



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Present

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

Trustees: Barbara McCool, Trustee

Associations: Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member
Corry Thomas, OKP, Member
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member
April Porter, Community Living, Member

Regrets: Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member
Nancy Allaire, NFN, Alternate
John Willemsen, Trustee

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER

Ms. Weller shared a Prayer for Peace.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Corry Thomas and seconded by April Porter THAT the agenda of November 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Corry Thomas and seconded by Barb McCool THAT the minutes of October 12, 2021 be approved as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Presentation: Virtual Summer Learning Program: “Summer Learning Means Summer Fun”: Ms. Dech & Ms. Bitonti

In the Spring of 2021, the Ministry of Education provided school boards with funding to continue supporting students with special education needs throughout the summer months. This additional funding allowed school boards the flexibility to design programs within their funding allocation to address student needs based on local priorities.

In addition to the Evidence-Based Summer Reading Intervention Program, NPSC also offered a 3 week Alternative Program to support students with multiple exceptionalities. With so many of our typical summer learning opportunities unavailable due to the health crisis, the educator team of Diane Dech and Cathy Verardi focused their energy and ingenuity on providing our students with creative and engaging hands-on educational sessions virtually on laptops and tablets using Google Meet. The overriding goal was to provide students with opportunities to continue to learn, practice and build on their communication and socialization skills.

The presentation highlighted the daily virtual sessions which included many different hands on, synchronous learning activities which emphasized important skills such as turn taking, listening, asking questions, cooperation, greeting others and following directions. These engaging activities, such as Indigenous teachings, cooking, music, crafts and physical activities created multiple and meaningful memories with classmates and families alike.

In addition to the virtual summer learning programs, NPSC was very excited to be able to host a two week in-person “Transition to School” program from August 16 – 27th. Our teaching team (Elementary: Diane Dech, Jocelyn Beauchamp & Jason Michaud and Secondary: Cathy Verardi & Frank Ricciuti) designed a highly individualized program based on the students and their learning profile. The primary goal was to assist students returning to the school environment in the most seamless way possible.

6. UPDATES

- a) Special Education Plan

In accordance with Regulation 306, each school board is required, to prepare and approve a report on the special education programs and services provided by the board and to submit a compliance checklist to Ministry of Education. Boards are required to maintain a Special Education Plan, to review it annually, and to amend it from time to time to meet the current needs of its exceptional students. One of the main purposes of the NPSC Special Education Plan is to provide information to the public and therefore the document is shared on the board website as well as on site school locations. The review and amendments of the Special Education Plan, includes a consultation process which incorporates feedback from internal stakeholders, as well as, public consultation which takes place through SEAC. The consultation process began by bringing the agenda item and document to SEAC in addition to sharing the document internally. Some of the key updates include: Special Education Staff,

Educational and Other Assessments, Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings, Staff Development and SEAC.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Weller summarized and welcomed discussion and questions on the following correspondence received:

- a) Remote learning for students with special education needs: Student tip sheet
- b) Remote learning for students with special education needs: Parent tip sheet
- c) Letter from TLDSB: Support for Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- d) Policy/Program Memorandum No. 81, Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings in 2021-22: New Expectation

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update

Board Improvement & Equity Plan

The ministry recently released the newly revised Board Improvement & Equity Plan (BIEP), which establishes provincial education priorities, goals and performance indicators to support continuous quality improvement. The BIEP will provide a standardized tool for school boards to identify local actions that will lead to improved achievement, equity, well-being and transitions for all students.

Student Demographic Data Collection

As a foundation for board improvement and equity planning, NPSC has begun the process of planning for the collection of voluntary student demographic data. NPSC has gathered a working group to engage in this work and consultations with various groups will occur over the upcoming weeks. Ms. Weller shared the key components of the project with SEAC.

ii) Coordinator's Update

JK Screening Initiative

In the fall of each year, an attempt to identify speech and language difficulties in the incoming JK population takes place. The Communicative Disorders Assistants (CDA) and the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) undertake a speech and language screening of all new JK students (unless indicated by the parents that their child is already receiving services from OKP). Consent forms are provided to parents for signature and must be on file prior to the screen taking place. Students are then screened using a non-standardized screening tool developed in-house within the Speech and Language department. Results of all screens are analyzed by the SLP and from there service needs are determined. Any student who earns a 'refer' according to pre-determined pass-refer criteria, is referred on to service at OKP, those who earn a 'yellow' will remain on the monitor list of the Board's SLP for re-checking in the spring of the student's SK year. Parents are provided with a written letter outlining the results of the screening indicating pass (green), monitor (yellow) or refer

(red). Professional background and experience are the main tools relied upon for decisions re: referral, monitoring, or no follow-up required. This fall, the CDAs, under the clinical supervision of the SLP completed more than 130 JK screenings and approximately 35 of students were referred on to OKP for services. As we all know, early identification is key and completing the JK screenings and communicating with schools, families and community partners has been a priority this year.

Behaviour Management Consultant Professional Development

The overall goal of special education staff development is to provide learning opportunities to ensure the best possible response to students with exceptionalities is achieved. The BMC participated in the following professional development this fall:

1. London's 2nd Annual Virtual FASD Conference: Science, Knowledge and Experience: A Shared Journey. This conference connects clinicians, researchers, educators and social and support workers with the FASD community to share current research and resources, facilitate dialogue and promote advocacy.
2. ELLA's (Early Learning & Literacy Alliance) Human Connections: Fall Generator Event which is a series of conversations sharing research and on the ground insights. The conversation is designed to change your gaze and how you interact, instruct & support children.
3. Continuing professional development with Dr. Stuart Shanker's Meherit Centre's Foundation which studies how stress affects children's behavior and moods, the difference between misbehavior and stress behavior and the importance of relationships in self-regulation and learning.

iii) Secondary Lead's Update

Mr. Ricciuti provided the following updates:

- NEW this year, is the addition of LAC student representative on SJSH Student Council and the Philanthropy and Advocacy sub committee. The LIPI Toy Drive, Operation Warmth and Santa Fund fundraisers will be the committee's December projects.
- LAC classes have been offering credit courses (English, Math & Science) within the program along with integration into various other subject areas.
- SJSH students participated in the Special Olympics Virtual Soccer tournament and have registered for the Special Olympics Virtual Basketball tournament which will take place at the end of November.
- Several students will begin their workplace experience starting on November 11 2021 - January 27 2022 within various community partners in the region.
- New IPRCs occurred November 3- 5th, 2021 at SJSH.
- Exams are occurring at SJSH this week with our special education students receiving accommodations that best support their individualized learning profiles. The Quadmester 2 start date is November 11, 2021.
- Community Living North Bay Transition Services are offering a "PD Day" activity for students on November 19th with various engaging activities planned.

- A book study of "A Fish in a Tree" is occurring in Mr. Ricciuti's LAC class. Author Lynda Hunt will be offering a virtual presentation on December 7th to the students.

b) Association Reports

- i) Community Living – April Porter, Alternate
Staff at Community Living North Bay are busy collecting donations leading up to “Giving Tuesday”. If you would like to contribute, you may drop off items until November 29th at 741 Wallace Rd or 171 Chippewa St. Donations will go to support Amelia Rising and the Ojibway Women’s Lodge.
- ii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
The November LDAO Circular was shared electronically with SEAC.
- iii) OKP – Corry Thomas, Member
 - OKP has submitted the Urgent Response Service proposal which was launched through Coordinated Service Planning.
 - OKP has resubmitted the Entry to School application with revisions.
 - OKP has received funding targeted at waitlist management for rehabilitation services. Best practices such as hosting clinics will be implemented.
 - Mandated for all Ontario children’s treatment centres is the implementation of a Children’s Services Hub, a single point of access for children’s services. This will be developed locally with details to follow.

9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER

NIL

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by April Porter and seconded by Corry Thomas THAT the meeting of November 9, 2021 adjourn at 7:13 PM.