



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held via Teleconference on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 5:30 pm

Present	Gerald Kleist	Debbie Michaud	Joan Kantola
	Evie O’Flaherty	Kari Couch	Emily Kaldeway
	Shirley Jette	Michelle Sanderson	
	Heather Bird	Shannon Jeffers	
Regrets		Brenda Barradell – recording secretary	
	Eric Bortlis	Darrin Head	Pearl Alver
	Lana Goodman	Jen Bachynski	Terri Forster
	Nerina Facca		

Call to Order at The meeting was called to order at 5:31 CDT

Welcome Evie O’Flaherty welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Joan Kantola introduced Brenda Barradell as the new Executive Assistant at the Kenora Education centre. She will be the recording secretary for SEAC.

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

THAT the agenda for the June 17, 2020 meeting be approved.
CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes Moved by: Shannon Jeffers
Seconded by: Shirley Jette

THAT the minutes of the meeting on May 20, 2020 having been circulated, be confirmed.
CARRIED

Business Arising none

Presentations
- **Joan Kantola**
Joan Kantola gave a brief but detailed presentation about the Special Education Summer Learning Program called “Bridging the Gap” which is available thanks to the release of Ministry funding and will run during the last two weeks of July and the first week of August.

The KPDSB's Summer Learning Program funding will be based on 3 pillars or components this year:

1. School-Based Regulated Mental Health Clinicians;
2. Additional Special Ed. Staffing Supports for Expanded and/or New Summer Learning; and
3. Summer Transition Program for Students with High Special Ed Needs and/or Mental Health Concerns.

The special education team wasn't expecting to have 3 pots of funding but they reflected on what they were hearing from Principals and SERTs around the needs at the school and worked hard to design and plan an exceptional summer learning program.

We are not registering the students for the summer learning ... it will be a menu of options over the weeks - those who choose to participate will, with some sort of commitment from parents that their child will be there. Kids will come in and out depending on the learning options for the week. It will not be limited to students with IEPs. If parents want their children to participate, we will not turn anyone away.

The summer learning program will be 3 hours per day for the 3 weeks which will include time for communication with parents and outreach to students, instruction and pre time at the end of each day. The transition planning would be 5 hours per week i.e. 1 hour per day. This would have special education resource persons available to help support students with on-site orientation.

We have 2 regulated mental health professionals within our compliment of 'in schoolboard' student counsellors who have agreed to work during the summer to be accessible and on call for any needs that arise – they will also support the transition planning that occurs 2 weeks prior to the start of the school year. We will be hiring 3 teachers (one at each level: primary, junior and intermediate) as well as EAs that would provide support for the teachers and students. The number of EAs hired will depend on the number of students that express interest in attending the program. The area of focus will include social skills, oral language and literacy.

We are also planning on hiring a principal or vice principal with spec ed background (preferably secondary) to oversee the whole program – they could also support the Reach Ahead learning and credit recovery courses that secondary is offering.

There may also be an opportunity for us to purchase space with the virtual offerings for ASD spectrum students through a program at the George Jeffrey Children's Centre in Thunder Bay. This is dependent on whether there are any spaces available.

Once the communication posters / flyers and other information is ready, Brenda will share this with our partners /stakeholders it can be distributed to the communities/families that we work with collaboratively. We want to try to get as much exposure as possible. Principals will also get the information and it will be posted on social media by our communications department.

We will be having informal registration for the virtual sessions so we can plan accordingly.

We want to promote this summer learning program so we are prepared to support any children who may need extra help – they don't have to have an IEP or an exceptionality to be eligible to attend. We are focused on inclusion so no one will be turned away.

It's important to note that the transition process is not intended to take anything away from the schools. We are here to help the schools. Our expectation is that schools will reach out to Firefly etc. to ensure that the children receive the appropriate supports that are needed.

Joan gave a shout out to the Special Education team for doing an amazing job of organizing this summer program and noted that we are grateful that the Ministry is funding it. We wish we could do a face to face summer program but that isn't possible at this time due to MOH restrictions.

**Association
Reports**

Lana Goodman: FIREFLY updates – (written submission)

- Face to face visits starting June 22 starting with the highest priority children - those in physical pain, immediate health/safety concern, pre/post-surgery, suicidal ideations, at risk for family breakdown. Will phase in priority 2 and then 3 clients over time and according to COVID restrictions
- Continued virtual services when possible
- Clients can access School Based Rehab Services (SBRS) for Speech and Language therapy, Occupational therapy and Physiotherapy services over summer. Referrals from SERTs are still being accepted.
- Autism:
 - FIREFLY submitted a proposal to CCR to be a provider for foundational support sessions to families for Phase 3 from July 6-September 4. These would be virtual workshops followed by a 1:1 consultation session with families offered by OT, SLP and ABA therapists.
 - FIREFLY aided in recruiting 5 professionals and 5 caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from across the region to participate in the Northern Collaborative Advisory Committee which will work to identify areas of need for further education to better support clients and families with ASDE across the region.

Shannon Jeffers: KACL SEAC update- June 17, 2020

Continuing to provide supports virtually but working towards plan of face to face meetings with new referrals and level 3 families.

Planning to resume Direct Supports with some children to work on goals and provide some respite to families that are struggling. Hopefully will be able to offer this in the next few weeks.

Continuing to offer weekly Parent Support Group and Youth Employment group for teens 16-18.

Consultants have been busy this past month with Transition to School meetings as well as transition meetings for students entering Grade 7. We have many families already feeling worried about next school year and what the plan for the return to school will be for their child after such a long absence. If there is anything we can do in partnership with the school to help prepare children and families for transition back let us know.

Member Reports

none

Correspondence

none

Other Business

A draft schedule for the 2020 – 2021 SEAC Meetings was presented for discussion. No one in attendance had any conflicts, so the meetings will be on the following dates:

- September 16, 2020
- October 14, 2020
- November 18, 2020
- December 16, 2020
- January 13, 2021
- February 17, 2021
- March 24, 2021
- April 14, 2021
- May 19, 2021
- June 16, 2021

Calendar invitations will be sent.

We are hopeful that we can try Google or Zoom Meetings rather than teleconferences for 2020 – 2021. More information will be forthcoming.

Before the September meeting, committee members will be asked to provide an update of contact information (email/phone numbers etc.) Brenda will contact you for this information

Evie thanked the committee for their support over the past school year. Everyone’s participation was greatly appreciated.

Next Meeting:

September 16, 2020 – platform to be determined

Adjournment

6:08 p.m. CDT