



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on March 8, 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:**

Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member  
Corry Thomas, One Kids Place, Member  
Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member  
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation, Member

**Regrets:**

April Porter, Community Living North Bay, Alternate  
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member  
Theresa Bitonti, Special Education Coordinator

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**1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER**

Ms. Weller shared a land acknowledgement and a Prayer for Lent.

**2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE**

Roll call was completed.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Barb McCool THAT the agenda of March 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Corry Thomas and seconded by Barb McCool THAT the minutes of February 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Mental Health & Well Being for Children with Exceptional Needs: Dr. P. Carney  
Dr. Carney shared the Well Aware Model in preparation for the NPSC SEAC 2022 Carousel Evening. The model addresses how to support resilient, active and flourishing children. Intertwining concepts guiding the creation of strong caring relationships, such as SEL (Self Aware, Self Regulating, Empathetic, Responsible) and PERMA (Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationship, Meaning, Accomplishment) were shared. Additionally, the importance of creating lifestyle balance for children with special needs through fitness, sleep, nutrition and spirituality was highlighted. SEAC was supportive of Dr. Carney's message and are looking forward to hearing more at the upcoming Carousel event.
- b) Masks/Face Covering Donation  
Ms. Weller shared that NPSC is able to donate clear masks and Woodbridge hypoallergenic face cloth masks to the community. Organizations were encouraged to contact Ms. Weller should they be interested.

## 6. UPDATES

- a) Carousel Evening  
SEAC discussed the following Carousel items:
  - Event date/time was scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.
  - Theme: Happiness: Imagine the Possibilities
  - Presentation Title: Well Aware Model: Mental Health & Well Being for Children with Exceptional Needs
  - Evening Greetings/Closing: Trustee Greetings: Mr. Willemsen, Welcome & SEAC Introduction: Ms. Derosier, Emcee: Ms. Weller, Introduction of Keynote: Mr. Thomas, Thank you of Keynote: Mr. Ricciuti & Ms. Bitonti
  - Ms. Weller shared we are able to prerecord greetings/closing.
  - Ms. Weller developing communications such as the event poster, registration form, save the date, media release and social media.
  - Options for a thank you gift were discussed.
  - Discussed purchase of Dr. Carney's book Well Aware – Developing Resilient, Active and Flourishing Students as door prizes.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Weller shared the following correspondence:

- a) Letter from DDSB to Minister Lecce – SIP Claim Funding
- b) Letter from Nipissing First Nation – Appointment of C.L.
- c) Letter from Conseil Scolaire Catholique Nouvelon to Ministers Elliott & Lecce – Nursing Shortage
- d) Letter from Conseil Scolaire Catholique Nouvelon to DM Naylor, Dr. Zahn & DM Cole – PPM 81
- e) Letter from RCCDSB to Ministers Elliott & Lecce – Nursing Shortage
- f) Letter from TBCDSB to Minister Lecce – Bill 172
- g) Letter from DDSB to Minister Lecce – Bill 172
- h) Letter from DPCDSB to Minister Lecce – Covid-19 Measures in Schools
- i) Letter from DDSB to Minister Lecce – PPM 81

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared the following information:

- Ministry of Education updates are anticipated following March Break regarding updates to COVID 19 guidance documents.
- Public Health updated guidance regarding high contact sports and other extracurricular activities including returning to sports post infection.
- Minister Lecce announced Ontario is releasing a new elementary Science and Technology curriculum and a new Grade 9 Science course for implementation in September 2022. The new curriculum renews focus on focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- The NPSC Parent Involvement Committee hosted Dr. Hanley-Dafoe's keynote presentation '*Everyday Resilience in Ever-Changing Times*', on Thursday March 3, 2022. The evening was very well received and well-attended.

#### ii) Coordinator's Update

NIL Report

#### iii) Secondary Lead's Update

Mr. Ricciuti shared information on the following items:

- "Spread the Word" campaign occurred at SJSH to provide awareness towards the area of inclusivity on March 2, 2022
- During the week of March 7-10, the SJSH SAC student council created blue and yellow ribbons to raise money to support Ukraine
- Virtual Reality sets have arrived at SJSH through the Transition Pathway Pilot Project. Teachers and supporting staff will be trained after the March Break.
- IPRC date for potential LAC students from our feeder schools has been set for April 20, 2022
- On-going case conferences and transition meetings are occurring with our feeder schools
- 2<sup>nd</sup> semester IEP's will be sent home Tuesday, March 22 for parent/guardian to review
- April 2, 2022 is Autism Awareness Day and SJSH will be have students dressed in Blue along with activities to raise awareness occurring in the cafeteria

### b) Association Reports

#### i). Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nations, Member

Ms. Labrecque announced NFN offices will be reopening to the public on March 15, 2022. She also announced the retirement of their much appreciated Director of Education, Nancy Allaire, on June 30, 2022.

- ii). LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member  
Ms. Derosier encouraged SEAC to review the OHRC “Right to Read” Executive Summary and Recommendations. The [summary video](#) is accessible on the OHRC website.
- iii). Parent Representative - Mary Grise, Member  
NIL Report
- iv). OKP – Corry Thomas, Member  
NIL Report

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

**10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Teams.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Barb McCool and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the meeting of March 8, 2022 adjourned at 7:12 p.m.