



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

Present:

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

Trustees: John Willemsen
Barbara McCool

Associations: Community Living – April Porter, Alternate
Nipissing First Nation – Tracey Hanzlik, Member
LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member

Regrets: Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS

1. PRAYER

Mrs. McCool led the committee in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Tracey Hanzlik THAT the agenda of December 8, 2020 be approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by April Porter and seconded by Barbara McCool THAT the minutes of November 10, 2020 be approved as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Carousel Evening

Ms. Weller shared that the Parent Involvement Committee is exploring opportunities to continue with parent engagement activities virtually. SEAC discussed hosting a virtual Carousel Evening during the winter season. Ms. Bitonti will reach out to keynote Michael Jacques to see if he would be available to offer a virtual presentation. SEAC also discussed how to capture parent voice and feedback to inform Carousel Evening content. SEAC discussed how to share some unique highlights of events occurring within the elementary and secondary schools (in person and virtually) during the health crisis. Ms. Weller to share additional student information data with SEAC in January.

School Mental Health Ontario

Ms. Weller shared the School Mental Health Ontario website smho-smsso.ca which works with Ontario school districts to support student mental health and well-being. This website provides evidence based information and resources relevant to many different roles such as school and system leaders, educators, students, parents and families, SMH professionals as well as other school roles. Ms. Weller highlighted the SMHO social media campaign [#sharethegood](https://twitter.com/sharethegood), which sparks positivity and highlights how students and school boards across Ontario are working through the health crisis.

6. UPDATES

a) Parent Guide

DEFERRED

b) New Membership

Ms. Weller shared a DRAFT letter inviting potential new membership among local association representatives and community partners. SEAC discussed sending out an information letter so that persons eligible for nomination would have knowledge of SEAC roles and responsibilities (i.e. attending monthly meetings). Ms. Weller to send a revised DRAFT information letter to SEAC for input. Following SEAC input, the letter may be forwarded to partners deemed eligible for membership selection.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Weller shared correspondence from OCSTA President P.J. Daly to Catholic District School Boards regarding Private Members' Bills on Food Literacy and Programs for Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared an update on the one-time additional provincial and federal support to school boards in Ontario: Supporting Student Mental Health, Well-Being & Special Education Needs. Ms. Weller shared how NPSCDSB will be utilizing these funds to support: additional support staff, professional development, collaboration with local healthcare partners, student mental health programs, resources, licenses and professional assessments.

Ms. Weller provided an update on the new Support for Learners program. For additional information and guidance on how to apply for the one-time financial support, parents/guardians may go to www.ontario.ca/SupportforLearns.

Ms. Weller provided an update on report cards including Assessment and Evaluation in Mathematics Grades 1 – 8 Term 1 and Social and Emotional Skills Evaluation and Reporting.

Coordinator's Update:

Ms. Bitonti shared how virtual and onsite schools were celebrating the Christmas Advent Season through Advent celebrations, Christmas readings, crafts, baking and caroling.

b) Association Reports

1. Nipissing First Nation – Tracy Hanzlik, Member
NIL Report
2. LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
NIL Report
3. Community Living – April Porter, Alternate
NIL Report
4. Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member
NIL Report
5. NDSS - Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NIL Report

9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER
NIL

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING
The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

11. ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Barbara McCool and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the meeting of December 8, 2020 adjourned at 6:56 p.m.