



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on January 9, 2024

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Shirley Jean (Chair) - Trustee
- Judy Wawia - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Lisa Copp - Educational Assistant Representative
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Melissa Nystrom - Teacher Representative
- Danielle Bond - Parent
- Tracy Bryson - Mental Health Lead
- Melissa Nystrom - Teacher Representative
- Jennifer Moore - DILICO
- Tymara Ruth - Red Rock Indian Band
- Valerie Auger - Plays Plat First Nation
- Renee Monsma - Children's Centre Thunder Bay
- Candice Bottle - North of Superior Programs
- Andrea Stach - George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Maria Sirard - Recorder

Regrets

- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Brie-Ann Copp - Parent

Welcome, and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #11/23

Moved By: Judy Wawia

Seconded By: Danielle Bond

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on January 9, 2024 be accepted.

Carried.

Resolution #12/23

Moved By: Lindsay Costa

Seconded By: Judy Wawia

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

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

There was no Business Arising out of Minutes.

Professional Learning Update

1. No Presentation in January

New Business

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

There is a change to our team, with Emma Hamiton replacing Lindsay Critch in her position as Child and Youth Worker. We now have a full complement of workers supporting classroom and student support. Our student leadership committee will have their first meeting next week. All student referrals from last year have been completed, and we are now working with current referrals. Terrace Bay will be a priority due to the

local shutdown of the pulp mill.

2. Kindergarten 2023-2024

At the moment, we are fortunate that the number of kindergarten students has increased in all of our schools. We will have a complement of a teacher and ECE for all classrooms. We have many new Kindergarten teachers in our system, so we partnered with OECTA for a Professional Development session for these teachers, with two sessions being held this month.

Kindergarten registration opens on January 15th, which will be an ongoing process for the school year. We would like to welcome families into our schools. Our website has been updated to reflect kindergarten information that was distributed to all schools, and this information has been shared on our board website. A digital banner was created for schools to use on their individual school Facebook pages. Posters have been created as well as postcards for mailouts to families in our communities. CFNO radio advertising will also be broadcast in the following weeks. Every school will have a *Welcome to Kindergarten Day* for students to attend. We will share with our service providers, information on the dates of these sessions occurring at our schools, so they may also attend. Ages and Stages clinics can also be established for students.

3. Jordan's Principle Approved Funding 2023-2024

Sixteen applications were submitted and approved for speech and language support. For Occupational Therapy, two applications were submitted and approved. Nineteen applications for Educational Assistant support were submitted and approved. We have job postings for Educational Assistant positions that are not currently filled. We will continue to work to fill these positions.

4. Northern Adjustment Funding 2023-2024

K. Desjardins described the funding criteria for the Northern Adjustment Funding. This is primarily funding for urgent support. We can apply to the NAF for urgent funding for 10-12 weeks during the student's transition to school. Every Board across the region can apply for this funding. We also receive a lump sum of \$157,000, which is specific to what it can be used for. We also received one additional funding amount of \$33,000, which is provided for physical and/or emotional support.

5. Communication Received:

- **SEAC Chair of Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board - SIP Claim Funding**

K. Desjardins shared a letter received from another SEAC committee regarding the funding for SIP. The modified funding model does not meet the needs of many Boards with the amount of funding remaining the same, with a small percentage of increase annually.

6. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Candice Bottle

Ages and Stages screening - all of our family and support workers are trained in this screening process. We have a staff member returning to Longlac, and we still have four positions unfilled. Focusing on our targeted prevention programming with sharing of posters, etc. We have a new Adult Service Manager working out of Marathon.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Renee Monsma

We continue our ongoing partnerships with school boards. We have alleviated the waiting lists and will continue to work closely with T. Bryson on referrals.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Not available for update.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

We are partnering with Triple P Programming. We are working in First Nation communities and will provide a "Return to Traditional Parenting" program for parents. She has shared a link for Zoom training for parents.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Andrea Stach

We have a Kinesiologist who just started with the Centre. He is on route to the Terrace Bay/Schreiber area for this week. The Centre still has vacancies in various positions as well.

Future Agenda Items

Please send any Agenda items to K. Desjardins.

Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date:

K. Desjardins will be unavailable on February 6th, so we will change the next meeting date to February 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment

Resolution #13/23

Moved By: Jennifer Moore

Seconded By: Danielle Bond

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Carried.

Originally signed by

SEAC Chairperson

Date

Originally signed by

SEAC Member

Date