



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on November 3, 2020

Present

- Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education
- Judy Wawia (Chair) - Trustee - First Nation Representative
- Marline Ilijow - Trustee
- Lindsay Costa - Principal Representative
- Jennifer Moore - Dilico
- Maureen Parkes - FASD Coordinator, NW Community Health Centre
- Fred Schmidt - Associate Director - Children's Centre, Thunder Bay
- Bobbi-Lin Mercer - Teacher Representative
- Gilbert Rondeau - George Jeffrey Children's Centre

Regrets

- Nicole Beaulieu - NOSP - Greenstone
- Tara Patterson - Parent
- Nicki Chik - Parent
- Mia Laframboise - Educational Assistant

Welcome and Opening Liturgy:

Ms. Wawia began the meeting with a prayer and read the statement of acknowledgement.

Agenda/Minutes:

Resolution #09/20

Moved By: Marline Ilijow

Seconded By: Fred Schmidt

THAT the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 3, 2020 be accepted.

Carried.

Resolution #10/20

Moved By: Marline Ilijow

Seconded By: Bobbi Lin Mercer

THAT the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee teleconference meeting held on October 6, 2020 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Professional Learning Update

1. [Ontario Educator Online Autism Training Program](#)

Mrs. Desjardins shared the direction the Board is heading this year. Professional Development for educators will be different this year due to a staffing crisis in all our schools. The regular practice of Professional Development will not be done this year. Most learning will be self directed. This memo was sent out to all educators in our Board. Training is still accessible for staff. Autism Spectrum Disorder course expenses are covered by the Board.

2. **The Willing Learner - Shiri Bartman**

We continue to work with Shiri Bartman on virtual training for our Educational Assistants and Learning for All teachers. She will also be developing and facilitating parent engagement sessions. Ms. Bartman will also do individual case consultations and work with our team(s) to develop a plan for individual students.

New Business

1. **Psychoeducational Assessments 2020-2021 School Year**

We would like to thank Fred Schmidt for the recommendation of Dr. Sarah Sinclair for our psychoeducational assessments. She will be creating a schedule to ensure these are completed during the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Desjardins will be reaching out to the schools regarding the referrals and to see if parents are willing to travel to Thunder Bay, which would reduce their wait time.

2. Speech-Language Therapy - Virtual/Hybrid Model

Mr. Rondeau mentioned that we have a lot of opportunity with the services from George Jeffrey Children's Centre with regards to speech-language therapy. We have utilized TinyEYE Therapy Services, as well as a Speech Language Pathologist in the Terrace Bay/Schreiber area.

3. George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Fee for Service

As we know, there have been changes in the model of support for students with ASD, specifically those that are currently on the waitlist for OAP (Ontario Autism Program). George Jeffrey Children's Centre has ABA therapists that work and contract services and have offered a fee for service model for students with ASD. Staff from George Jeffrey Children's Centre have met with Mrs. Desjardins and have developed a plan to support students and educators in our schools. We have been provided with funding that will support this service.

4. Special Education Funding 2020-2021

The Transfer Payment Agreement has been received for COVID funding plus additional funds to further support our Board's special education needs for our students. With this we were able to retain and hire temporary additional Educational Assistants for our students. This will assist with the COVID regulations that we need to comply with. Funding for mental health services was also received, but the funding is very structured as to what we are permitted to spend the funding on. There are four areas that are regulated to this funding and Mrs. Desjardins outlined these areas. We are happy with the service providers that we currently have and the services provided to our students so we are working alongside them to determine the best use for these funds.

6. Service Provider Updates (if available):

North of Superior Programs - Nicole Beaulieu

Not available for an update.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre - Gilbert Rondeau

There have been some changes at George Jeffrey Children's Centre. They have absorbed the school based speech and language component - referrals go to them with

the same process as before. Gilbert is serving the Nipigon area - St. Edward School and the Greenstone area - St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima schools. The plan is to have bi-weekly student visits and the Greenstone area will have weekly visits. Face to face and virtual services will be available.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay - Fred Schmidt

Children's Centre Thunder Bay is status quo as of the last meeting. No further updates.

Norwest Community Health Centre (FASD) - Maureen Parkes

Maureen shared that currently in the province, Kathleen Wynn MPP will stand up in the Ontario Legislature to debate her Private Members Bill 172. The Bill requires boards of education to develop policies and guidelines with respect to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Teachers' colleges and early childhood education programs shall be required to provide training with respect to FASD.

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care - Jennifer Moore

The Ministry has approved funding for Dilico mental health crisis workers working with the police departments. They are hiring two part time workers (25 hours a week). At this time, Dilico would prefer the mental health crisis workers to be stationed at the police stations. There will be two workers for Nipigon and two workers for the Greenstone area. Dilico also now has approval for additional workers in the Marathon area. Staff attended the Canada Mental Health Crisis Intervention Training last week.

Future Agenda Items

If you have any Future Agenda items you would like to discuss, please let Kerry Desjardins or Maria Lapenskie know.

Other Matters

1. Next Meeting Date:

The next SEAC zoom meeting for the 2020-2021 school year, will be held on **December 1, 2020**.

Adjournment

Resolution #11/20

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

THAT we adjourn the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Carried.

SEAC Chairperson

Date

SEAC Member

Date