



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on November 7, 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 - Geraldton
- Melissa Nystrom - Teacher Representative
- Danielle Bond - Parent
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead
- Maria Sirard (Recorder)

### Regrets

- Renee Monsma - Children's Centre Thunder Bay
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Moore - DILICO

### Welcome, and Opening Liturgy:

Shirley Jean began the meeting with a prayer, and K. Desjardins read the Statement of Acknowledgement.

## Agenda/Minutes:

### Resolution #05/23

Moved By: Judy Wawia

Seconded By: Danielle Bond

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

Carried.

### Resolution #06/23

Moved By: Lisa Copp

Seconded By: Andrea Stach

**THAT** the [minutes](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 3, 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

## Business Arising Out of Minutes

### Professional Learning Update

1. [Literacy Presentation](#) - Angela Gainer

A. Gainer shared a presentation on the new revised Language curriculum. The revised curriculum is also available as a download on the Ministry website. The Ministry wants to ensure that our students have enhanced spoken language comprehension. The four strands have been structured differently. A. Gainer shared the updated strands in Language. A. Gainer has been visiting all schools to assist with the new curriculum implementation for students. There are updates to the student report cards with only mark now for Language. There is a parent guide available online as well.

### New Business

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

Bullying Awareness Week is coming up. We have shared information and resources with schools to raise awareness of this upcoming event. We are working on the Implementation of the Mental Health LIT modules for

grades 7 and 8. We are working on a training plan for implementing these modules. PPM 169 on student mental health will be addressed at the next PD day in November.

### **2. Speech-Language Therapy 2023-2024**

We continue to work with George Jeffrey Children's Centre for our students receiving services (e.g. Speech & Language, Augmentative Communication). We have contracted TinyEYE Therapy Services and Superior Speech Services to assist with consistent weekly Speech Language Therapy. Our needs are increasing consistently across our Board. We currently have 52 students involved in a fee-for-service program.

### **3. Psychoeducational Assessments 2023-2024 School Year**

We did receive funding from the Ministry of Education for psychoeducational assessments in the amount of \$101,000, which can also be used for psychology assessments. We still have a Partnership with Dr. Sarah Sinclair, and she has been seeing our referral students in Thunder Bay because we do not have staff available to come to our area.

### **4. Professional Learning Update: Geneva Centre, Special Education AQ, and Confederation College**

We have funds available for the above for our staff. We used this funding for courses through the Geneva Centre. We have 12 educators completing ABA level one at the moment, with additional staff interested. We have received Support from the Ministry for staff to take Special Education qualifications. We have partnered with Confederation College partnering with 16 Educational Assistants starting module one within our system.

### **5. After School Skills Development Funding**

We have received funding from the Ministry of Education for this program. We have four schools currently operating this program.

### **6. Communication Received: None**

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

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

We had three days of training. Fear Less Triple C training has been offered to parents. Our counsellors are very busy. We are currently recruiting for additional staff.

**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**

Not available for update.

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

A new Community Disorder Assistant has started and will be visiting our locations. Rural travel has been difficult to fill. Last week, we closed down for a week to review our various services. There are new guidelines on rehabilitation. We are advertising for a kinesiologist to join their team. Our virtual consultation service has begun for children who are waiting for assessment.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Please send any Agenda items to K. Desjardins.

**Other Matters**

1. **Next Meeting Date:** December 5, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

**Adjournment**

**Resolution #07/23**

Moved By: Danielle Bond

Seconded By: Judy Wawia

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Carried.

Originally signed by

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Originally signed by

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date