



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee information meeting held on October 12, 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: John Willemsen, Trustee
Barbara McCool, Trustee

Associations: Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member
Corry Thomas, OKP, Member

Regrets: April Porter, Community Living, Member
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member
Nancy Allaire, NFN, Alternate

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER

Barbara McCool shared a Thanksgiving Prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Barbara McCool and seconded by John Willemsen THAT the agenda of September 14, 2021 and October 12, 2021 be approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mary Grise and seconded by John Willemsen THAT the minutes of June 8, 2021 and September 14, 2021 be approved as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Presentation: 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.
- Teacher, Ms. Meehan, worked collaboratively with elementary schools and our system SAT LD to develop and deliver an evidence-based reading intervention program.
- The program was delivered virtually to approximately 20 students, both in small groups and 1:1 sessions, using Google Meet.
- This opportunity assisted to address gaps in core literacy skills and provided an opportunity for parents to be actively and positively involved with their child's learning.

b) Special Education Plan

In Compliance with *Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans (2000)* reproduced in full in *Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide (2017)*, Jody Weller shared an update regarding the NPSC Special Education Plan (SEP). SEAC was guided through the board website NPSC special education programs and services, provincial information and other related information required for the community sections were highlighted. SEAC was encouraged to review the document and forward any input by October 25, 2021. An updated version of the SEP will be shared with SEAC at the November meeting.

6. UPDATES

a) SEAC Action Plan 2021 – 2022

Ms. Weller shared the revised 2021-2022 SEAC Action Plan based on September's meeting. SEAC supported the updates and continued to discuss possible additional 2021-2022 SEAC priorities. An updated version of the Action Plan will be shared with SEAC at the November meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update:

- American Sign Language
- Changes to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP)
- Enhanced Student Access to Free Menstrual Products
- Cyber Awareness Month 2021

ii) Coordinator's Update:

In recognition of October's LDAO Learning Disability Awareness month, Ms. Bitonti shared the NPSC tiered approach and the continuum of supports and interventions, when meeting the needs of students with a range of learning disabilities.

iii) Secondary Special Education Update:

Mr. Ricciuti shared updates on the following secondary initiatives:

- Special Olympics World Cup (Week of October 18). The Special Olympics Ontario Committee will be hosting a soccer tournament (virtually) for our special education students at SJSH. Our school has 9 students enrolled in the virtual tournament
- IEPs are in the process of being reviewed and will be sent home to parent/guardians by October 19. New IPRCs will be occurring November 3-5th.
- OSSLT will be occurring the week of October 25. Student supports will be provided to our special education students.
- Workplace experience in the community will begin starting November 11 for students in our LAC program.

b) Association Reports

i) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member

The Learning Disabilities Associations of Ontario will be marking Learning Disability (LD) Awareness month throughout the month of October. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness and reduce stigma to allow individuals with LDs to get the supports they need to reach their potential.

ii) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member - NIL

iii) Corry Thomas, OKP, Member - NIL

iv) April Porter, Community Living, Member - NIL

v) Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member - NIL

vi) Nancy Allaire, NFN, Alternate - NIL

8. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER

NIL

9. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Barb McCool and seconded by John Willemsen THAT the meeting of October 12, 2021 adjourn at 7:07 p.m.