



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee information meeting held on October 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Office.

Present:

Administration: Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education
Theresa Bitonti, Special Education Coordinator

Trustees: John Willemsen
Barbara McCool

Associations: Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member
Tracy Hanzlik, Nipissing First Nation
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member

Regrets: Jennifer Palangio, Secondary Curriculum Lead – Special Education
Dan Lachance, Community Living, Member
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member
Shannon O'Connor, CCCNIP, Member
Susan Wright, CAS, Member
Tammy Rheaume-Fortin, HANDS, Member

1. PRAYER

Ms. Weller led the committee in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deferred

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deferred

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Parent Guide

Ms. Weller provided SEAC the Ministry of Education sample Parents' Guide to Special Education as well as the NPSCDSB Parents' Guide to Special Education. SEAC identified the need to discuss the process by which we would review and update the Guide as well as methods to share applicable information (i.e. guide, brochure or video). Further discussion was deferred to the November meeting.

6. UPDATES

a) SEAC Action Plan

Ms. Weller shared the following updates to the SEAC Action Plan:

- School Visit to Our Lady of Sorrows in Sturgeon Falls during the month of November. Ms. Weller will forward the committee date options electronically.
- First educational presentation will be Robotics, Coding & Technology in January.
- A second school visit will be to St. Francis School in March.
- An additional educational presentation will occur in February.

b) Special Education Plan

Ms. Bitonti & Ms. Weller shared a hardcopy of the revised SEP and discussed applicable updates. Ms. Weller will share the document PDF electronically. SEAC was encouraged to provide feedback.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Nil

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared updates on the following:

- PPM 128 – The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Boards Code of Conduct revision to include a restriction on the use of personal mobile devices during instructional time. PPM 128 highlights the permitted use of personal mobile devices under specific circumstances.
- PPM 163 – Service Animals
All school boards in Ontario are required to develop, implement, and maintain a policy on student use of service animals in schools by January 2020.
- Ontario Autism Program updates regarding the Autism Advisory Panel, extension of existing behavior plans, childhood waitlists and allocations to applicable families.

Ms. Weller encourages SEAC to review regular updates provided by the Ontario government at: <http://news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en>. This site will provide updates to all government programs and services, including education.

ii) Coordinator's Update

September 30th Professional Activity Day:

On the Professional Activity Day, Principals began by sharing a PowerPoint from the Leadership Day to walk through various activities with their school teams.

First, they experienced a collaborative STEM challenge where school teams were to build a standing sphere out of Pringle chips. This was based on a Read Aloud entitled, *Jaggy Peck the Architect*. School teams reviewed the BIPSA, Strategic Outcomes as well as the Boards' Priorities. Principals reviewed their school data results for EQAO.

Next, teachers participated in the completion of a Grade 6 Reading Task and an open response question. Through this experience, teachers were able to build a common understanding of what identifiers are required in a student response to score a code 30 or 40. They also discussed that the Grade 3 test is a Primary test and the Grade 6 is a Junior test. Every teacher plays a critical role in building the knowledge and skills required to be consolidated by students for each of these tests. Teachers compared student exemplars in the c=scoring guide for that question. Teachers examined Grade 6 multiple choice questions. They built a common understanding of the different types of questions that are on EQAO and how they correlate to the achievement chart; Thinking, Application and Knowledge and Understanding. Then, as school teams staff spent time developing new goals for this year's School Improvement Plans based on various sources of data in Literacy and Math.

b) Association Reports

i) Nipissing First Nation – Tracey Hanzlik, Member
NIL Report

ii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
Ontario Human Rights Commission Inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system

iii) NDSS – Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NDSS engaged in fund raising at the Oct. 3rd Battalion Hockey Game. A student representative participated by singing the National Anthem.

9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER
NIL

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING
The next SEAC meeting will be on November 12, 2019 in the Board Office Board Room at 5:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT
Deferred