



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 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: Barbara McCool
John Willemsen

Associations: Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member
Corry Thomas, OKP, Member
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member
April Porter, Community Living North Bay, Member
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member

Regrets: Nancy Allaire, Nipissing First Nation, Alternate

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER

Ms. Weller shared an Advent Blessing.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Corry Thomas and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the agenda of December 14, 2021 be approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Barb McCool and seconded by April Porter THAT the minutes of November 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Carousel Evening Preliminary Discussion

Ms. Weller shared the historical background of Carousel Evening. SEAC discussed hosting models such as a virtual and/or possible hybrid model for this year's Carousel Evening. Possible formats, such as a keynote speaker and breakout sessions, for the event were also discussed. SEAC members are encouraged to consider topics and ideas to inform a fulsome discussion in January 2022. A subcommittee will work to plan the event as well as inform and consult with SEAC regularly. Ms. Weller has invited PIC to share in the planning and participation of the 2022 event.

6. UPDATES

a) SEAC Action Plan: Additional Board Presentation

Ms. Weller updated SEAC on the NPSC Mental Health Lead's informative presentation to the Board of Trustees. The focus of the presentation was on supporting students' mentally healthy transition back to in-person learning. SEAC unanimously agreed to add this presentation to the SEAC action plan schedule in either January or February 2022. Dr. Grise offered to supplement this presentation with statistics highlighting what is occurring in terms of hospital visits and admissions in our local mental health unit and emergency room. SEAC agreed to move the CAS Arbour House presentation to later in the winter or early spring.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Weller shared the details contained in the following correspondence:

- a) Waterloo Region DSB, Letter to Minister Lecce
- b) Revised Policy/Program Memorandum No. 144 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- c) Special Incidence Portion Funding Changes for 2021-2022
- d) Selection of Service Providers to Deliver Entry to School Services in Ontario Autism Program (OAP)

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared detailed information on the following items:

- TD Bank Group's gifting of the book entitled "Malaika's Costume"
- SMH-ON partnership with Offord Centre for Child Studies
- EQAO/OSSLT dates
- Settlement Workers in Schools

ii) Coordinator's Update

Ms. Bitonti shared how schools were prioritizing celebrating Christmas and finding true joy and hope in the season.

iii) Secondary Lead's Update

Mr. Ricciuti shared information on the following items:

- The secondary special education department has completed SIP goals with a focus and emphasis on mental health & well-being. The NPSC system Student Support Team will be utilized as a resource
- LAC student representatives on SJSH Student Council and the Philanthropy and Advocacy sub committee are actively involved in December's LIPI Toy Drive, Operation Warmth and North Bay Santa Fund fundraisers.
- LAC classes will be offering credit courses within the program along with integration into various other subject areas during Second Semester.
- Transition discussions and case conferences have begun with elementary feeder schools to best support seamless transition planning.
- Secondary IPRC reviews are occurring the week of December 13, 2021.
- Special education classrooms are taking part in the "Together We're Better" contest through Community Living Ontario during Inclusive Education month in February.

b) Association Reports

i) Community Living – April Porter, Alternate

NIL

ii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member

NIL

iii) OKP – Corry Thomas, Member

- OKP will be closed for Christmas holidays from December 24, 2021 to January 4, 2022.
- The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit is encouraging everyone 5 years and older to get vaccinated against COVID-19. OKP has partnered with NBPSDHU in providing vaccination clinics.
- OKP has submitted an Urgent Response Service proposal. Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Urgent Response Services is one of the key elements of the needs based family centred OAP range of services that will offer families supports for their children with a diagnosis of ASD. Feedback on the proposal is pending.
- The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has selected service providers from across the province to deliver the new Entry to School Program as part of the new needs-based OAP. This new program will begin to be implemented in January 2022. Success of this program will depend on strong partnerships between the lead agency, HANDS the Family Help Network and community- based partners such as OKP and school boards.
- As we exit the holiday season, OKP will be revisiting COVID related operations to exercise caution amid the Omicron spread.

iv) Parent Representative - Mary Grise, Member

Dr. Grise expressed thanks and gratitude to school staff and administration for their tireless efforts related to the reopening process and the management of COVID 19 procedures and protocols necessary for safe and healthy learning environments.

- v) NDSS - Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NIL

9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER
NIL

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Teams.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mary Grise and seconded by Corry Thomas THAT the meeting of December 14, 2021 adjourned at 6:54 p.m.