



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Wednesday, October 5, 2016
Commencing at: 12:00 noon

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

Committee Members:

Kathy Farrell	Vice Chairperson, Community Living Timmins	
Bruce Cutten	Trustee	
Bob Brush	Trustee (alternate)	
Saunders Porter	Trustee (alternate)	
Gary Dowe	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre	
Arline Chasle	Timiskaming First Nation	(v/c NLBO)
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE	(v/c NLBO)

Staff Present:

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Schools responsible for Special Education	
Denise Plante-Dupuis	Manager of Mental Health & Addictions	
Patricia Chertow	Principal	
Alison Fantin	Principal	(v/c KLDCS)

Guest:

Gale Wiseman Resource Facilitator Learning Disabilities Association (LDAO) - Timmins

Committee Members Absent:

Dennis Draves	Trustee
Peter Osterberg	Trustee
Christine Heavens	parent representative
Bruce Hayter	parent representative
Melanie Hebert	parent representative

Staff Regrets:

Joanne Marsh-Peters Acting District Special Education Administrator

Recording Secretary:

Dianne Gaudreau Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Kathy Farrell, Vice Chairperson, and round table introductions and video conferencing sites were made.

Adoption of Agenda:

MOVED by Saunders Porter **SECONDED** by Gary Dowe **THAT** the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness month. To bring attention and awareness to this cause, District School Board Ontario North East and LDAO are partnering to co-host a free Community Workshop led by Angie Demarco on October 17 at RMSS and via videoconferencing in Kapuskasing, Cochrane, New Liskeard and Kirkland Lake. The goal of the workshop is to understand what a learning disability is, what it is not, what it feels like and why students learn differently.

On October 18 the LDAO Timmins branch will be gathering in front of City Hall to plant 800 flags to represent all Timmins students who have a Learning Disability.

Superintendent Pladzyk stated that the LD handouts shared at today's meeting would be going out to all schools with the goal is to build capacity of teachers in their classrooms.

A brief discussion followed the presentation.

Kathy Farrell, Acting Chairperson thanked Gale for her time and presentation.

New Business:

1. Trustee Report:

Trustee Bruce Cutten reported that Superintendent Pladzyk made a presentation at the Board meeting regarding October being Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.

2. Agency Report:

Kathy Farrell, Community Living Timmins reported they are opening a Sensory Room in the Vic Mahoney day program. All the equipment and matting was donated from CTRC. The room will be available for people supported in Community Living and for Children's Services children in the near future.

3. New SEAC member:

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk stated that Gale Wiseman from LDA and Cynthia Barty with CNIB will be submitting applications to be part of SEAC.

4. Draft letters:

Superintendent Pladzyk shared two drafts letters on behalf of SEAC, one to the Minister of Children and Youth Services and Ministry of Education regarding the implementation of the Ontario Autism Program, and a letter of welcome to School Councils to encourage greater communication between school councils and the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Trustee Bob Brush suggested that the School Council letter should also be sent to (PIC) Parent Involvement Committee.

Special Education Team Updates:

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk reported on the iPad rollouts stating any Special Education student who prefers keeping their laptops rather than receiving a new iPad will be allowed to and any surplus laptops will be re-distributed to help support other programs.

Superintendent Pladzyk reported that the Board averages about 70 psychological assessments per year with an unusual long waiting list. The Special Education team is developing a business plan which will be presented to the Director to try and reduce the wait time.

Superintendent Pladzyk reported that Venessa Harmanmaa has been hired to replace Anne Price, our Autism Support Officer, while on leave.

Superintendent Pladzyk reported on the Ministry's memorandum to support the transition to the new Ontario Autism Program.

The purpose of the memorandum is to invite school boards to submit applications for new funding to support new and/or existing after school programs that build and enhance skills for students affected by changes to autism services and for students with high-needs autism spectrum disorder.

Adjournment:

MOVED by Gary Dowe

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:10pm

NEXT MEETING: November 2, 2016 – 12:00 noon, Schumacher Board Office.

(v/c sites: NLBO, Hearst, Kapuskasing & Kirkland Lake)

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Kathy Farrell, **Vice Chairperson**
Special Education Advisory Committee