



Special Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - 12:00 p.m.
Teleconference

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christine Heavens	Chair, Parent Representative
Bob Brush	Board Chair
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck	Trustee
Val Fuller	Trustee
Pamela Stager	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre (CTRC)
Lisa Lamarche	Community Living
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Education
Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education
Jody Pecore	System Lead of Special Education
Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Well-Being Lead
Alison Fantin	Principal, KLDCS
Shawn Donovan	Principal, SPS
Pearl Fong-West	Superintendent of Business/Finance & Treasurer

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Lisa Nixon Executive Assistant to Superintendent of Education, Steve Pladzyk

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at **12:00 p.m.**
Teleconferencing introductions were made.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

MOVED BY, Cindy Pye-Reasbeck, SECONDED BY, Val Fuller, THAT the agenda be approved.
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

MOVED BY, Bob Brush, SECONDED BY, Pam Stager, THAT the January 13, 2021 minutes be approved.
CARRIED

MOVED BY, Val Fuller, SECONDED BY, Cindy Pye-Reasbeck, THAT the February 10, 2021 informal meeting notes be approved.
CARRIED



CORRESPONDENCE:

Durham DSB – Superintendent Pladzyk provided a summary:

On-Line Learning Supports / Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

- Encouraging the Ministry of Education to strengthen its commitment to UDL by ensuring provincial online learning resources and platforms used to access said resources are accessible to all students.
- There is an urgent need to update and continue to ensure that previously created content remains or becomes accessible.

DISCUSSION:

Pearl Fong-West presented the Special Education Funding Budget Consultation for 2020-2021:



Special Education
Funding Budget Co

Summary:

- Committed to consulting internal and external audiences;
- Promoting student and family voice;
- Recognizing the diversity of our Board community;
- Encouraging participation in our DSB1 community of learning;
- Allocating resources in an equitable fashion.
- Funding is allocated through various grants and funding for students with special education needs through the Special Education Grant (SEG) and Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

Key changes for 2020-2021:

- Northern Supports Initiative (NSI) was previously funded through the Priorities & Partnership Funds (PPF) and is now transferred into the GSN effective with the 2020-2021 year. DSB1 is the banker Board for the 8 Boards and 3 School Area Boards in Northeastern Ontario.
- Renaming of the Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional (CTCC) Amount to Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP) Allocation.

Special Education Staffing:

- 1 Special Education Administrator and Vice-Principal
- 3 District Special Education Resource Teachers (DSERT)
- 2 Autism Support Officers/Behaviour Consultants
- 132.5 Educational Assistants
- 11 FTE Transitional Educational Assistants

Professional Learning and Training:

- Continue to build capacity of our staff through a variety of methods;
- Continue to focus on core areas for school support;
- Continue to provide the training that support staff require to be effective in their workplace;
- Work with other portfolios in embedding our cognitive profile development into all professional learning.

Mental Health and Wellness Staffing:

- 1 Mental Health Lead
- 3 School Social Workers registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW)



District School Board Ontario North East

- 15 Child and Youth Workers which includes 2 Social Service Workers registered with the OCSWSSW and 1 Shania Kids Can Worker
- 3 Attendance Counsellors

Survey link on DSB1 website to gather feedback from families, staff, students, and community members until March 22, 2021:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DSB1Budget2021-2022>

TRUSTEE REPORT:

- Board Chair Brush reported this is a busy time of year at DSB1. Now having regular meetings organized by the OPSBA that give an opportunity to discuss and share concerns to have a strong voice with the Ministry. Very pleased with the Director and the Senior Administration team for their efforts.
- Trustee Fuller reported that lunch hour sessions with OPSBA have been very informative. The Mental Health resources mentioned province wide are being used in our schools. Great presentation for the mid-year Strategic Plan at the last Board meeting. Looking forward to Mental Health Lead Plante-Dupuis providing information on Camp Cope A Lot at the next meeting.
- Trustee Pye-Reasbeck reported on attending the OPSBA Regional Meetings and how informative they have been. It was noted that staff and administration are overwhelmed during these times with protocols and changes that have occurred this school year. She thanked the Special Education Team for their hard work.

AGENCY REPORT:

Lisa Lamarche reported that Community Living is now back in the office and now supporting childcare centers, one at a time.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES:

Superintendent Pladzyk shared that the team has started discussing staffing, and student movements, as well as class organizations.

Encouraged members to participate in Budget Consultation Survey (link provided above).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Special Education Staffing updates

Camp Cope-A Lot – discussion with Mental Health Lead Denise Plante-Dupuis

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY, Cindy Pye-Reasbeck, THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: April 7, 2021.