



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held via Google Meet

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 5:30 pm CT

<https://meet.google.com/mik-vvrp-hxs>

<b>Present</b>	Chantal Moore Shirley Jette Gerald Kleist Brenda Barradell – Executive Assistant	Jennifer Bachynski David Cornish	Olivia Karle Lana Goodman Eric Bortlis
<b>Regrets</b>	Evie O’Flaherty Michelle Sanderson	Heather Bird	Jennifer Kitowski
<b>Guests / Members of the Public</b>	none		

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**Call to Order at** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by the Vice Chair, Gerald Kleist  
Welcome - Letter from Chair (read by Gerald)

**Election of Chair  
and Vice Chair** **Chair**  
David Cornish nominated Evie O’Flaherty. It was seconded by Lana Goodman.  
Since Evie O’Flaherty was unable to attend the meeting, she sent a letter to the  
committee, agreeing to let her name stand for the Chair position, if nominated.  
There were no other nominations.  
Evie O’Flaherty was declared Chair for 2021-2022.

**Vice Chair**  
David Cornish nominated Gerald Kleist. It was seconded by Shirley Jette.  
There were no other nominations.  
Gerald Kleist accepted the nomination.  
Gerald Kleist was declared Vice Chair for 2021-2022.

**Approval of the  
Agenda** Moved by: Shirley Jette  
Seconded by: Eric Bortlis

THAT the agenda for the Sept. 15th, 2021 meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

[WWW.KPDSB.ON.CA](http://WWW.KPDSB.ON.CA)

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board puts students first by creating a culture of learning.

**Letter of Resignation**

Resignation letter from Kari Couch was shared with the committee. Pearl Alvers has also chosen to step down from the committee. Ideas were discussed for recruiting new members, including the following:

- advertisements on radio stations;
- share info with School Councils and at Parent Meetings; and
- post recruitment information on KPDSB website.

Chantal and Brenda will work together to get the recruitment process underway.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: David Cornish  
Seconded by: Olivia Karle

THAT the minutes of the meeting on June 16th, 2021 having been circulated, be approved as written.

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising**

The committee was in favour of continuing with Wednesday google meetings and there was consensus to try a lunch time meeting, so the Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will take place at noon. Brenda will revise the meeting request to reflect this time change.

**Presentation**

- **Jennifer Bachynski**

Jennifer Bachynski presented the revised Special Education Plan for 2021-2022. The following are the changes for this year:

1. Section 2 - Systems Based Program
  - updated Section 23 to Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECP)
2. Section 3 - Roles and Responsibilities in Special Education in Ontario
  - updated roles to current Special Education Lead and Teacher Diagnostician
  - updated School- Based clinicians -added 1 clinician to virtual school
  - updated the In School Support Team to reflect changes made to the updated policy found in *Special Education in Ontario* (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2017), "Section C: Early Identification, Assessment and Transition Planning
  - updated Section 23 teacher to Education and Community Partnership Program Teacher (ECP teacher)
3. Section 4 - Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies
  - updated to reflect changes from Junior Kindergarten to Year 1, Senior Kindergarten to Year 2.
4. Section 5 - The Identification, Placement and Review Committee
  - updated what is the responsibility of IPRC to student strengths and needs
  - changed wording to the IPRC (minimum 3 members, please see members below)

- updated the IPRC forms to reflect new program that KPDSB is implementing, PowerSchool SIS system
  - updated the definition of Learning Disability to reflect the changes in the policy *Special Education in Ontario* (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2017)
  - updated chart to reflect the number of IPRC data from the 2020-2021 school year
  - abbreviations added ECPP-Education and Community Partnership Program
  - added the statement-*Information from this guide is taken from the Ontario Ministry of Education regarding the IPRC process*
  - added Ontario Autism Program to What Programs are available to parents
  - updated Principal/Vice Principal List
5. Section 6 - Individual Assessment
    - updated the list of School based Assessments that our system is using
  6. Section 7 - Specialized Health Services
    - updated the list of contacts
  7. Section 9 - Exceptionalities
    - updated the criteria for Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) and Developmentally Disabled after consulting with our psychologists the **CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING A STUDENT – MILD INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY** as well as **CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING A STUDENT – DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED**
  8. Section 11 - Individual Education Plan
    - updated IEP form to reflect the change to PowerSchool SIS
  9. Section 12 - Provincial Demonstration Schools
    - changed the wording from “Some students require placement in residential education programs. These programs meet the needs of students who are severely learning disabled, hearing impaired, visually handicapped, language delayed, physically handicapped, or socially or emotionally disabled.”  
To “Students from Northwestern Ontario will live in residence as part of the Residence Program as they reside over 115 kilometers from the school. These programs meet the needs of students who have a learning disability, students who are hearing impaired, and students who have a visual impairment.”
    - We have one student attending a Provincial Demonstration School.
  10. Section 13 - Special Education Staff
    - updated to current staff #s
  11. Section 14 - Staff Development
    - updated the topics- took out OSR Ministry Guidelines and Board Procedures and took out the FASD/ARND Education and Capacity Building while this is

something that we still talk to our schools about we are no longer currently providing formal PD on the topics  
- updated training to PowerSchool SIS- special programs training for SERTs

12. Section 17 - Transportation

- Changed “Northwest Student Services Transportation Consortium” to “Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium”
- Changed” special needs students” to “students with special needs”

13. Section 18 - Special Advisory Committee

- updated the language used to - Three trustees appointed by the Board including a trustee to represent the interests of Indigenous students \* as well as one person appointed to represent the interests of Indigenous students.
- updated list to reflect current members of Special Education Advisory Committee

Appendix A

- added the form SE-04A-Attendance Referral Form, SE-019C -KPDSB SEA Equipment Agreement for Home Use

**Comments:** David Cornish requested that the changes be highlighted in the Plan that is sent to members in advance of the meeting. It was felt that highlighting the changes would make it easier to see what the changes that were made are, prior to receiving this information at the meeting. The Vice Chair agreed, and Jenn Bachynski will bring the suggestion to her group for implementation next year. He thanked Jenn and her team for all the work that they put into revising this Plan.

***Motion re Special Education Plan***

Moved by: Shirley Jette  
Seconded by: David Cornish

Having reviewed the Special Education Plan, the SEAC moves that the Special Education Plan for the 2021-2022 school year be brought to the Board for review with a recommendation to accept the plan as presented.

**CARRIED**

***Discussion – Recommendations for Presentations***

The following list of suggestions from both the Special Education team and the SEAC members was presented at the June meeting – members were sent a survey asking for their preferences.

- Spec Ed Plan and changes made – September meeting
- PowerSchool
- Year in review
- Google Read and Write
- Equatio
- Building reading skills (we could invite curriculum)

- Phonological awareness skills, augmentative communication (invite SLP)
- Roles and responsibilities of our committee (may have changes from the Ministry) – December meeting
- SEA equipment
- Invite Education and Community Partnership Program to make a short video and show to SEAC (SEL to speak about programs)
- How we support students with self-regulation skills
- Data collection
- Financial review
- EA allocation process (only if there are changes or if members want it again)
- Soundfield systems-compare the old system to the new system

The results of the survey produced the following list of topics to be presented to SEAC during the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Invite Education and Community Partnership Program
2. How We Support Students with Self-Regulation Skills
3. Building Reading Skills
4. Soundfield Systems
5. Phonological Awareness
6. Financial Review – SEAC Budget (Richard Findlay)
7. Google Read and Write
8. Year in Review – including a review of the Special Education Plan.

The September meeting highlight is the presentation of the Special Education Plan, and the December meeting always outlines the Roles and Responsibilities of the members, so those will stay the same this year.

Chantal Moore requested that the Special Education Plan be brought to SEAC in June and that the committee review the Board Improvement Plan.

The Special Education Team will review the list of presentations and contact any individuals who will need to assist with the presentations. Once they have done this, we will be able to assign months to each presentation.

***Covid Update –  
- Chantal Moore***

Chantal Moore highlighted some important points in her COVID-19 Update:

- We continue to follow all the protocols set out by the NWHU and the Ministry of Education i.e. self-screening, masking etc.
- Some covid protocols that are new from last year were shared, such as the return of extra-curricular sports and the ability to work with small groups of students across cohorts (i.e. for special education programming).
- As a Board, we are working on our disclosure process – the Ministry has asked all school boards to ensure that they have a vaccination disclosure

process for staff. The data is collated and reported to the Ministry, but no personal information is shared.

- We do have a virtual school, but it is significantly smaller this year, with split classes.
- All ventilation in schools has been upgraded and we have hepa filters in our Kindergarten classes (because K is the only class where students are not required to wear masks).
- We are allowing visitors to the schools that support students with Special Education needs, mental health and wellness, curriculum, and safety. All visitors must follow our strict protocol procedures to ensure the safety of our staff and students.
- She noted that any advisories would be listed on the KPDSB website – thankfully, we don't have any at the moment!

**Comments/Questions:** David Cornish asked if Field Trips are now OK, given that extra curricular activities are now happening. Chantal Moore replied that YES, field trips are able to take place at the moment.

Shirley Jette asked about the testing that staff who aren't fully vaccinated must do. Chantal Moore clarified that these are the Rapid Antigen testing using the kits supplied by the Ministry of Education. The results are submitted as part of the Ministry process.

**Association Reports**

- no reports this month

**Member Reports**

- no reports this month

**Correspondence**

*Information Brochure from Michael Jacques – Inspirational Speaker*

We received a letter/information brochure from a young man who is Autistic, doesn't read or write, but has written two books about *inclusion*. He does inspirational talks, and he would like to speak to our Board, SEAC, families. Prior to any planning, we will research this individual, checking references, costs etc. If we feel that it would be beneficial, we will forward the information before any plans are made. Chantal and Brenda will do some research and report back to SEAC.

**Next Meeting:**

October 20, 2021 at noon

***Adjournment***

Moved by David Cornish that we do now adjourn.  
6:19 p.m. CDT

**CARRIED**

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Gerald Kleist, Vice Chair