



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Office.

Present:

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

Trustees: John Willemsen

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

Regrets:

Dan Lachance, Community Living, Member
Barbara McCool, Trustee
Jennifer Palangio, Curriculum Lead – SJSH
Shannon O'Connor, CCCNIP, Member

1. PRAYER

Ms. Weller led the committee in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. ELECTION

The committee unanimously elected Marie Derosier and Jeannie Boissonneault as SEAC Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Jeannie Boissonneault and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the agenda of Tuesday, February 11, 2020 be approved as presented.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault THAT the minutes of January 14, 2020 be approved as presented.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Video: Together We Are Better

Ms. Weller shared a video made by the St. Victor school community. The video was submitted to a Community Living, "Together We're Better" contest, and highlights the power of belonging and inclusion within a Catholic school community.

b) Parent Guide

SEAC discussed the option of setting aside a portion of time during the regular monthly meeting to move to the second phase of the Parent Guide, which includes creating parent-friendly communiques for crucial parts of the Guide.

c) SEAC School Visit

SEAC is invited to St. Francis Catholic Elementary School on February 28, 2020 from 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

d) Membership

NPSCDSB has received confirmation that Susan Wright, CAS and Tammy Rheaume-Fortin, HANDS are no longer available as SEAC representatives. SEAC discussed the recruitment of new SEAC membership in the 2020-2021 school year.

7. UPDATES

a) Carousel

SEAC discussed ways to celebrate our 20th Anniversary and engage community partners. Motivational speaker Michael Jacques has been booked for the evening of May 27, 2020. Ms. Weller is sharing an email to request further committee input. Brainstorming ideas included inviting schools to submit an artistic submission, a video contest highlighting inclusion, recognition of community partners (i.e. partners sharing the mandate of their organization and highlighting an upcoming event).

8. CORRESPONDANCE

a) OCSTA Memo: Special Education Advisory Committees of Boards - Membership

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update

NPSC has been selected to participate in the Indigenous Grad Coach program. This program provides supports to Indigenous learners with the goals of increasing the number of Indigenous students obtaining an OSSD and successfully transitioning into post-secondary education, training or labor market opportunities. Lorraine Sutherland has been appointed to the position of Indigenous Grad Coach.

OECTA, who represents all elementary, secondary and occasional teachers at the NPSCDSB is currently in labor negotiations with the Ontario Government and is exercising enhancements to job action, effective February 11, 2020.

- ii) Coordinator's Update:
NIL Report

b) Association Reports

- i) Nipissing First Nation – Tracey Hanzlik, Member
NIL Report
- ii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
Ms. Derosier shared the February 2020 LDAO SEAC Circular electronically.
- iii) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member
NIL Report
- iv) NDSS – Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NIL Report

10. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER

Ms. Weller shared a conflict on April 14th, 2020 (PIC Event is scheduled). SEAC discussed rescheduling April 14, 2020 SEAC to April 7 or April 21, 2020. Ms. Weller will send out an email.

11. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The next SEAC meeting will be on March 10, 2020 in the Board Office Board Room at 5:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mary Grise and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault the meeting of Tuesday, February 11, 2020 adjourned at 6:47 p.m.