



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held via Google Meet
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 5:30 pm CT
<https://meet.google.com/tcr-bxot-amu>

Present

Evie O’Flaherty	Kari Couch	Chantal Moore
Shirley Jette	David Cornish	Lana Goodman
Olivia Karl	Jennifer Kitowski	Gerald Kleist
Debbie Michaud	Jennifer Bachynski	Brenda Barradell – Executive Assistant
Heather Bird		

Regrets

Michelle Sanderson

Guest

Call to Order at

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm

Welcome

Evie O’Flaherty welcomed everyone to the meeting.

***Approval of the
Agenda***

Moved by: Kari Couch
Seconded by: David Cornish

THAT the agenda for the April 21st, 2021 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

***Approval of the
Minutes***

Moved by: Gerald Kleist
Seconded by: Debbie Michaud

THAT the minutes of the meeting on March 24th, 2021 having been circulated, be approved as written.

CARRIED

Business Arising

- Nothing

Presentation

- **Jennifer Bachynski**

Transitions

Jennifer presented a very clear, concise and focused account of the process of transitions between grades, classes, elementary to secondary and beyond. She gave numerous examples of goals and actions.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1KXEEc9FjOZ0CF-Bh7Xu0U9W5pBqk0ELUzw_pQALW0E4/edit#slide=id.g871cea8681_0_15

Gerald asked if the need for a transition plan is determined during the IPRC. Jennifer explained that it is a continuous conversation, not necessarily identified during the IPRC. It can be discussed then, but mostly there are case conferences with all involved i.e. the spec ed resource teachers – there are different discussions going on at different times of the year which can be adjusted depending on how the student is during throughout the year.

Evie asked if there is a specific time/age/grade where the transition plan absolutely must be completed, as opposed to ‘no action required at this time’.

Jennifer researched this answer and found the following information: Ontario Regulation 181/98 states that, “for exceptional students who are age 14 or over and who are not identified solely as gifted, the student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) must include a transition plan for the student’s transition from school to work, further education, and/or community living.” As well, the transition plans for students over 14 will identify specific goals.

Gerald asked when the requirement for transition planning came into effect.

Jennifer replied that as long as she has been in the role (since 2012), she has had to work with transition planning for students. He noted the value of having transition plans for the diverse number of special needs students that we have and how it would bring order to their academic lives. Jennifer agreed that there is great benefit to having transition planning. Shirley said transition planning has been part of the school system for special needs students for a very long time, particularly for those with high needs who would be going to an association.

COVID-19 School Update

- **Chantal Moore**

All information re positive cases in KPDSB schools is listed on the Board’s website.

Since our last meeting we have had the following cases reported:

April 7 – one positive case at Sioux Mtn – but no school exposure

April 3 – on at Valleyview (VOC case)

March 28 – DHS (VOC case)

March 25 – Evergreen

- All cases have now been resolved
- Since Spring Break, the Ministry mandated all of Ontario schools organize for remote learning.

- However, our highest needs students who cannot be accommodated remotely are attending school in person while all others are learning virtually/remotely.
- We don't know how long virtual school will last. We hope to have all students / staff back in classrooms as soon as possible. Until then we will continue to do our best to support our students.

Shirley asked if the spec ed staff and EAs were being offered vaccination letters to get vaccinated early.

Chantal replied: yes, certain staff (those working directly with students with special needs) have received letters to allow them to book appointments for vaccinations. Again we received specific criteria from the Ministry regarding who would be able to get the vaccination letters enabling them to get vaccinated early.

Other Business

Graduation T-Shirts – information from David Cornish was shared through email with committee members prior to the meeting.

Evie commented that she loved the idea for T-Shirts.

Her comments included:

- each school should determine *if* they wish to do this, as it is a lot of work;
- local printers should be used (we need to support our tax base and school supporters);
- there needs to be an option to choose gender and complexion to represent each graduate; and
- the KPDSB logo as well the school identification and colours should be on the shirt.

Feedback from committee members was requested.

David said in his research he found out there is a printing charge for doing a one sided signs and also for doing two sided signs (whether it be lawn signs or t-shirts). Gerald thinks it's a great idea – these would be a good keepsake for the student. No other feedback was received – the suggestion was then proposed to Chantal who is coordinating graduation plans.

Board Special Education Update - Jenn Bachynski

SEL Update – Jennifer Bachynski

We are continuing to support our school teams support students as we move to online learning, IPRCs will continue as previously scheduled, and IEPs will be updated to reflect the adaptations that need to be made for the online environment. We will continue to use the SDL-supporting distance learning to provide resources to teachers and SERTs to ensure the supports are in place for our students with special needs.

Jenn also showed a couple of the Special Education brochures that have been updated. We will gather feedback from this committee at the May meeting after everyone has a chance to review them. She explained some of the changes (specifically regarding equity and diversity). They will be professionally formatted

and printed after they are approved by SEAC. They will then be posted on the Board's website. The only one not ready is the one for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as they are awaiting the information on the sound system provider.

If any committee members have comments or questions, they are encouraged to share them with Brenda in advance of the May meeting.

Chantal thanked Jennifer and the whole spec ed team for all the work done in reviewing and updating these brochures.

**Association
Reports**

Lana Goodman – Firefly

- 3 Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) summer students joining FIREFLY for the summer (2 in Kenora and 1 in Dryden)
- Children and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) holding a seat at the Complex Mental Health Provincial Collaboration Table
- Youth Council formed and is meeting in Red Lake
- FIREFLY leading working group in Red Lake looking to develop a Youth Hub - always looking for volunteers/partners to sit on the working group.
- Talk Thursdays continue every Thursday.
- STOP NOW AND PLAN (SNAP) in person on hold with new restrictions.
- Youth Mindfulness Group open to ages 12-17 on Wednesdays from 5-6 on Zoom starts April 21 but can still register

Member Reports

- no reports
-

Correspondence

- none
-

Next Meeting:

May 19, 2021

Presentation: EA (Education Assistant) allocation process – Emily Kaldeway

Adjournment

Moved by Jennifer Kitowski that we do now adjourn.
6:14 p.m. CDT

CARRIED

Evie O'Flaherty, Chair