



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm CT

<https://meet.google.com/tcr-bxot-amu>

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

Call to Order at The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Welcome Evie O’Flaherty welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the 2020 – 2021 school year.

***Approval of the
Agenda*** Moved by: David Cornish
Seconded by: Kari Couch

THAT the agenda for the June 16th, 2021 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

***Approval of the
Minutes*** Moved by: David Cornish
Seconded by: Gerald Kleist

THAT the minutes of the meeting on April 21st, 2021 having been circulated, be approved as written.

CARRIED

NOTE: There was no quorum for the May meeting, but the meeting notes were made available to the members as information only.

Business Arising

Review of revised Special Education Brochures (for content only)

The members received copies of the draft brochures in the meeting package to review prior to the meeting. There were no changes suggested.

David Cornish– thanked everyone (on behalf of the trustees) who worked on the brochures – he found them user friendly and written in layman’s terms – a job well done!

New Business

**Schedule for SEAC Meetings 2021 – 2022
Held on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 5:30 pm CT
(unless it is during March break)**

September 15, 2021
October 20, 2021
November 17, 2021
December 15, 2021 (noon)
January 19, 2022
February 16, 2022
March 23, 2022
April 20, 2022
May 18, 2022
June 15, 2022

The committee was in favour of continuing with Wednesday meetings, but a suggestion was made that we might consider having some ‘lunch time’ meetings. This will be added to the agenda for discussion at the September meeting.

Presentation

- ***Jennifer Bachynski***

a) Year in Review -

- Changes from in person to virtual-in person-virtual
- SELs have been supporting school teams in updating IEPs and ensuring that accommodations are in place for both virtual and in school.
- Virtual school held meetings with the bricks and mortar school to ensure that the transition from virtual back to in building went smoothly.

SEA equipment - SE-019C-new form and agreement for student's taking SEA equipment home

- The school disinfects all equipment after use and recommendation is to leave the equipment for 72 hours prior to re-using
- Formed signed by parents/guardians
- Educational use only, and used safely, that the features stay unchanged
- Report any problems to the school team if broken/damages or no longer fits

Review IPRC virtual

- Most IPRCs were held virtually this year
- SELs met with school teams prior to ensure the correct documentation was prepared for the meetings, including invitations sent out 10 days prior
- During the meeting, the Report of IPRC is edited live by the SEL; parents/guardians/caretakers could visually see the changes being made if any. Lots of relevant discussion related to the updating of strengths and needs.
- Paperwork and signatures were the biggest barrier, some schools mailed them home others password protected them to ensure confidentiality
- Guardians and parents welcomed the online platform as they did not have to take the day off and could schedule the meeting around breaks and lunch, for parents who did not have access they called in.

Collaboration grew amongst schools

- Geographically when we moved to virtual, it seemed to allow for a more collaborative practice.
- Allowed SERTs to not only work with their team at school but also share best practices, ideas, and reflections of what is working well.

Question/Comments:

Kari Couch: Do you need to have a psychologist's review/assessment to get an IPRC?

Chantal Moore: The Ministry has very specific criteria for IPRCs – we can share these with anyone who is interested. Jennifer added that it must align with the Ministry definitions in order to be identified as an exceptional student.

David Cornish: a) With IEPs and IPRCs – re our feeder schools from FN, were we as successful keeping those up to date as we did with those within our communities?

b) Setting the stage for the fall, have the SERTS been able to keep pace as in past years with the transition programs and so on, for spec ed kids that will be coming in for our feeder communities?

Jennifer Bachynski: – Yes, it is all part of our transition plan

b) **Recommendations for Presentations:**

Jennifer Bachynski shared ideas from the Spec Ed team and asked for input from the SEAC members. The following is a list of suggestions from both the Spec Ed team and the SEAC members:

- 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 chair suggested that we survey the committee members, asking them to number the suggestions they are interested in from 1 – 9 to indicate their interest in the topics. Brenda Barradell will poll the members and the results will be discussed at the September meeting.

COVID-19 School Update

- **Chantal Moore**

There are no active advisories in our schools at this time.

The NWHU continues to offer youth covid vaccination clinics for students that are 12 years or older. The information is posted on our website.

We will have 3 student mental health counsellors available to our students throughout the summer. We are also offering transitions back to school for our students with special needs and for students for whom mental health reasons would benefit from transitioning back into the building a week before school starts (the week of August 23). Schools are planning what that could look like. For example: for some students it might just be going into the building and visiting their classroom and having a very short visit; for other students it might be coming a couple of times.

Questions/Comments:

The chair asked if we were planning to go back to fact-to-face learning in September.

Chantal Moore replied that is what we are planning for, but we must also provide an option for remote learning (for the first two quadmesters). Families have completed their surveys and there is not a large number of families opting for

virtual learning for the fall. Right now, it does look like we will have the quadmester system at the start of the year.

**Board Special
Education Update
- Jenn
Bachynski**

SEL Update – Jennifer Bachynski
SELs have been focusing on the transition meetings that are occurring right now. They are wrapping up assessments, reports, and working through preparing for transitioning to the special programs in Power School. The SEL team is getting quite a bit of training in order to train the SERTS when we move to the new system in the fall.

**Association
Reports**

- no reports this month

Member Reports

- no reports this month

Correspondence

- a) Letter from Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB -re FASD Bill - information only
 - Historically, our board was one of the first to champion FASD programs.
 - The Bill that was brought to ON Parliament has received a lot of ‘push back’ and may be done away with when Parliament resumes in September.
 - If we need to add our voice to this, we should be prepared to do so.
- b) Public Posting of the K-12 Education Standards Development Committee Initial Recommendations Report – Ministry
 - Chantal Moore spoke to this correspondence – She looked at the lengthy recommendations and as it speaks to transitions for our students, she feels this is really important. She asked that parents/members take a look at the survey and forward feedback directly to the Ministry (link is within the document).

Questions/Comments:

Evie O’Flaherty said if you wish to respond to the survey, you can say you’re a parent (if that is your role) or a trustee (if that is your role).

David Cornish asked if you have both roles, which would be preferred.

Evie O’Flaherty suggested that you choose both if that is an option, but if not, she feels that it’s important that SEAC voices are heard by the Ministry, because we are a Ministry mandated committee.

Jennifer Kitowski - When filling out a survey, you need to keep in mind who the audience is, and the answers you are providing. If your answers are being provided on your experiences as a parent, you identify as a parent. If your answers are based on your experience as a trustee and what is happening within the Board, then you identify accordingly.

Closing Comment:

The Chair thanked the committee members for all their work this year. She expressed her preference for Google meetings which seem to be very convenient. We will discuss this further at our September meeting.

Next Meeting:

September 15, 2021

Presentation: Review of the Special Education Plan

Adjournment

Moved by Gerald Kleist that we do now adjourn.

6:16 p.m. CDT

CARRIED

Evie O'Flaherty, Chair