



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 12, 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:** John Willemsen

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

**Regrets:** Barbara McCool, Trustee  
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member  
Corry Thomas, One Kids Place, Member

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

Ms. Weller shared a land acknowledgement and led the committee in prayer.

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

Roll call was completed.

## **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by April Porter and seconded by John Willemsen THAT the agenda of April 12, 2022 be approved as presented.

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Caroline Labrecque and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the minutes of March 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Carousel Feedback & Follow Up Discussion

Ms. Weller shared the feedback results of the survey sent to participants. The event was very well received and the feedback was positive. Furthermore, SEAC discussed feedback regarding advertising, ideas or topics for future NPSC Carousel events and additional comments.

## 6. UPDATES

NIL

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Weller shared the following correspondence:

- a) Letter from DCDSB to Deputy Ministers Naylor, Zahn and Cole Re: PPM 81
- b) Letter from CDSBEO to Minister Lecce Re: Rural Communities & Connectivity
- c) Letter from Hands TheFamilyHelpNetwork to Community Partners Re : 24/7 Crisis Response
- d) Letter from EDU to Directors of Education Re: Special Education Grant Changes
- e) Letter from MCCSS and EDU to School Boards Re: Smart Start Hubs

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared the following information:

- Primary and Junior EQAO assessments continue to provide valuable information to support learning renewal. Following a two year pause, the Ministry of Education is reintroducing the assessments using an updated and new e-assessment system.
- The Ministry of Education has recently announced a new five point action plan for learning recovery. Included in this plan is an investment for the delivery of comprehensive tutoring supports to students K – Grade 12 in support of their achievement and well-being.
- NPSC is pleased to share that we have been accepted into the extension pilot program for the Indigenous Graduation Coach Program, which includes students in grades 7 and 8 and also includes programming over summer months.
- Varied professional learning activities have been planned for April 29<sup>th</sup> 2022. Educational Assistants will complete the second portion of First Aid training, while educators and DECEs will participate in other training including topics related to Anti-Sex Trafficking, Mental Health & Well Being and Health & Safety.

ii) Coordinator's Update

Ms. Bitonti shared that April is World Autism Awareness Month. A number of activities and learning opportunities are taking place in NPSC elementary and secondary schools throughout April.

- Staff and students wore blue on Friday, April 1, 2022 to help raise awareness and increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism around the world.
- Autism Ontario has provided video, classroom discussion, educator resources and supplemental activities to celebrate the spectrum with students.
- Autism Ontario is hosting webinars for parents and guardians throughout the month. Additional information can be found at [autismontario.com](http://autismontario.com).

iii) Secondary Lead's Update

Mr. Ricciuti shared information on the following items:

- Students participated in Special Olympics Floor Hockey March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- Autism Awareness Day occurred on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the SJSH cafeteria with student-led activities
- Grade 8 LAC IPRC is occurring April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Grade 8 IPRCs are occurring during May 2022.
- Staff and students have been introduced to virtual reality sets
- OSSLT will take place the week of April 25, 2022 with supports for students with special education needs in place.
- Fundraisers have resumed at school to begin raising money for SJSH Special Education activities.

**b) Association Reports**

i). NFN – Caroline Labrecque, Member  
NIL Report

ii). LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member  
Ms. Derosier will forward the LDAO SEAC Circular to Ms. Weller for circulation.

iii). Parent Representative - Mary Grise, Member  
NIL Report

iv). Community Living North Bay – April Porter, Alternate  
May is Community Living Month! May is a time when people from across Ontario will celebrate the many successes of creating inclusive communities for people with developmental disabilities. It is an opportunity for the province to celebrate inclusion and foster awareness for the full participation of people with disabilities within the community. Some of the locally planned activities to promote awareness and increase acceptance of people with developmental disabilities include: a flag raising at City Hall, a pick up hockey tournament and weekly BBQs. Ms. Weller will forward a detailed calendar of May's activities to SEAC.

**9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER**

- SEAC discussed revisiting the Action Plan and possibly including an Indigenous Coach Program presentation for the 22/23 school year.
- The Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board of trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Paula Mann to the position of Director of Education. Ms. Mann, who has served as the board's Superintendent of Education for the past 12 years, will replace the outgoing director, Anna Marie Bitonti, who will enter retirement early next month.
- Next month we will discuss our return to onsite SEAC meetings.

**10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2022 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Caroline Labrecque THAT the meeting of April 12, 2022 be adjourned at 6:30 p.m.