



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

Present:

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

Trustees: John Willemsen
Barbara McCool

Associations: April Porter, Alternate, Community Living
Corry Thomas, Member, One Kids Place
Marie Derosier, Member, LDAO
Mary Grise, Member, Parent Representative
Tracey Hanzlik, Member, Nipissing First Nation
Jeannie Boissonneault, Member, NDSS

1. PRAYER

Ms. Weller shared a Mother's Day prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Barbara McCool THAT the agenda of May 11, 2021 be approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by April Porter and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the minutes of April 20, 2021 be approved as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Welcome of New Member

Ms. Weller introduced a new SEAC member from One Kids Place, Mr. Corry Thomas, Director of Client Services.

b) Budget

Ms. Weller shared the May 4, 2021 Ministry of Education Memorandum from Claudine Munroe, Director of Special Education/Success for All Branches regarding Special Education Grant and Mental Health Funding Changes for 2021 – 2022 School Year. At the June 8th, 2021 SEAC meeting the Superintendent of Business, Grace Barnhardt will present the Special Education Grant information. Ms. Weller will share the proposed Special Education Budget 2021-2022 in full detail within the context of NPSCDSB.

c) MACSE Community Collaboration Form

Ms. Weller shared the MACSE Communication: Collaborating with the Community June 2021 form. The purpose of the form is to obtain feedback to support discussion related to special education programs and services at MACSE. SEAC was encouraged to review the form and submit feedback electronically by May 21st, 2021.

6. UPDATES

a) Parent Guide – DEFERRED

b) Supporting Students With Complex Needs During Remote Learning

Ms. Weller shared enrolment data related to students with complex needs attending rich in- person programming. At SJSH there are 10 students currently attending, with instruction being facilitated by 2 teachers and supported by 6 educational assistants. At 5 elementary schools: Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Theresa, St. Alexander, St. Hubert and Holy Cross there are 5 teachers and 17 support staff supporting 25 students with complex needs. NPSC continues to report in-person enrolment data to the Ministry of Education.

c) Right to Read: Public Inquiry into Human Rights Issues Affecting Students with Reading Disabilities

Ms. Weller shared the April 30, 2021 update on the Right to Read Inquiry Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC). Although COVID-19 and other factors have delayed some elements of the inquiry, a final report which will include detailed findings and recommendations for government and education stakeholders is now planned for release in fall 2021. Ms. Weller encouraged SEAC to review the website: www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-read-public-inquiry-on-reading-disabilities .

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) RCCDSB

Ms. Weller shared the Renfrew County Catholic DSB letter in support of Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). This proposed legislation will require all boards of education in Ontario to develop policies and guidelines with respect to FASD and require the ON College of Teachers and ECE programs to provide training with respect to FASD.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update

Ministry of Education Update

Ms. Weller shared the May 4, 2021 Ministry of Education Memorandum: *Planning for the 2021-2022 School Year*.

Ms. Weller highlighted some items including:

- Schools boards will continue to offer smaller cohorts, physical distancing, and enhanced cleaning for in-class instruction;
- Continuation of delivery of remote learning and connectivity supports;
- Enhanced cleaning protocols and other health and safety measures in student transportation;
- Special education, mental health and well-being and equity initiatives;

Indigenous Education

Ms. Weller provided SEAC with an update and invitation for the 15th Annual Indigenous Education Cultural Retreat which is scheduled to take place on May 26 & 27, 2021 using Microsoft Teams. Ms. Weller was excited to share the celebration of our fifteen-year anniversary of offering this powerful professional learning experience to our school community. Furthermore, NPSC is also actively preparing for June 21st, National Indigenous Peoples' Day, which recognizes and celebrates the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis Indigenous peoples of Canada.

Welcome to Kindergarten

Ms. Weller shared that schools are beginning to host virtual "live" sessions with their new and incoming families with an introduction to their school community, as well as, their Kindergarten team. New JK students will also receive a "Welcome to Kindergarten" gift bag full of resources and goodies.

ii) Coordinator's Update:

- With the shift to remote learning, NPSC is moving forward in coordinating virtual transition meetings for students with complex needs. Transition planning for students with special needs involves collaboration and participation of families, educators, professionals and community partners to ensure that a transition plan is developed to support individualized needs.
- Furthermore, NPSC will once again provide summer transition activities in late August for students with complex special needs who may find the transition to back to in-person learning a challenge.

iii) Secondary Lead's Update:

- Mr. Ricciuti shared a short transition/introductory video highlighting the SJSH Special Education team. It was developed to assist students 'transition to secondary and will be uploaded on the school website in the very near future. Multidisciplinary transition meetings are also occurring via Teams with home schools and transitioning students.
- The LAC program has had many virtual guest speakers address the students as they relate to course content being taught. For example, Mayor Al McDonald, Member of Parliament, The Honorable Anthony Rota and Victor Fedeli MPP, addressed the class regarding the levels of government. YES Employment addressed the class on preparing for the world of work, CTV New Northern News co-anchor Marina Moore addressed the class on reading the weather, local CIBC banker Alfredo Ricciuti addressed the class on the topic of money management and local NFL player Ryan Hunter addressed the class on healthy sleeping and eating habits.
- Secondary LACs continue to meet with the elementary Virtual LAC class through weekly music sessions with Ms. Rose-Erin Stokes.
- Virtual Reality kits have arrived at SJSH. Training will be occurring shortly.
- Special Olympics Track & Field to occur at the end of May.

b) Association Reports

- i) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
Ms. Weller shared the LDAO SEAC Curricular electronically.
- ii) Community Living – April Porter, Alternate
NIL Report
- iii) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member
NIL Report

- iv) Nipissing First Nation – Tracey Hanzlik, Member
NIL Report
- v) NDSS – Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NIL Report
- vi) One Kids Place – Corry Thomas
Mr. Thomas was pleased to share that OKP will be enhancing the FASD program with more details to follow.

9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER
NIL

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING
The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

11. ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Mary Grise and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault THAT the meeting of May 11 2021 be adjourned at 6:50 PM.