



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Commencing at: 12:00 noon

MINUTES of the Special Education Advisory Committee held at the Schumacher Board Office and video conferencing sites, with the following in attendance:

Committee Members:

Christine Heavens	Chair, parent representative	
Kathy Farrell	vice Chair, Community Living Timmins	
Dennis Draves	Trustee	
Bruce Cutten	Trustee	
Gale Wiseman	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins branch	
Gary Dowe	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre	
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE	(v/c NLBO)
Arline Chasle	Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation	(v/c NLBO)

Staff Present:

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Schools responsible for Special Education
Joanne Marsh-Peters	Acting District Special Education Administrator
Vanessa Harmanmaa	Acting Autism Support Officer
Patricia Chertow	Principal

Committee Members Absent:

Peter Osterberg	Trustee
Bruce Hayter	parent representative
Melanie Hebert	parent representative

Staff Regrets:

Alison Fantin	Principal
Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Addiction Lead

Recording Secretary:

Dianne Gaudreau	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
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Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 12:05pm by Christine Heavens, Chair, video conferencing and round table introductions were made.

Adoption of Agenda:

MOVED by Gary Dowe **SECONDED** by Kathy Farrell **THAT** the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

MOVED by Dennis Draves, **SECONDED** by Gale Wiseman **THAT** the minutes of the March 8, 2017 meeting be approved as written.

CARRIED

Business Arising:

Psycho-educational assessment Business Plan

Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent reported that the Special Education Team continues to work on the Business Plan, will report back at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on reaching out to Community Partners.

Action: Steve Pladzyk will contact Chamber of Commerce.

New Business:

Trustees Report:

- The Board is in the process of hiring a new Director of Education
- Trustees received a presentation on the Apple Texas Distinguished School Tour

Agency Report:

Gale Wiseman, Resource Facilitator – LDAO Timmins shared scholarship information for students with learning disabilities, Northern Ontario Centre for Learning Differences and the Northern Credit Union are offering two \$500.00 scholarship awards to students in Northeastern Ontario.

Action: District SERTS to share the information with schools.

Gale shared upcoming events:

- **April 7** - 4:00pm – 7:00pm - BBQ fundraiser sponsored by Northern College, which is celebrating 50 years and giving back to the Community. Proceeds from the BBQ will be donated to the LDAO of Timmins.
- **April 20** – 6:30pm Room D 110 - free parent session titled *Emotional Coaching* held at Northern College. Session will be led by D. Todd Cunningham, a faculty member from the Psychology and Human Development Department at the University of Toronto.

Arline Chasle, Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation shared via email additional information.

a) **Internet connection**

- not much will happen with CISCO before a couple of years up in Northern Ontario.

Education Partnership Program

- in Ontario the sums go to Nishnawbe Aski Nation, there is a lot of information on the Internet about the program: Google (INAC – Education – Programs- Education Partnership) stating that:
- If the goal is to increase literacy, math, perhaps the Board can offer communities to help them apply for the program
- Approach the communities and ask them if they need help applying for more services
- All the programs are for those who live on the reserves only. At times reserves don't know about these opportunities, leaders and workers often change so the next person is not aware.

- b) **INAC** has increased the special education dollars for reserve schools, have been able to hire behavioral specialists including for autism, two people work one week a month with the students, teachers and individual parents, as well hiring a psychologist to work with the most demanding students once a week. The psychologist also works with the guardians/parents.
- c) Possible partnership next year with District School Board Ontario North East and have someone work with Kiwetin on literacy.

Special Education Plan

Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent, shared the changes being made to the 2016-17 Special Education Board Plan.

Action: members will be-mailed document once it has been finalized.

Discussion ensued on ongoing revision of the document and the importance of having Mental Health in alignment with the Special Education Plan, discussion on the IEP assessment process followed.

Special Education Team Updates:

Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent, provided updates which included **Vanessa Harmanmaa**, Acting Autism Support Officer who reported on obstacles regarding implementing the Autism After School Program. As a result the program will only be offered at a Secondary level this year. Funding will be carried over to the next school year.

Updates also included:

- SEAC Directory - will share the final version with members
- Special Needs Rehab Services - continue to work on Special Needs rehab services
- Staffing – preliminary level, reviewing schools, services and needs, gathering of data
- March 8 motion to the Board “*Superintendent to provide a report on the Psycho-educational Assessment Business Plan*” did not get on the last Board agenda, will forward to the Director for the next board meeting

Future Agenda Items:

Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent will touch base with Denise Plante-Dupuis, Mental Health and Well-Being Lead to provide an outline of what the future holds for Mental Health at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

MOVED by Gary Dowe

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:03pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: May 3, 2017 – 12:00 noon, Schumacher Board Office.

(v/c sites: NLBO, Kapuskasing, Hearst)

Future Meetings:

- June 7, 2017

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Christine Heavens, **Chair** Special Education Advisory Committee