



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held via Google Meet
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm CT
<https://meet.google.com/tcr-bxot-amu>

Present	Evie O’Flaherty Shirley Jette Olivia Karl	Heather Bird Emily Kaldeway Jennifer Kitowski (phone)	Chantal Moore Lana Goodman Gerald Kleist Brenda Barradell – Executive Assistant
Regrets	Michelle Sanderson Debbie Michaud	Kari Couch David Cornish	
Guest	Candice Kerkermeier, Mental Health Lead		

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

Welcome Evie O’Flaherty welcomed everyone to the meeting.
There was no quorum at the start of the meeting.
At 5:35 a quorum was reached when a member joined by phone.

Approval of the Agenda Moved by: Shirley Jette
Seconded by: Gerald Kleist

THAT the agenda for the January 20, 2021 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes Moved by: Gerald Kleist
Seconded by: Shirley Jette

THAT the minutes of the meeting on December 16, 2020 having been circulated, be approved as written.

CARRIED

Business Arising - Nothing

Presentations

- ***Candice Kerkermeier***

Mental Health Programs in our School Board

Members received the report / documents that Candice spoke about in her presentation, namely:

1. Mental Health Update
2. KPDSB Mentally Healthy Return to School Action Plan 2020 (this is also found on our school website)

Candice Kerkermeier gave an in-depth presentation of the Action Plan and answered all questions.

She also showed the new visual resources that have been purchased for the schools as well as some resources for students which will be distributed through the Student Trustees as a follow up to the surveys they have just completed with the secondary students.

Mental Health modules have also been printed and will soon be distributed to educators to help them in the classroom.

Soon students will be able to TEXT to be connected to service. This is being explored and Firefly is open to piloting this method for students who are more apt to text rather than phone.

Evie thanked Candice for her presentation.

COVID-19 School Update

- ***Chantal Moore***

Chantal gave a verbal update.

At the moment we don't have any active advisories. The last one was on Dec. 8. Administrators were prepared in case any calls came in over the holidays. After the holidays, teachers were instructed to do a refresher on protocols with all students. They were also reminded of the Mental Health programs we offer.

Evie – commented on the number of positive cases in Ontario with children when they in school compared to when they are not in school (lower when IN school).

Board Special Education Update – Emily Kaldeway

SEL UPDATE – given by Emily Kaldeway

The significant event for our Special Education students and school teams since the last meeting was the move to virtual learning for the first week back to school after the holiday break. Students worked hard with teachers ahead of time to be prepared to make the transition. Students whose needs could not be met through online learning attended school in person for that week. Students attended in person in several schools across the system. The feedback from parents, students and the school teams were consistently positive.

We are coming up to the quadmester change date for secondary and the last opportunity for transition between digital learning school and our bricks and mortar schools for elementary students. Families have already indicated their

intentions to the board and all school teams are working to ensure that the transition is smooth and supported.

Covid-19 has challenged our school communities to continue to refine how to support students and families most effectively. We are proud of the collaboration between schools and families to find ways to help students within some challenging parameters. We are doubly proud of our students for the way they continue to rise to challenges from mask-wearing to changes in routines.

Heather Bird commented that the first week after Christmas break was wonderful for her son who gets nothing out of virtual school. She was extremely pleased with the fact that the special ed students were able to physically attend school during that week. Her son came home happy every day! She hopes this will be an option if regular classes are forced to go virtual in the future.

Association Reports

Lana Goodman – Firefly

- FIREFLY continues to see clients for virtual and face-to-face sessions both at home and school. During the lock-down clinicians can continue to see all priority level client for face-to-face visits at school if virtual is not possible. Priority one and 2 clients can continue to be seen for face-to-face visits at the office and for home visits. Virtual is always first choice during COVID unless the client must be seen face-to-face. FIREFLY continues to monitor the COVID rates in our area and will adjust the guidelines for seeing clients if necessary.
- FIREFLY has been granted membership with Empowered Kids Ontario. The agency has applied to MCCSS to become a Children’s Treatment Centre. If granted, FIREFLY will apply for funding for specialty clinics (ex. Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Seating and Mobility, Pediatric Feeding/Swallowing, Pediatric Hearing,) to better support our clients.
- Youth engagement in Red Lake has found a Youth Leader, Vicki Healey. Youth will be working with Vikki (CYMH Lead) to get a youth advisory going in Red Lake – future expansion to other communities.
- Virtual walk-in mental health sessions have started. These are a single session and are on Thursdays – youth can request a session through FIREFLY Intake. If deemed appropriate, brief services can be booked afterwards or the client can choose to be put on the waitlist for regular counselling services. The virtual walk-in sessions can be pre-booked by contacting FIREFLY.
- As lead CYMH agency, FIREFLY has received 3rd round of COVID emergency funding. CYMH team looking to enhance virtual services and strengthen in person services with this money. Working with core service providers and partners to enhance services for Children, youth, and families in the region.
- Additional Position to enhance partnership with KPDSB – In-school counsellor for virtual school (virtual service provider) posting is up.
- Lots of Bell Let’s Talk initiatives and events: Thursday, January 28.

Olivia Karl - KACL

Mainly virtual at the moment but doing face to face for essential cases. They are in the process of setting up a virtual parent group which will hopefully start soon. The group has also been invited to do an inclusion training presentation to the Catholic Board at their PD day next Friday.

Member Reports - Nothing

Correspondence - Nothing

Other Business

Below is the schedule of presentations for the 2020-2021:

- **January** – Mental Health Update
- **February** - IPRC (Identification, Placement, and Review Committee) process (initial and those following)
- **March** - IEP (Individual Education Plan) modified and accommodated.
- **April** - Transitions (transitions between grades, classes, elementary to secondary and beyond)
- **May** - EA (Education Assistant) allocation process
- **June** - Year in review, recommendations for presentations for 21/22 school year

Next Meeting: February 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm CST

Adjournment Moved by Gerald Kleist that we do now adjourn.

6:13 p.m. CDT

CARRIED

Evie O'Flaherty, Chair