



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee information meeting held on September 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

Present:

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

Trustees: Shawn Fitzsimmons, Alternate
Barbara McCool

Associations: Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member

Regrets: Nancy Allaire, NFN, Alternate
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member
April Porter, Community Living, Member
Corry Thomas, OKP, Member
John Willemsen, Trustee

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER

Ms. Weller began the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement and Prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DEFERRED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DEFERRED

5. NEW BUSINESS

- i) Presentation: Summer Learning Reading Intervention
DEFERRED

- ii) SEAC Action Plan 2021-2022
SEAC discussed adding the following presentations: Summer Learning Programs, School Mental Health Update and CAS Arbour House. Ms. Weller will update the Action Plan. SEAC is encouraged to review the distributed plan in preparation for October's meeting.

6. UPDATES

- a) Parent Guide
DEFERRED
- b) Membership
Mrs. Nancy Allaire will be representing Nipissing First Nation on a temporary basis while NFN engages in the recruitment process to replace Tracy Hanzlik.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) Board Report
- i) Superintendent's Update:
- a) Ministry of Education Operational Guidance for Schools
Ms. Weller shared information regarding initial operational guidance received by the Ministry of Education on August 3, 2021, as well as the update received on August 17, 2021.
- b) NPSC School Reopening Plan
Ms. Weller shared 'What's New' regarding COVID-19 Health, Safety and Operational Guidelines for Schools. Updates occurred in the following areas:
- Screening & Student Masks
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette
 - Distancing & Congregating
 - Recess & Breaks Outdoors
 - Cleaning & Disinfection Protocol
 - Shared Materials
 - Shared Spaces
 - Cafeteria Use & Lunch Protocols
 - Nutrition Program
 - Assemblies
 - Visitors

- c) Professional Activity Days
 Ms. Weller shared details of the ‘Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together!’ elementary and secondary teacher PA days on August 31, September 1 and 2, 2021. Highlights included: Opening Liturgy & Welcome, NPSC Reopening Plan, Health & Safety Protocols and Training, COVID Refresher, Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination, Mentally Healthy Return to School, Learning Recovery & Renewal Literacy Strategies, Ontario Mathematics Elementary & an “Easy Connect” demonstration. Additionally, Ms. Weller shared details of the Educational Assistants’ PA day on September 3, 2021, which included Behaviour Management System Training, an Easy Connect demonstration as well as Health & Safety training.
- d) Vaccination Clinic at SJSH
 On September 16, 2021, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit will be holding a vaccination clinic at SJSH for Grades 9-12 who are eligible to receive a vaccination. Specific details were shared with the SJSH community.
- e) School Year Calendar
 Ms. Weller shared the highlights of the 2021-2022 school year calendar including professional activity days, secondary exams, and NPSC designated holidays. SEAC is encouraged to access the board website for a copy.

ii) Coordinator’s Update:

- a) Special Education Virtual Summer Learning Reading Intervention Program July 5-23 2021
- The Ministry of Education provided school boards with funding for K-Grade 2 students who may be at risk for falling behind in reading due to the COVID pandemic.
 - We worked collaboratively with elementary schools and our system SAT LD and develop an evidence-based reading intervention program.
 - The program was delivered virtually to approximately 20 students, both in small groups and in one-to-one sessions, using Google Meet.
 - This opportunity assisted to address gaps in core literacy skills as well as providing an opportunity for parents to be actively and positively involved with their child s learning.
- b) Special Education Virtual Summer Learning Program July 5-23 2021
- The Ministry of Education provided school boards with funding to continue supporting students with special education needs throughout the summer months.
 - School boards design programs within their funding allocation to address student needs based on local priorities.

- NPSC hosted a virtual summer learning programming for students with multiple exceptionalities offering hands-on, synchronous learning activities using Google Meet.
 - Program materials and all classroom supplies were provided to students who participated in the program.
 - This program was led by a team of qualified teachers and provided students with opportunities to continue to build upon their communication and socialization skills, which are specifically geared towards promoting continuity of success in their learning goals.
 - Sessions included activities such as baking, cooking, crafts, music, gardening and physical activities such as dance, martial arts and recreational therapy, all of which emphasize participation, turn-taking and following directions.
 - Additionally, guest speakers Blair Beaucage & Jordan Mowat shared teachings and knowledge of Indigenous culture and traditional values.
- c) On Site August Transition Program August 16-27, 2021
- NPSC hosted a two week, in-person, transition to school program prior to return to school in September.
 - As a result of returning to a school setting after a longer period of time away as a result of COVID, some students with multiple special needs may benefit from additional time to adjust to the structures and routines associated with the physical school setting.
 - This transition program was designed based on the student participants and their individual needs to assist them in returning to the classroom environment in the most seamless way possible.
 - Transition activities included scheduled visits to the classroom and school, COVID protocols reminders as well as hands on engaging crafts, games and opportunities to build peer relationships.

iii) Secondary Special Education Curriculum Lead Update:

Mr. Ricciuti shared updates on the following secondary initiatives:

- Summer Orientation Program for SJSH Special Education Students
On August 18 & August 25 an orientation program was provided at SJSH for incoming Special Education students with complex needs.
- Student Vote Day (September 20, 2021).
Student Vote Day is a program designed to provide students with an experience in taking part in a mock election for candidates in their specific regions.
- Special Olympics Ontario Welcome Week (September 24)
The Special Olympics Ontario committee has created a virtual "Welcome Back" week that will incorporate physical activity, entertainment, and social skills development.

- Special Olympics World Cup (Week of October 18)
The Special Olympics Ontario Committee will be hosting a virtual soccer tournament for special education students at SJSH.
- Student Links Program (Community Living Ontario Program)
Community Living has partnered up with our secondary students in providing mentorship opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.

b) Association Reports

- i) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
Ms. Derosier will share the September 2021 LDAO Circular with Ms. Weller who will then share with the committee on her behalf.
- ii) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member
Dr. Grise shared an update regarding the Care, Treatment, Custody & Corrections Program at the North Bay Regional Health Unit.

9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER

NIL

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Teams.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The information meeting of September 14, 2021 adjourned at 7:16 p.m.