



Special Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 12:00 p.m.
Schumacher Board Office

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brush	Trustee	
Val Fuller	Trustee	
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck	Trustee	
Christine Heavens	Chair, parent representative	
Pamela Stager	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre (CTRC)	
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	V/C NLBO

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS:

Lisa Lamarche	Community Living
Nicola Martis	Director of Education, Wahgoshig First Nation

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Education
Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education
Patricia Chertow	System Lead of Special Education
Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Well-Being
Shawn Donovan	Vice Principal, THVS
Rosa Montico-Reimer	Manager of Financial Services

STAFF REGRETS:

Alison Fantin	Principal, KLDCS
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RECORDING SECRETARY:

Lisa Nixon	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Education, Steven Pladzyk
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CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at **12:02 p.m.**
Video conferencing and round table introductions were made.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED BY, Bob Brush, SECONDED BY, Val Fuller, THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

MOVED BY, Cindy Pye-Reasbeck, SECONDED BY, Pamela Stager, THAT the October 2, 2019 minutes be approved.

CARRIED



CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence

- 1st letter addresses the concern for provincial funding of classroom averages and mandatory e-learning courses;

Providence is asking the Minister to reconsider the proposed changes in particular, students with special education needs.

- 2nd letter addresses the Autism funding and how the cuts will have a negative impact on the strategically and effectively planned transitions;

Providence is asking the Minister to re-examine funding following consultations with school boards and SEAC/CCED.

- 3rd letter addresses their support for Bill 44 which promotes awareness of disorders caused by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD);

Providence is asking the Minister to recognize FASD as a neurological abnormality under diagnosis and type of difficulty for students.

2. Ecoles Catholiques Centre-Est

- Letter addresses the concern for the proposed changes to the number of students per classroom and the obligation to take 4 online courses for high school students.

Ecole Catholiques Centre-Est is asking the Minister to review the decisions made for students with learning disabilities who need more support.

3. Easter Seals Access 2 Card

- Persons with disabilities can apply for an Access 2 card for a small fee which would allow a support person/attendant to accompany them at any participating venue partner events with free admission.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Beaulne doing some classroom visits which include bringing teachers together in smaller groups to review different social-emotional learning strategies.

Cognitive profile presentation being done at Principal's meeting next week. Update will be presented at the next SEAC meeting by Superintendent Pladzyk.

New member Nicola Martis designated by the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee (IPAC), will be welcomed at the December 4, 2019 meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

Trustee Pye-Reasbeck and Director Dye provided an update on the OPSBA meeting in October 2019:

Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development & Mines and Indigenous Affairs, spoke about his time in North Eastern and North Western Ontario which identified an understanding of the educational needs in these regions.

Trustees participated in a facilitated workshop to revisit the key priorities from OPSBA for Northern Ontario. Some of the immediate impact strategies and long term strategies include:

- Indigenous Education
- Experiential Learning
- Community Partnerships
- Inter Agency Collaboration

Trustee Brush provided a update of last night's Board meeting:

- Superintendent Niemi and Lead Mitchell shared the EQAO results with the team working towards more positive results for the future.

Trustee Fuller has been visiting the schools and wanted to commend the Special Education staff for including students and thinking outside the box.

AGENCY REPORT:

Pam Stager informed that CTRC received their budget.



SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES:

Mental Health lead Plante-Dupuis provided an update from the School Mental Health ASIST meeting:

- Rolling out 6 or 7 new resources in the next few months;
- Social-emotional learning resource for parents that addresses self-regulation in the early years;
- Mental Health literacy resource used to accompany “Supporting Minds” (guide to support and accommodate students with mental illness);
- Working to increase parent engagement by releasing a series of videos of parents explaining positive experiences partnering with schools for students who are struggling with mental health issues;
- Moving forward with structured Psychotherapy training for the regulated mental health professionals in the secondary level which will include CBT, brief interventions, and strength-based resilience training;
- Ministry of Education put together a new implementation team to support school boards across Ontario to have more standard and evidence based practices regarding mental health.
- Resources will be accessible on the School Mental Health Ontario website:

<https://smho-smso.ca/>

Student Senate is meeting on November 25, 2019 and will discuss how to better support Mental Health and Well-Being.

Superintendent Pladzyk provided a special education team update:

Implementing new resources into a simplified infographic for staff;

Parent strategy being investigated for further development;

The Northern Support Initiative (NSI) funding has been confirmed and will be used for:

- Summer Learning Program;
- Autism and Behaviour consultants to fill in the gaps and provide strategies to teachers,
- After school programming for high support and autistic students to develop their social and emotional learning skills in a different setting other than the classroom. Main challenge is transportation and getting enough students together for the program. Ideas to be discussed with the Special Education team.
- During the first 5-6 weeks of the school year, 313 students in SK were screened across 17 DSB1 schools, 250 passed both the expressive and language comprehension tasks, 63 children were below expectations of one or both tasks, and out of the 63 children, 40 had only listening or comprehension scores below expectations, 8 had only expressive sentence length below expectations and 50 had both comprehension and expressive sentences below expectations. Letters have gone home parents to let them know they can engage in language therapy services as they are funded through NSI.

Special Education Lead Chertow organized Behavioural Management Systems (BMS) training at the last PA Day.

Superintendent Pladzyk and Special Education Lead Chertow visited a few schools to view the new high support classrooms.

Educational Assistant (EA) program with Northern College partnership start time is January 2020 with approximately 12 people currently enrolled and potentially more.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Cognitive profile presentation update from principal's meeting

Parent resource update

Student Senate meeting update – Denise Plante-Dupuis

Service Animals Policy to be provided to SEAC for review

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY, *Cindy Pye-Reasbeck*, THAT the meeting be adjourned at **12:50 p.m.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: December 4, 2019, Schumacher Board Office.