



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 8, 2022 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:** Corry Thomas, OKP, Member  
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member  
April Porter, Community Living North Bay, Alternate

**Regrets:** Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member  
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member  
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation, Member

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## **1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER**

Ms. Weller shared a land acknowledgement and a Valentine's Day prayer.

## **2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE**

Roll call was completed.

## **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Corry Thomas THAT the agenda of February 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by April Porter and seconded by Barb McCool THAT the minutes of January 19, 2022 be approved as presented.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) AODA NPSC Multi Year Accessibility Plan 2017- 2022  
Ms. Weller shared the AODA NPSC Multi Year Accessibility Plan 2017-2022 and highlighted the document's review process. Questions, comments and feedback from SEAC was welcomed.
- b) PPM 167: Online learning graduation requirement  
Ms. Weller shared PPM 167: Online learning graduation requirement released on February 1, 2022 and highlighted the requirement of the cohort of the students who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year as well as subsequent years. The opt-out options were shared. Ms. Weller addressed SEAC's questions and comments.
- c) PPM 166: Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols  
In follow up to previous communication, Ms. Weller shared an update regarding PPM 166: Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols. The unique role of the educational sector such as the development of a school board protocol including the core and essential elements of such a protocol were shared. The plan for providing training to all school board employees was outlined.

## **6. UPDATES**

- a) Carousel Evening  
Ms. Weller provided an update on the February 2, 2022 Carousel Evening Subcommittee meeting including:
  - Development of a survey to gather more specific information to better inform the keynote address
  - The survey will be forwarded to school principals and CSAC
  - The virtual format
  - The topic of Mental Health & Well Being: Supporting Children with Special Needs
  - The tentative date of April
  - Date of the next subcommittee meeting is February 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

In follow up to January communication, Ms. Weller shared the following correspondence and addressed questions and comments.

- a) District School Board of Niagara, Letter to Ministers Elliott & Lecce
- b) Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Letter to Deputy Ministers Naylor, Zahn & Cole

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared the following information:

- 2021-2022 Parent Involvement Committee  
Ms. Weller shared an update on the planning of the 2021-2022 PIC Event including:
  - The virtual format
  - The invitation for PIC members to participate in Carousel Evening planning
  - The keynote theme of Mental Health & Well Being: Supporting Parents
- Indigenous Education  
Ms. Weller shared information on the new reporting and monitoring requirements necessary to inform the NPSC Board Action Plan (BAP) on Indigenous Education. Additional information was shared regarding the proactive expansion of culturally appropriate education initiatives, including supporting students with special education needs.

#### ii) Coordinator's Update

Ms. Bitonti shared an update regarding the January 28, 2022 Educational Assistant learning day which included professional development on PPM 166: Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols and the NPSC Speech Language Department :SLP & CDA roles as well as communication related interactive activities and helpful hints to put into practice with students. There was also self-directed opportunity to work on Vector Health & Safety Training modules.

#### iii) Secondary Lead's Update

Mr. Ricciuti shared information on the following items:

- SJSH students have moved to semester system as of Monday, January 31, 2022. Students have been supported with this transition.
- A virtual information night will be provided to Grade 8 students & parents on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.
- Special Olympics virtual Bocce Ball tournament will occur on February 18, 2022.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester IEPs will be sent home for parent/guardian to review on March 22, 2022.
- Case conference and transition meetings are underway for potential incoming LAC candidates.
- The opportunity for secondary staff to take part in a Jack.org (Youth Mental Health) research initiative. Mr. Ricciuti & Ms. Overholt are looking forward to participating.

## **b) Association Reports**

- i). Community Living – April Porter, Alternate  
Community Living North Bay is preparing to Spread the Word: Inclusion. The 2022 theme is Champions of Change. SEAC is encouraged to participate in the Champions of Change who are taking action for inclusion in communities around the world. Additional information can be found at [www.communitylivingnorthbay.org](http://www.communitylivingnorthbay.org) or [www.spreadtheword.global](http://www.spreadtheword.global).
- ii). Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member  
NIL
- iii). OKP – Corry Thomas, Member
  - OKP continues to participate in planning meetings regarding the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Urgent Response Service. 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. The launch date is April 1, 2022.
  - The OAP Entry to School program was implemented in January 2022. Invitations to participate in the first session, which launches March 2022, have been forwarded to eligible families. To date 8 children have registered from this geographical catchment. 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.
  - OKP is facing the common recruitment challenges seen within the Northern Ontario healthcare system and engaging in creative solutions to overcome them.
  - School support rehabilitation services are actively providing support services to students within school buildings.
  - COVID related staff absences remain high.

## **9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER**

NIL

## **10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

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

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Corry Thomas and seconded by John Willemsen THAT the meeting of February 8, 2022 be adjourned at 6:47 p.m.