



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on January 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

Present

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

Trustees: Barbara McCool
John Willemsen

Associations: Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member
Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation, Member
April Porter, Community Living North Bay, Member

Regrets: Corry Thomas, OKP, Member

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER

J. Weller led the committee in prayer and offered a land acknowledgement.

2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed. M. Derosier welcomed new member, Caroline Labrecque of Nipissing First Nation to the committee.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by J. Willemsen and seconded by B. McCool THAT the agenda of January 19, 2022 be approved with amendment to add "New Business" item b) Verbal Update by M. Grise.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by A. Porter and seconded by F. Ricciuti THAT the minutes of December 14, 2021 be approved as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Board Presentation: “A Mentally Healthy Return to School”
Trish Tessier, NPSC Mental Health Lead, shared a comprehensive presentation with the committee related to student mental health and well-being. The main topics included: recent research, using a tiered approach, supporting parents, student voice at the secondary and intermediate levels, and provincial and local community organizations. Supporting student mental health and well-being has been essential work throughout the pandemic and even more so now as needs continue to rise. SEAC thanked Trish and her team for their continued efforts to keep students mentally healthy and connected to the supports and services needed in order to help them thrive in-and-out of the school environment.
- b) Presentation: “Effects of COVID-19 on Youth Mental Health”
Dr. M. Grise shared recent trends regarding statistics of emerging needs from the North Bay Regional Health Centre. Key highlights of the update included spikes to emergency room visits and mobile crisis calls have been aligned to periods of “lockdowns”, an increase in eating disorders in youth, increase in the use and overdose of Opioids, and gender dysphoria. SEAC appreciated hearing this information and noted the co-relation between what is happening in the community and in our NPSC schools based on Trish’s presentation.

6. UPDATES

- a) Carousel
SEAC confirmed that we will continue with past practice of forming a sub-committee. J. Weller will send an invitation to all SEAC members to join the sub-committee, which will meet in late January or early February to begin planning for the 2021-2022 Annual Carousel event.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

J. Weller shared the following correspondence:

- a) District School Board of Niagara, Letter to Ministers Elliott and Lecce
- b) Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Letter to Deputy Ministers Naylor, Zahn & Cole
- c) MACSE – Collaboration Template & Meeting Highlights
- d) Ministry of Education – Special Education Update – October 2021

SEAC agreed to have the correspondence items a & b included in next month’s meeting to allow for further discussion.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Board Report

i) Superintendent’s Update

J. Weller shared an update on the following areas:

- Special Education In-Person Programming January 5 – 14, 2022
- School Year Calendar Survey
- COVID-19 Health & Safety Updates

- Return to In-Person Learning January 17, 2022
- Recruitment of Social Worker (1.0 FTE)

ii) Coordinator's Update
NIL

iii) Secondary Lead's Update

Mr. Ricciuti shared the following updates:

- 15 students attended in-person during remote learning period.
- Approximately 100 students are currently learning online.
- IEP review process is currently underway.
- At this time, SJSH will move away from traditional exam days and engage students in culminating activities as an alternative to exams as the final assessment.
- Community Living is currently working with students and staff to support transition planning and referral process for other outside agency and financial supports available to students.

b) Association Reports

i) Community Living – April Porter, Alternate
NIL

ii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
NIL

iii) OKP – Corry Thomas, Member
NIL

iv) Parent Representative - Mary Grise, Member
NIL

v) NDSS - Jeannie Boissonneault, Member
NIL

9. OTHER
NIL

10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Teams.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Willemsen and seconded by J. Boissonneault THAT the meeting of January 19, 2022 be adjourned at 7:24 p.m.