



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 5, 2023

### Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Lisa Copp - Educational Assistant Representative
- Shirley Jean - Trustee
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead
- Dawna Harrison - Recorder

### Regrets

- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Andrea Stach - George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent
- Danielle Bond - Parent

### Welcome, and Opening Liturgy:

Kerry began the meeting with a prayer, and Shirley read the Statement of Acknowledgement.

### Agenda/Minutes:

We did not have a quorum, so no motions were passed.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

#### 1. August 31st & September 1st PD Days

Our first two PD Days occurred on August 31st and September 1st, 2023. The August 31st PD was board-wide, where everyone gathered together in person in Nipigon. The day started with a Mass performed by Father Terry and ended with an amazing presentation by Father Cristino. The September 1st morning session was virtual and focused on changes in the revised Language curriculum, ensuring all educators understood the new curriculum and how it aligned with the recommendations made in the OHR Right to Read Inquiry. The afternoon session was safety-focused to enable staff to finish their School Safety Training.

### New Business

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

Payton McMullen has been hired as the new Child & Youth Worker for Holy Saviour School and Our Lady of Lourdes.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay will continue to serve our students with two part-time workers; we will start the year with a small wait list.

One focus this year is School Mental Health Ontario, which is funded by the Ministry of Education to support Mental Health in our schools. They will be developing literacy modules this year specifically for Grade 7/8 students.

#### 2. Update of [SEAC Members 2023-2024](#)

Members remain the same, with the exception of Fred Schmidt, who is unable to continue but is currently seeking to find a replacement for himself. NOSP has hired a new Manager. Kerry will reach out to see if there is someone who can join the committee.

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

We will be reaching out to parents to encourage participation.

#### 3. SEAC Chair for 2023-2024

Shirley Jean will be the new SEAC Chair for the 2023-2024 school year.

#### 4. Special Education Staffing & [Special Education Funding 2023-2024](#)

We would like to ensure you have access to how the Special Education Grant is organized via the link above. It has changed little since last year. Clicking on the

link will bring you directly to the government website and their Guide to Special Education Grant.

We continue to allow Jordan's Principles applications. As a result we do not receive our funding for these additional positions as they are not funded through the Ministry of Education, and they are only funded year to year.

We have filled the position of Learning For All Teachers across the Board at all eight of our schools and have also now employed two Child & Youth Workers.

We have thirty permanent Educational Assistants.

There are thirteen (13) Jordan's Principles applications approved, and the positions are either currently posted or have already been filled. Five applications have not yet been approved.

5. [Special Education Plan 2023](#)

This has been finalized and added to our Board website.

6. [Parent's Guide to Special Education 2023](#)

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

7. **Correspondence Received:**

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

### North of Superior Programs

#### Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Unable to attend.

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

Sent a copy of a poster to share with Committee Members regarding the FASD Conference being held on October 19, 2023. The conference will focus on 'The Human Experience: Voices of FASD.' The keynote speaker will be Myles Himmelreich, and there will also be a presentation by Dr. Mushquash, a professor at Lakehead University.

#### Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Unable to attend.

#### George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Andrea Stach

Unable to attend.

## Future Agenda Items

Please continue to send any future items that you would like included on the Agenda to

Kerry Desjardins or Dawna Harrison.

## Other Matters

1. **Next Meeting Date:** October 3, 2023, at St. Edward Catholic School in Nipigon at 9:30 a.m.

## Adjournment

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

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SEAC Chairperson

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Date

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SEAC Member

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Date