



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on October 3, 2023

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Shirley Jean (Chair) - Trustee
- Judy Wawia - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Andrea Stach - George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Lisa Copp - Educational Assistant Representative
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Candice Bottle - NOSP - Nipigon
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Danielle Bond - Parent
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead
- Dawna Harrison (Recorder)

### Regrets

- Renee Monsma - Children's Centre Thunder Bay

### Welcome, and Opening Liturgy:

Shirley Jean began the meeting with a prayer, and Brie-Ann Copp read the Acknowledgement.

## Agenda/Minutes:

### Resolution #01/23

Moved By: Judy Wawia

Seconded By: Danielle Bond

**THAT** the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 3, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

### Resolution #02/23

Moved By: Brie-Ann Copp

Seconded By: Lisa Copp

**THAT** the [minutes](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on June 6, 2023, be accepted.

Carried.

### Resolution #03/23

Moved By: Judy Wawia

Seconded By: Lisa Copp

**THAT** the [minutes](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on September 5, 2023, be accepted.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

1. [Summer Learning 2023 Presentation](#) - Sarah Clowes, Principal, St. Edward School & Cara Figliomeni, Technology Enabled Learning Teacher

S. Clowes shared the Summer Learning Program (SLP) and Reach Ahead Program. There were 26 registrations, nine new families, two teachers, one Educational Assistant.

Each student had a profile that had been created so the teacher could get to know them.

Discovery boxes were delivered prior to the start of the program to ensure all students had everything they needed.

There was a Mental Health Connection, with Ms. Critch delivering a weekly Second Step Lesson. There were outdoor learning challenges.

Weekly highlights, which included photos, were emailed to families. Social media posts were also shared. Attendance prizes were geared towards the program. Students who attended five or more days were awarded a personalized report card.

K. Desjardins joined our celebration of learning presentation with educators, students and families. Parent feedback was very positive, as was student feedback. Students shared what they liked best through Kahoot!

The program has been built to align with the SNCDSB Strategic Plan, and every community within the Board has had at least one participant.

### New Business

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

Nipigon and Red Rock have hired a Child and Youth Worker for their area. All schools are fully complemented except St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima. K. Desjardins and T. Bryson have been connecting with Principals, adding Tracking for improving psychology and psychiatry referrals. Four members of the team have been trained in Roots of Empathy. T. Bryson will be presenting to NTIP to ensure they have access to the mental health resources available.

Mental Health Literacy modules - the Grade 7/8 teachers will be attending learning sessions along with T. Bryson, K. Desjardins, C. Figliomeni and Chris Martin. We are ensuring that students who are more vulnerable are cared for.

#### 2. **Update of SEAC Members 2023-2024**

There have been changes to the members this year. Fred Schmidt is no longer able to attend, but Renee Monsma will begin attending meetings in November. K. Desjardins introduced Candice Bottle from NOSP. J. Wawia asked if First Nation reps could be included.

#### 3. **Professional Learning Opportunity for EA's 2023-2024**

We will be continuing our partnership with Confederation College and the continued learning modules for EAs. The first module will focus on ASD as the population of students with ASD is increasing. This partnership has allowed for great relationships. EAs are excited and ready to learn. It is on a voluntary basis, and we had at least 10-12 attend each module last year. Many of our EAs are unqualified, so it gives the opportunity for PD to both qualified and unqualified EAs.

#### 4. **Board-Funded Autism Courses - Geneva Centre Training Courses**

We've been fortunate to partner with Sonderly, the platform that offers these courses. A number of Educational Assistants and Teachers participated, and some EAs have completed a number of different courses. No courses for staff have been denied.

### 5. **Special Education Staffing (2023-2024) Update**

A full complement of staff has been hired within the Board. We have 8 Learning for All Teachers.

Many Jordan Principle applications have been approved for the 2023-2024 school year. As applications are approved, the positions are advertised. We still have some that have not been approved, but we continue to support the students through support within the school.

We have 3 Child and Youth Workers across the system.

### 6. **Literacy Plan 2023-2024**

Angela Gainer launched the revised curriculum and updated everyone at a Principal learning session. Moving forward, all Kindergarten to Grade 2 teachers will have face-to-face, hands-on support from Angela, along with Learning for All Teachers and Principals. The learning session will be about shift teacher practice. There are six shifts.

The Ministry's focus is on early literacy, so these shifts will help to minimize the gaps in younger children learning to read, especially lower-level readers. It helps in building the foundation for reading.

### 7. **Correspondence Received: None**

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

#### **North of Superior Programs - Candice Bottle**

Candice Bottle began the role of Children's Clinical Service Manager in April. They are working towards filling staffing gaps. All staff have undergone recent training, and that will continue, including Triple P. They are Running Triple P workshops for children and parents and hoping to develop workshops for schools.

#### **Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Renee Monsma**

Not available for update.

#### **Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes**

Not available for update.

#### **Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore**

In September, they were invited to Wake the Giant and brought 13 youths to Thunder Bay. Their role was to hype the crowd from the Youth Advisory Committee Council.

We have walk-in mental health counselling, which is for anyone, and we are running Triple P in First Nation communities.

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

We have hired a new speech therapy assistant to cover the Greenstone and Nipigon areas. We will shift to cover Marathon and Manitiouwadge as well once he is more comfortable in his role.

Tiered Intervention - Holy Angels School will be trialled in the Kindergarten classroom starting in November. Consultation clinics have started up again and can be done virtually. Smart Start hub went live last week with an online booking platform.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Ebony from Red Rock Indian Band for Jordan Principle

**Other Matters**

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

**Adjournment**

**Resolution #04/23**

Moved By: Judy Wawia

Seconded By: Bobbi Lin Mercer

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Carried.

*Originally signed by*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Originally signed by*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date