



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Wednesday, June 7, 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	
Gary Dowe	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre	
Arline Chasle	Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation	
Gale Wiseman	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins branch	
Melanie Hebert	parent representative	(v/c Kapuskasing)
Bruce Hayter	parent representative	(v/c Hearst)

Staff Present:

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Schools responsible for Special Education	
Joanne Marsh-Peters	District Special Education Administrator	
Vanessa Harmanmaa	Acting Autism Support Officer	
Patricia Chertow	Principal	
Alison Fantin	Principal	(v/c KL)

Committee Members Absent:

Peter Osterberg	Trustee
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE

Staff Regrets:

Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Addiction Lead
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Guest:

Karen Lucas	parent
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Recording Secretary:

Dianne Gaudreau	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
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CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm by Christine Heavens, Chair, video conferencing and round table introductions were made.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

MOVED by Dennis Draves **SECONDED** by Bruce Cutten **THAT** the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Gale Wiseman, **SECONDED** by Kathy Farrell **THAT** the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting be approved as written.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

Special Education Board Plan:

Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent stated that the Special Education team are still working on the Special Education Board Plan, clarifying that this report is also to include planning for next year. Members can submit changes until the end of June. The motion below came out of a discussion about the planning forward aspect of the Special Education Board Plan.

MOTION:

Moved by Trustee Draves, **seconded** by Trustee Cutten that the following motion include:

“Special Education Team to investigate if there will be additional dollars for speech and language as well as a plan for gifted students.”

CARRIED

Reaching Out To Community Partners:

Psycho-educational assessment Business Plan - Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent reported to members by e-mail on May 16, 2017 that he has contacted both Keitha Robson (CAO) of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce and Julie Joncas from the Far Northeast Training Board (FNETB) about the shortage of specialized professionals in the North East. Neither are aware of any provincial strategy that is in place to attract specialized professionals to the North. Julie Joncas will be forwarding a survey to the Superintendent for members of SEAC to participate in regarding needs for the North East.

Partnership with Kiewtin on Literacy

Discussion ensued on how the Board can continue to support Timiskaming First Nation with Literacy and the possibility to include Math in the initiative.

CORRESPONDENCE:

CCAC – letter to inform that the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 41, the *Patients First Act, 2016*. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care has made a Transfer order that would transfer all assets, liabilities, rights, obligations and employees of each North East CCAC (Community Care Access Centre to the North East LHIN (Local Health System Integration) as of May 31, 2017.

Action: Add to the September agenda on how best SEAC can continue to keep on top of this.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mental Health and Well-Being

Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent shared the Mental Health & Well Being *draft* report which outlines the 2017-18 Vision Statement, the Action Plan which the focus will be on developing mentally healthy environments, where staff feel well equipped in the role of the caring adult and students are supported toward positive outcomes in well-being and achievement.

2. EQAO

EQAO discussion points on the process of how schools are communicating the EQAO expectations with parents so they can better prepare their child for the testing to alleviate any anxiety the students may have.

3. TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Draves reported on the memorandum received from the Ministry of Education to initiate the creation of the cooperatives with school boards in consultation with ministry staff, and work collaboratively to implement the new Northern Support Initiative (NSI) framework for the 2017-18 school year.

Trustee Cutten reported that the Ministry of Education additional Funding Announcement made by Minister Mitzie Hunter, of the entire \$22-million, \$11-million is earmarked for French-language boards.

Action: Steve will email members the Board's Media Release on the Funding Announcement.

4. AGENCY REPORT:

Gale Wiseman, Resource Facilitator – LDAO Timmins reported on the following:

- Thursday, June 15, 6 p.m. in room D 110 at Northern College will be the last Parent Session for this school year titled *Social Skills for Success*
- June 16, 2017 is the deadline to apply for the Roy Cooper Memorial Scholarship for students with an LD.
- In the process of planning the February 2018 Regional Conference.

Gary Dowe, Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre

- In the recent MCSS budget announcement there was a commitment to invest in clinical services for the Developmental Services sector.
- CTRC has approached Charlie Angus around possible sources of funding to expand services on the James Bay Coast.

5. New Committee Partners / NEOFACS:

In the absence of Trustee Osterberg, **Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent** inquired if NEOFACS have ever been part of SEAC, as they would be a good partner to this Committee.

Action: Steve will start the conversation and process with NEOFACS to invite them to be part of SEAC.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES:

Steve Pladzyk, Superintendent provided an update on the Psycho-educational assessments stating he has met with Penny and we are moving forward with what will work best for our students and reducing the wait time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Bridges Canada web presentation

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Gary Dowe

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:04pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER to be determined.

Action: Will email tentative 2017-18 dates to members.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of

Christine Heavens, **Chair** Special Education Advisory Committee