



# DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Wednesday, March 8, 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:**

Kathy Farrell	Vice Chair, Community Living Timmins	
Dennis Draves	Trustee	
Peter Osterberg	Trustee	
Bruce Cutten	Trustee	(v/c NLBO)
Arline Chasle	Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation	(v/c NLBO)
Gale Wiseman	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins branch	
Gary Dowe	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre	

**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	
Alison Fantin	Principal	(v/c KLDCS)

**Committee Members Absent:**

Melanie Hebert	parent representative
Bruce Hayter	parent representative
Christine Heavens	Chair, parent representative
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE

**Staff Regrets:**

Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Addiction Lead
Patricia Chertow	Principal

**Recording Secretary:**

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

Meeting called to order at 12:02pm by Kathy Farrell, Acting Chair, video conferencing and round table introductions were made.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

**MOVED** by Gale Wiseman **SECONDED** by Peter Osterberg **THAT** the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOVED** by Dennis Draves, **SECONDED** by Gale Wiseman **THAT** the minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting be approved as written.

**CARRIED**

## **Business Arising:**

### **1. Special Education Audit Report**

The Special Education Audit Report – *Response to Recommendations* was previously e-mailed to members to review, there were no questions or comments submitted regarding the report.

### **2. Schumacher Public School**

**Kathy Farrell** asked for an update on the status of Schumacher Public School.

**Steve Pladzyk** stated that there are no updates regarding Schumacher Public School other than the school is scheduled for an Accommodation Review next school year, which at that time the Board will review the programs, it is too premature to comment on the future of the school.

## **New Business:**

### **Trustee Report:**

**Trustee Draves** reported he attended the Ministry session in Sudbury on February 27 with the Special Education team, commending the Special Education staff on where the Board is at compared to other Boards, however concerned with the Board's psycho-educational assessment wait list.

### **Agency Report:**

**Gary Dowe**, Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre reported:

- End of February was their year-end
- CTRC no longer has access to Federal funding for the Best Start program which was used to support two clinics up the James Bay coast

Discussion ensued how best to help support these clinics.

**Arline Chasle**, Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation made reference to Gary's report with the following information regarding accessing funding:

- Communities can apply for partnership program funding
- Arlene will provide information on the CISCO broad band and how to access better internet service to remote areas

**Gale Wiseman**, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins branch reported on:

- February 15 attended the *Northern College Awareness Day* which received great media coverage on the CTV news and with the Timmins Daily Press
- February 16 held a parent session titled *Mindfulness*
- March 23 will be holding their next parent session titled *Emotional Impact on Families*
- End of February was their year-end, and since their office launch in October, they have met with 40 clients
- Hoping to do educator presentations to District School Board Ontario North East before the end of this school year

## **Special Education Team Updates:**

### **Update on the Autism After School program:**

**Vanessa Harmanmaa**, Acting Autism Support Officer update on the Autism after school development program:

- A one-time, 18 month Ministry funded project. First session will be 1 day/week for 8 weeks
- Transportation may be the biggest challenge for the families
- Partnership with NEOFACS, (OKP) One Kids Place and District School Board Ontario North East
- skills to focus on developing social and emotional learning
- Looking at providing the program at elementary and secondary levels
- This school year (2016-17) working with two Central schools
- Next school year (2017-18) will move to the Northern and Southern Regions

### **Special Education Funding February 15, 2017 Presentation**

**Steve Pladzyk**, clarified that while the Special Education department does have a \$12 million set budget, the team does not have access to those dollars.

### **Psycho-educational assessment Business Plan**

**Steve Pladzyk** reported that the Special Education Team continue to work on the Business Plan, and will provide an update at the April meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding how best to address the wait list.

**MOVED** by Dennis Draves **SECONDED** by Peter Osterberg **THAT** Superintendent Pladzyk provide a report on the Psycho-educational Assessment Business Plan to the Board.

**CARRIED**

### **Future Agenda Items:**

April review summary of updates on Special Education Board Plan

### **Adjournment:**

**MOVED** by Dennis Draves

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 1:20 pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: April 5, 2017 – 12:00 noon, Schumacher Board Office.**

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

### **Future Meetings:**

- May 3, 2017
- June 7, 2017 – Review of Spec Ed Board Plan

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
Kathy Farrell, **Acting Chair**  
Special Education Advisory Committee