



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 10, 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
Jacques Begin

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 Jeannie Boissonneault and seconded by Dan Lachance THAT the agenda of Tuesday, December 10, 2019 be approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Dan Lachance and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault THAT the minutes of November 12, 2019 be approved as amended.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) PPM 163 – Service Animals

Ms. Weller provided an update on PPM 163. All school boards in Ontario are required to develop, implement, and maintain a policy on student use of service animals in schools. The purpose of PPM 163 is to provide direction to school boards on the development and implementation of their policy. School boards are expected to:

- allow a student to be accompanied by a service animal in school when doing so would be an appropriate accommodation to support the student's learning needs and would meet the school board's duty to accommodate students with disabilities under the Ontario Human Rights Code;
- make determinations on whether to approve requests for a service animal on a case-by-case basis, based on the individual needs of each student;
- put in place consistent and transparent processes that allow for meaningful consideration of requests for service animals to accompany students in school.

Consultation with stakeholders regarding the development of this policy is ongoing.

b) EQAO Results

Ms. Weller began the EQAO highlights by sharing:

- NPSC ENDS Statements
- NPSC 3 year Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement
- NPSCDSB Core Priorities
- 2018-2019 Contextual information – Primary, Junior, Grade 9 and Grade 10
- Data regarding students with special education needs who participated over past 5 years

Ms. Weller shared the following EQAO results:

- Reading students with special needs – Grade 6
- Mathematics students with special needs – Grade 6
- Applied mathematics students with special needs – Grade 9
- Academic mathematics students with special needs – Grade 9
- OSSLT results for fully participating eligible students with special needs

Ms. Weller concluded the presentation with the measures, key strategies and areas of foci in place for NPSC for the 2019-2020 school year.

c) Carousel

The first Carousel Evening subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

6. CORRESPONDANCE

a) Nil

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared information on our annual Junior Creativity Summit hosted at SJSH on Friday, November 15, 2019. The overall theme of the day was 'Fostering Innovation, creativity and Collaboration', with a number of sessions being offered throughout the day that participants were able to select beforehand. Providing awareness and training on G Suite for Education was a primary focus but we were also excited to continue our coding and computational thinking journey with sessions on the integration of other technologies such as Scratch, Spheros, Micro:bits, Lego Robotics and Makey Makeys. Additionally, classroom teachers were introduced to a Junior innovators' Challenge that will culminate this spring in a special event focused on Environmental Awareness.

NPSCDSB recently received the updated PPM 158: School Board Policies on Concussion, which will become effective on January 31, 2020 replacing the existing policy. The PPM and related resources strengthen the Ministry of Education's commitment to concussion safety in Ontario, an approach that is endorsed by the Rowan's Law Concussions Working Group. NPSC has a working group who are working to update our existing policy and procedures.

ii) Coordinator's Update

Ontario CEC 63rd Annual Special Education Conference – November 29-30, 2019: Keynote: DJ Cunningham spoke to his experiences in creating a holistic tool kit of esteem creating strategies that can be used with students of all abilities. Breakout sessions occurred in many professional development areas.

iii) Secondary Curriculum Lead Update: NIL Report

b) Association Reports

i) Community Living – Dan Lachance, Member
Fundraising: Christmas Tree Raffle

ii) Nipissing First Nation – Tracey Hanzlik, Member
NFN hired a Special Education Teacher at Nipissing High School, Nipissing First Nation

iii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
NIL Report

iv) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member
NIL Report

v) NDSS – Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NIL Report

8. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER

a) Nil

9. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The next SEAC meeting will be on January 14, 2020 in the Board Office Board Room at 5:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dan Lachance and seconded by Tracy Hanzlik the meeting of Tuesday December 10, 2019 adjourned at 7:15 p.m.