



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Office.

Present:

Administration: Theresa Bitonti, Special Education Coordinator
Jennifer Palangio, Curriculum Lead – SJSH
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

Trustees: Barbara McCool
John Willemsen

Associations: Dan Lachance, Community Living, Member
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member
Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member
Tracy Hanzlik, Nipissing First Nation

Regrets: Shannon O'Connor, CCCNIP
Susan Wright, CAS
Tammy Rheaume-Fortin, HANDS

1. PRAYER

Ms. Weller led the committee in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Dan Lachance and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault THAT the agenda of Tuesday, November 12, 2010 be approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Dan Lachance and seconded by Tracey Hanzlik THAT the minutes of September 10, 2010 be approved as presented.

Moved by Jeannie Boissonneault and seconded by Barb McCool THAT the minutes of October 8, 2010 be approved as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) The Ontario Autism Program Advisory Panel Report

Ms. Weller shared the OCSTA Ontario Autism Advisory Panel Report memorandum which is an excellent summary of the full report created by the advisory panel. To-date no response has been received by the Ministry of Education. Updates will be shared with SEAC as they become available.

b) Parent Guide

At the October meeting 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, video links etc.). SEAC agreed that A Guide for Parents and Students subcommittee would work through sections and then report to SEAC on an ongoing basis. Ms. Weller will forward a proposed subcommittee date electronically to SEAC.

6. UPDATES

a) SEAC Action Plan

Ms. Weller will forward a proposed school visit date to SEAC. January 2020 will be SEAC's first education presentation, which will be focused on Robotics/Coding at NPSC.

b) Special Education Plan

The SEP 2019 revisions have been discussed at June and September meetings. During the October discussion, hardcopies were distributed. SEAC was given the opportunity to review the document and provide final feedback at the November meeting. The up-to-date document has been shared with schools and uploaded onto the Board website.

7. CORRESPONDANCE

a) Nil

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update

As the board representative, Ms. Weller shared the Special Education Report Highlights included:

- Implementation of PPM 163 Update – Use of 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. Ms. Weller will bring a DRAFT policy to the December SEAC meeting.

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

Ms. Bitonti shared updates regarding the professional development series offered for all NPSC Educational Assistants

October 21 2019

- Includes all system EAs & DECEs
- Canadian Red Cross Emergency First Aid Training/Recertification
- The Canadian Red Cross Emergency First Aid course teaches the most important principles of the first aid and how to use them during diverse types of emergencies at a workplace or at home.

November 22 2019

- All NPSC EAs

Morning Session:

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Training

Applied behavior analysis is a science in which interventions are taken from existing research and applied to improve behavior in socially significant ways. ABA is a way to approach behavior that will maximize positive outcomes. ABA requires constructing intervention strategies that define the antecedents and consequences that will result in the increase of positive skills and the decrease of problem behaviors. Decisions regarding the effectiveness of the intervention are based on data collected. Based on the data analysis, interventionist may choose to continue with the intervention or change the intervention to produce positive outcomes for the individual.

This training session will address the following questions: What is ABA? What are the basic principles and methods of ABA? How can antecedents be used to impact behavior? Who can benefit from ABA? What are some of the strategies used in ABA?

Meditation for Students

Meditation is a practice that can be considered many things, including: a skill, a reflection, a prayer. We are increasingly understanding the need and importance of bringing intentional moments of calmness, stillness, and quiet into our daily lives. Join us to learn the benefits of meditation, engage in a variety of meditative experiences and how you can provide similar opportunities for our children.

Afternoon Sessions:

BMST Recertification

Behaviour Management Systems Training (BMST): BMST is a course developed to ensure a respectful learning environment at school. It provides training and support systems for enhancing desirable behaviour and for understanding, preventing, and coping with undesirable behaviour. It

emphasizes prevention of disruptive behaviour through awareness of factors affecting behaviour, recognition of early warning signs, and the use of calming / de-escalation techniques, but also teaches personal safety techniques for the rare instances when they are required.

Lexia Software Training

This research proven, technology based approach provides a blended learning program that accelerates the development of fundamental literacy skills.

-OR-

Building Connections

A discussion and activities related to understanding and building connections with ourselves and each other to contribute to mentally healthy school communities beyond how we serve our students and families. We hope to have rich discussion around caring for ourselves and one another to promote overall wellness.

iii) Secondary Curriculum Lead Update:

The Provincial Special Olympic Games will be held in Kingston on June 2 - 4th, 2020. SJSH has participated in three qualifiers so far this year and has been notified that our Traditional soccer team is invited to participate. Two of our basketball teams won in their divisions in a qualifier and we are waiting for the official invite. We also participated in the Track and Field qualifier in June for this years' games but will not be notified until February if we will be able to advance in Track and Field.

SJSH will host the Second Annual Special Olympics' Banquette and Awards on June 11, 2020. SEAC members are invited to the festivities. Request that SEAC Chair provide a welcome speech to the athletes.

Practice OSSLT modules for Grade 10 students are occurring on November 12 & 18, 2019. Staff Professional Development has focused on how to teach students how to answer multiple choice questions and short answer questions.

Student Work Placements Update:

- FreshCo - 2 students
- SJSH Custodian Assistant - 1
- SJSH Cafeteria Assistant - 1
- St. Francis School Kindergarten Assistants - 2
- Canadian Tire Warehouse Assistant - 1
- Humane Society - 1
- Recycle SJSH - 8 students
- Tim Hortons – 1

Midterm reports will be on EDSBY Nov. 15th

b) Association Reports

- i) Community Living – Dan Lachance, Member
NIL Report
- ii) Nipissing First Nation – Tracey Hanzlik, Member
NIL Report
- iii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
NIL Report
- iv) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member
NIL Report
- v) NDSS – Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NIL Report
- vi) Susan Wright – CAS, Member
NIL Report
- vii) Shannon O’Connor, CCCNIP, Member
NIL Report
- viii) Tammy Rheaume-Fortin – HANDS, Member
NIL Report

9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER

Discussion occurred around secondary sexual education curriculum for students with special education needs.

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The next SEAC meeting will be on December 10, 2019 in the Board Office Board Room at 5:30 p.m. The SEAC Christmas meal will begin the evening at 5:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dan Lachance and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault the meeting of Tuesday November 12, 2019 adjourned at 7:00 p.m.