



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on December 4, 2018

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Peter Kutok - System Math Lead (Guest)

Regrets

- BJ Mercier - St. Hilary School Principal
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

Judy began the meeting with a prayer and read the statement of acknowledgment.

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #07/18

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 4, 2018 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Resolution #08/18

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on [September 6, 2018](#) be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Resolution #09/18

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Jennifer Moore

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on [November 6, 2018](#) be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. [Board Math Plan Presentation](#)

Peter shared the linked presentation as it is the pathway to achieve our math goal, utilizing system supports as well as the Nelson and Marian Small resources. As Math Leads, Peter Kutok and Lena Stahl are working in the schools to support the math block, specifically the creation of small group learning opportunities and the development of Guided Math blocks. This extends to Principals too, as they are supporting the administrators in the classroom walkthrough and what they can be looking at when walking through.

Peter shared the various math resources that have been purchased to support the math

plan and goals for 2018-2019 (e.g. IXL, Math Talks, Leaps & Bounds, Nelson Program, PRIME, etc.). These resources and the Leads will support educators in changing the model of their math block, by looking at the creation of a balanced math block that includes Number Talks, Bansho's, Centre-based Learning Approaches, Technology, etc. The Math Leads will work at supporting teachers through training, co-planning, modelling, observation, team teaching and a Math PD Day.

Peter concluded by explaining that this aligns specifically with SEAC in that it is really about teaching students where they are currently at. Educators are specifically looking at what do the students need? This will ensure that all educators can provide better D.I. to their students (Differentiated Instruction).

New Business

1. [Positive Behaviour Support Lead](#) & [Positive Behaviour Support Worker](#)

Tracy Bryson shared her role within the Superior North Catholic District School Board and introduced our new Positive Behaviour Support Worker, Meghan Miller to the SEAC Committee. She shared how they are working elbow to elbow with classroom educators to support them in understanding that behaviour is a form of communication and we need to look beyond the behaviour to the underlying reason for the behaviour. By understanding our students more we can create strong, safe relationships where all students feel valued and that they belong. Tracy and Meghan work directly with educators to create Student Success plans for students, as well as alongside other system support roles. This includes consultations with service providers to ensure that we are meeting the goals created in the IEPs for all of our Tier 2 and Tier 3 students.

2. November 23, 2018 Professional Development Day

Kerry shared that this day was planned collaboratively with Tracy and Kim to focus on equity and inclusion for all of our students. The Agenda was created to support all educators in better understanding themselves, which in turn would help them to better understand their students. The morning spent time developing their understanding of brain development through the "Gift of Understanding" presentation delivered by Kim, adapted by a presentation by Dr. Kristen McLeod and the principals then walked their staff through a resource purchased for all schools, entitled "The Third Path". The morning allowed all educators to delve deeper into social-emotional learning in order to focus on the creation of an education system that focuses on the "whole" child. By focusing on the whole child we are creating systems where students are healthy, safe, engaged and supported, thus creating students who are equipped to take on complex challenges.

3. Multi-Disciplinary Team Update

Kerry shared that we currently have the following people and positions as part of

our Multi-Disciplinary Team. The posting for a Positive Behaviour Support Worker has been extended, as we need to ensure that we have the best candidate for the position.

- Positive Behaviour Support Lead: Tracy Bryson
- Positive Behaviour Support Worker: Meghan Miller
- Attendance Counsellor: Michelle Legacy
- Special Education Principal Lead: Lindsay Costa
- Superintendent of Education: Kerry Desjardins

4. Dr. Rana Pishva Session (November 20, 2018)

All Learning for All educators participated in a session on Executive Functioning in Red Rock on November 20th with the Special Education teachers from Superior Greenstone District School Board. The Learning for All teachers all gave very positive feedback in regards to this session and their immediate ability to use the information presented. They will be requested to share their learning with the Educational Assistants within their school in the new year.

5. Psychoeducational Assessments 2018-2019

Since the spring of 2018 we have been utilizing the services of Dr. Melanie Morrow to conduct Psychoeducational (Neurological) Assessments for the students within our board. This is a service we are desperately in need of but unfortunately, the families have to be willing to travel to Thunder Bay to participate in the assessments.

6. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Nicole shared that the mental health counsellor position that was funded by NOEL for Superior North Catholic DSB and Superior Greenstone DSB has been really well received within the communities of Longlac and Geraldton. Seema Parameswaran is building great relationships in the community and currently has 34 clients on her caseload. Seema is working to offer targeted prevention within the 4 elementary schools she is currently servicing in Geraldton and Longlac.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

Not available for an update

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available for an update

Children’s Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Fred reported that he did not have any current updates but expressed gratitude to Peter for an informative presentation.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Maureen reported that she did not have any current updates but also expressed gratitude for Peter’s presentation and indicated that he was a passionate leader for our board.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Jennifer shared that Dilico is also engaging in agency-wide development with Dr. Kristen McLeod. Dilico is also engaging a psychometrist in counselling and clinical SNAP for their clients. As well, Jennifer is currently the co-chair for the Youth Council. This is a group of 13 First Nation Representatives from ages 12-22 that meet to discuss items of importance to them and what supports they currently require.

Other Matters

- 1. Next Meeting Date: January 8, 2019

Adjournment

Resolution #10/18

Moved By: Marline Ilijow
Seconded By: Jennifer Moore

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Carried.

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date