



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on June 6, 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
- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Lisa Copp - Educational Assistant Representative
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent
- Dawna Harrison - Recorder

Regrets

- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Tracy Bryson - Presenter

Welcome, and Opening Liturgy:

Judy Wawia began the meeting with a prayer, and Brie-Ann Copp read the statement of acknowledgement.

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #28/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean

Seconded By: Brie-Ann Copp

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on June 6, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

Resolution #29/22

Moved By: Danielle Bond

Seconded By: Brie-Ann Copp

THAT the [minutes](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 2, 2023, be accepted.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. [Professional Learning in Special Education - 2022-2023](#)

Kerry wanted to give everyone a glance at all of the learning opportunities that occurred this year. Initially, we didn't think there would be many opportunities available because of short staffing/release time, etc. Still, opportunities came from having virtual options such as RBT courses, BMS training, Geneva Autism Training Program, etc.

It was very exciting to be able to do more than initially expected, and having the option of Zoom made things easier and more efficient.

New Business

1. Mental Health Update - Tracy Bryson

Tracy was unable to attend but asked Kerry to share the following:

Children's Mental Health Week was incredible throughout the Board, with many activities led by students with the assistance of the Positive Behavioural Support

Workers. The DILICO Health Fair also had a wonderful impact on the students who could attend. The level of engagement was amazing.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay has entered into a Fee For Service Agreement with SNCDSB and has seen a lot of referrals. Uptake has been a lot quicker than other current Service Providers due to staffing shortages, so the services through Children's Centre Thunder Bay are greatly appreciated.

2. **Special Education Plan 2022-2023 - Annual Review**

[Special Education Plan 2022](#)

[Parents' Guide To Special Education September 2022](#)

[Proposed Changes to Special Education Plan 2023](#)

Proposed changes went out to everyone for feedback. Minimal feedback was received, so only a few minor changes have occurred.

On the Contents Page - LHIN and CCAC need to be removed, and North of Superior Counselling Programs needs to be added.

Early Identification Procedures & Intervention Strategies - we have moved to two core programs - Heggerty and Lexia Core5 Reading.

The Identification, Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Process and Appeals - Ontario Special Education Tribunals - no in-person services available as they now offer services virtually - mailing address and phone number have changed.

The Identification, Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Process and Appeals - our Board has gone from 51 to 56 identifications as a result of more assessments being done - has also led us to discover that some students are not identified as having learning disability but have gaps as a result of covid.

Special Education Staff - numbers remain the same.

Staff Development - list from 2022-2023 school year

Updated SEAC Committee Members

Updated new Mental Health & Addiction Nurse (MHAN) referral form

Parent's Guide to Special Education - updated principal list and added vice principals.

Resolution #30/22

Moved By: Shirley Jean

Seconded By: Lisa Copp

THAT the Superior North Catholic District School Board accepts the revisions to the Special Education Plan, as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Carried.

Resolution #31/22

Moved By: Danielle Bond

Seconded By: Jennifer Moore

THAT a report be sent to the Ministry of Education indicating that the Special Education Annual Review process has been conducted.

Carried.

Resolution #32/22

Moved By: Andrea Stach

Seconded By: Brie-Ann Copp

THAT a comprehensive copy of the Superior North Catholic District School Board's Special Education Plan be kept on file at the Board Office, in all schools, and on the Board website as a public document.

Carried.

3. Update on Summer Learning 2023, including support for students with Special Education Needs

Kerry shared that we are moving forward with the program - we have 27 children registered for Summer Learning with a good span from K-8 across all schools.

We have advertised for Reach Ahead Tutor and Summer Learning Lead and will offer summer learning credit.

TinyEYE - 11 students are registered for language therapy.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre and Ignite are conducting transition programs to assist children with special needs transitioning back into school in September.

4. EQAO 2023

Update - testing is to be done and submitted by June 14th, and we are currently on

track to be fully completed by that date.

5. [School Year Calendar 2023-2024](#)

First day back to school is September 5, 2023. The first PD days are August 31 and September 1. The first PD day will be a Boardwide day where all staff will join together face to face. Principals and admin assistants are back on August 24.

6. **Strengths/Challenges/Next Steps for SEAC Committee - Whole Group Discussion**

If there is anything you would like to share or see, please let Kerry know. Any feedback regarding how you would like to see SEAC run in the future is appreciated. A suggestion was made to do some in-person meetings, perhaps in October and June. Please do not hesitate to ask if there are any PDs or presentations you would like to see. Andrea offered to bring any of her colleagues to present about things not under her portfolio. Service providers will speak to structural changes.

7. **Correspondence Received:**

[DCDSB Letter to Minister Lecce](#)

[DCDSB SIP Letter to Minister Lecce](#)

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

■ **George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Andrea Stach**

Tiered Intervention was launched in Windsor in 2014 with school-based Occupational Therapists. George Jeffrey Children's Centre will be launching Tiered Intervention in a select number of schools in Thunder Bay. Tier 1 - focussed on SK, would have an OT in the classroom, and would do universal observation - waitlist review is occurring now (by finding out if the reason for referral still exists) - hoping to launch in the district in the future. Still, it will need to look different than in Thunder Bay.

George Jeffrey has two SLP students right now and is trying to take on students as it will support recruitment.

Summer Recreation Program is open to any client of George Jeffrey's (e.g. bike clinic every Thursday).

Behaviour Support - Registered Behaviour Therapist work is done with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School over the summer.

The Augmentative Team has entered into a relationship with FireFly and is

providing mentorship to become a general clinic.

- Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Unable to attend.

- Norwest Community Health Centre - Maureen Parkes

Unable to attend.

- Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

No new updates.

Future Agenda Items

1. Any structural changes within the Service Providers’ organizations.
2. Resource book outlining available resources.

Other Matters

1. **Next Meeting Date:** September 5, 2023

Adjournment

Resolution #33/22

Moved By: Brie-Ann Copp

Seconded By: Jennifer Moore

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Carried.

Originally signed by

SEAC Chairperson

Date

Originally signed by

SEAC Member

Date