



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on May 9, 2019

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Helen Gibbons - LHINS/SNCDSB Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Nicki Chik - Parent

Regrets

- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- BJ Mercier - St. Hilary School Principal
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Tara Patterson - Parent

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

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

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #23/18

Moved By: Fred Schmidt
Seconded By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 9, 2019 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Resolution #24/18

Moved By: Bobbi-Lin Mercer
Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on April 2, 2019 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. Attendance Presentation - Michelle Legacy

Michelle led us through the attached Attendance Presentation. During the presentation it was identified that the provincial average for persistent absenteeism is 13.3% and the average for Superior North Catholic is 29.9%. This average puts our board as the 4th highest board in the province for persistent absenteeism. Currently Our Lady of Fatima and St. Joseph schools have the highest absenteeism average in our board. Michelle shared that mental health issues are related to high absenteeism, as well as travel, road & weather conditions, sporting events, and family vacations.

Since beginning the role in December, Michelle has met with all Principals to do a Needs Assessment and has been specifically working with families and students to help them understand the importance of attendance. It is important that everyone (families, students, teachers) are involved in improving attendance.

At present there are 27 referrals that have been made in consultation with admin staff and school. Students need to be a part of their Attendance Management

Plan. An Attendance Pilot Program has been planned for Our Lady of Fatima for the 2019-2020 school year where students with two or less absences per month will be invited to an event in the school (planned by the students and committee). It has been planned so that each month every child can improve their attendance as they are hopefully motivated to participate in the activity planned.

New Business

1. Provincial Consultation: Service Animals in Schools

The province is engaging in a provincial consultation regarding Service Animals in Schools. The goal of the consultation is to:

- Improve the process for families when making requests for service animals to accompany their children to school
- Understand what specific policies are needed to make this process more consistent and transparent

The consultation closes on May 11, 2019.

2. Ontario Autism Consultation

The province is engaging in a provincial consultation regarding Ontario Autism programming. The consultations were being conducted via telephone Town Halls. Following the last Town Hall session the feedback gathered will be reviewed by the new advisory panel. They will review the information gathered through the consultations and will provide advice on developing a new needs assessment process and approach to supporting children and youth with complex needs. These collective recommendations will be made public to the province by September 2019.

3. The Gift of Understanding/The Third Path

School teams attended their first session on the Third Path with Dr. Tranter and Tom Boland on April 16th and have committed to be the implementation and monitoring team for the 2019-2020 school year. A further session will be held on June 5th which will be an opportunity for school teams to further engage in planning for the 2019-2020 school year.

Each school has been invited to send 3-4 people to a session with Dr. Kristen McLeod on May 15th at St. Hilary School where we will engage in a learning session with Superior Greenstone District School Board on understanding trauma and the impact it has on our students.

4. Everything you need to know about EQAO

As we prepare for the administration of EQAO between May 21st and June 3rd the attached document will support families/guardians/community to further understand the assessment, including the rationale behind the assessment and how the results will impact work within the board.

5. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Nicole shared that there has been some additional funding that has supported the implementation of a Peer Support pilot program in Greenstone, Nipigon, and Armstrong. The intent is to build leadership in high school students to support the Grade 8 students to attend events at the High Schools prior to their transition. The High School will lead these activities and will hopefully link students with support for students transitioning to High School, especially Armstrong students who have to transition to the city for Secondary School.

Local Health Integration Network - Helen Gibbons

Helen shared that Holy Saviour recently engaged in a Makerspace community event, that focused on Health and Wellness and the LHIN nurse (Helen) was invited to attend. Helen is also engaged in a 10-week pilot program training through the CHEO Children's Hospital, specifically focussing on Mental Health nurses working in schools.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

Not available for an update.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Fred shared that there are no current updates at this time.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Not available for an update.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

Not available for an update.

Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date: **Tuesday, June 4th** at St. Edward School beginning with **lunch at 12:00 p.m.**, followed by the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Resolution #25/18

Moved By: Helen Gibbons
Seconded By: Nicole Beaulieu

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:25 a.m.
Carried.

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date