



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm CT

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

### ***Present***

Evie O'Flaherty	Heather Bird	Chantal Moore
Shirley Jette	Kari Couch	Lana Goodman
Olivia Karl	David Cornish	Gerald Kleist
Michelle Sanderson	Jennifer Bachynski	Brenda Barradell – Executive Assistant

### ***Regrets***

Emily Kaldeway	Jennifer Kitowski
Debbie Michaud	

### ***Guest***

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### ***Call to Order at***

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

### ***Welcome***

Evie O'Flaherty welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### ***Approval of the Agenda***

Moved by: Lana Goodman  
Seconded by: Shirley Jette

THAT the agenda for the February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

### ***Approval of the Minutes***

Moved by: Gerald Kleist  
Seconded by: Shirley Jette

THAT the minutes of the meeting on January 20, 2021 having been circulated, be approved as written.

**CARRIED**

### ***Business Arising***

- Nothing

**Information**

1. Chantal Moore welcomed Jennifer Gray to the position of Special Education Administrator. She outlined some highlights of Jenn’s career in special education. We are fortunate to have Jenn working in this role as she is very passionate about working with students with special needs and brings a wealth of expertise to this position.
2. Our Sr. Admin team wants to ensure that everyone knows that our SEAC meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates are posted on the KPDSB website. If members of the public wish to join the meetings, instructions on the website will direct them to contact Brenda Barradell who will share information on how to join the meetings.

**Presentations**

- **Jennifer Bachynski**

IPRC (Identification, Placement, and Review Committee) process  
Jenn gave a brief background on her experience in special education. She gave a very detailed presentation on the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee process which is a legal meeting that takes place *annually* at the student’s home school. The purpose is to decide whether or not the child should be identified as exceptional and to decide an appropriate placement for the child. A copy of her presentation is included at the end of the minutes.

All questions were answered.  
Evie and Chantal thanked Jenn for her presentation on this important process.

**COVID-19 School Update**

- **Chantal Moore**

Chantal noted that KPDSB currently has 1 active advisory at DHS (with no exposure). She reminded the members that the updates are always posted on the Board website.

We did have a positive case on Jan. 28 at King George and one on Jan. 24 at DHS (this one resulted in 2 classes being closed, but on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> the NWHU opened the classes).

According to Ministry guidelines, some new layers of protection have been added: daily proof of passing the COVID self-assessment is required for all staff and secondary students.

March break has been changed from March 15-19 to ‘Spring Break’ from April 12-16. This decision was made in consultation with the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Officials, to reduce community transmission.

**Board Special Education Update**

- **Jennifer Bachynski**

SEL UPDATE – given by Jennifer Bachynski

We've continued to provide services to schools, students, and families. Most of this is being done virtually through our Special Education Leaders, Speech Language

Pathologists, and ABA Specialists, with the exception of our teacher diagnosticians who have continued to provide assessments in schools. Our focus has been on providing PD to school teams, EAs, SERTs, and teachers, doing observations, assessments, and completing IPRCs and supporting the development of IEPs for Term 2, as well as brainstorming the best ways to support students who are attending virtually to ensure their needs are met. We are in the process of building a **data wall** for Special Education so have a snapshot of our services and supports in our schools.

Questions:

Gerald asked how often the IEPs are reviewed.

Jenn noted that it is a collaborative effort, but they legally have to go out to the parents 30 days after the school year starts or after the student registers (if they are new students). However, they are constantly reviewed and changed if necessary (in consultation with the family).

David asked about the hurdles with 'Quadmesters' at the secondary level. How is the time being adjusted? Jenn noted that SERTS at the secondary level are finding that a bit difficult, but the teams are great, and they ensure the communication with parents/teachers and paperwork is being done. There is definite pressure with the legal time limits, but all expectations are being met. Feedback from the special needs students shows they are enjoying the 2 course Quadmester method.

Jenn confirmed that it is still legally 30 school days for these reports to be completed, so it is a quick turn over for sure.

**Association Reports**

Lana Goodman – Firefly

- Status quo from last time

Olivia Karl - KACL

We are still continuing to offer virtual supports as much as possible but will provide in-person supports on a case-by-case basis. Our team still continues to work from home as much as possible at this time, and we're hoping our virtual parent group will be able to start soon.

**Member Reports**

- nothing

**Correspondence**

Letter from KACL re member (Olivia Karl) and alternate (Aimee Foucher) – this goes to the Board with a motion for approval.

**Other Business**

- nothing

**Next Meeting:**

March 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm CT

**Presentation for March:** Individual Education Plan (IEP) modified and accommodated.

The April meeting will be April 21, 2021.

***Adjournment***

Moved by Lana Goodman that we do now adjourn.

6:00 p.m. CDT

**CARRIED**

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Evie O'Flaherty, Chair