

Kerry wanted to ensure SEAC members had access to this guide and highlighted that: no funding has been lost in regards to the Special Education Grant for Student Needs. The Board has committed to using all available funds to ensure full time Learning for All in all schools, and that the Board has funded 29 Educational Assistants this year.

Special Education Grant - we will still be receiving funds per pupil, Special Education funding, etc.

Northern Adjustment Funds- continuing to receive funding to support Northern Ontario students.

The rest remains status quo. Please contact Kerry Desjardins with any questions.

4. June 6 SEAC Meeting

A hybrid model will be offered for the June 6th meeting with the in-person portion being held at St. Edward Catholic School in Nipigon, a virtual link will also be provided for those who can not attend in person. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the meeting will proceed from 1-2pm.

5. Correspondence Received:

[Near North DSB Letter](#)

[Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board](#)

[Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board](#)

7. Service Provider Updates (if available):

- George Jeffrey Children’s Centre - Andrea Stach

Empower Kids Ontario, an organization which all children treatment centres belong to, are offering scholarships to students graduating High School that have received services from a treatment centre. There are six scholarships available and the deadline to apply is May 31, 2023.

- Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

No updates, everything is status quo.

- Norwest Community Health Centre - Maureen Parkes

Unable to attend.

- Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Will be hosting a Mental Health Awareness BBQ at the Nipigon Arena for youth, sixteen Service Providers are set to attend.

Youth Empowerment Camps are moving forward this summer, Ginoogaming will also be hosting a Healing Camp.

Dilico has a staff member trained in Roots of Empathy, they will be attending the Roots of Empathy conference in Toronto this year.

Future Agenda Items

1. n/a

Other Matters

1. **Next Meeting Date:** June 6, 2023 at 12 p.m. at St. Edward Catholic School, virtual option will be available as well.

Adjournment

Resolution #27/22

Moved By: Danielle Bond
Seconded By: Shirley Jean

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

Carried.

Originally signed by

SEAC Chairperson

Date

Originally signed by

SEAC Member

Date