



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm CT

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

Present

Evie O'Flaherty
Shirley Jette
Olivia Karl
Debbie Michaud

Kari Couch
David Cornish
Emily Kaldeway

Chantal Moore
Lana Goodman
Gerald Kleist
Brenda Barradell –
Executive Assistant

Regrets

Jennifer Kitowski
Michelle Sanderson

Heather Bird

Guest

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: David Cornish
Seconded by: Shirley Jette

THAT the agenda for the March 24th, 2021 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Gerald Kleist
Seconded by: Shirley Jette

THAT the minutes of the meeting on February 17th, 2021 having been circulated, be approved as written.

CARRIED

Business Arising

- Nothing

Information

- a) All Board committees were requested to provide ideas for honouring our grade 12 graduates in June, as large, face-to-face gatherings will not be possible.

Evie recounted some things that were done last year:

- Signs on lawns saying “a graduate from XX school lives here” (with some including the students’ names on the signs)
- Reverse parade along the harbourfront – students all lined up (socially distanced) with signs and cars acknowledging them by honking as they drove by.

David noted that all these things could be done in all of our communities.

Evie asked the members to send their ideas to Brenda and she will forward them to Chantal.

- b) The May meeting will be virtual as face-to-face meetings will not be possible. Traditionally this meeting is held in Vermillion Bay but due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions, it will be a virtual meeting this year.

Chantal informed the committee that Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education has asked all SOs to review Committee legislation, so we are in the process of doing this – [Regulation 464/97](#).

Jennifer Gray and her team have been reviewing and revising the Special Education brochures, including the SEAC brochure. This was started at the beginning of February and will soon be complete. Once they have finished, they will be shared with SEAC for input and feedback. These will be distributed prior to the April SEAC meeting and input will be welcomed at the April 21st meeting.

Presentations

- **Emily Kaldeway**

Individual Education Plan (IEP) modified and accommodated.

Emily presented a very clear, concise and focused account of the Individual Education Plan – both modified and accommodated. She gave excellent examples and demonstrations that helped the committee understand what an IEP is as well as how, when and why it is needed for some students.

A copy of her PowerPoint presentation will be sent with the minutes for future reference.

COVID-19 School Update

- **Chantal Moore**

Chantal gave an overview of the positive COVID-19 cases that KPDSB has experienced since our February 17th meeting. All advisories are posted on the KPDSB website.

Chantal noted that with all our precautions and protocols in place in our schools, the pandemic is being contained and any cases we do have are handled very quickly. Very soon, there will be access to asymptomatic testing, following the direction of the Ministry. The testing will be done by a company contracted by the

government. This voluntary testing will be available for students, families and staff at different locations within the district in the near future.

Kari noted that when classes were closed for her child, the virtual teaching took over immediately – her child was on line at 9:00 a.m. the day following the closure of the classroom. Chantal thanked her for sharing this information – it is a testament to the efforts of the teaching staff at KPDSB.

**Board Special
Education Update
- Emily
Kaldeway**

SEL Update – Emily Kaldeway

The focus for the last month has been on completing EA allocation charts and conversations with school teams surrounding this process, as well as continuing with IPRCs. We are also in the process of wrapping up SEA claims for the year and getting these to finance for processing. We've continued with providing PD virtually - modified IEP sessions with SERTs and classroom teachers and providing NTIP teachers with PD on phonological awareness. Our Speech-Language Pathologists and Speech-Language Assistants have focused on virtual interventions and assessments and training new Speech-Language Assistants in the Board. Our ABA Leaders have focused on a partnership with George Jeffries to offer social skills programming for our students with ASD, which is starting next week.

**Association
Reports**

Lana Goodman – Firefly

New Virtual Counsellor at FIREFLY has been hired- Jessica McDonald

- Talk Thursday Virtual Single Session Walk Ins continue every Thursday – call Centralized intake to book (day of, or can pre-book).
- SNAP – SNAP is still running in Kenora with a new group starting at the end of March. Dryden will be starting their FIRST SNAP group at the end of March as well.
- CYMH team working on the implementation of iCarol software to be able to provide counselling services over text.
- Dryden FIREFLY SLP resignation – SLP services will be very limited in Dryden until we are able to recruit
- We just landed a Psych Intern who will begin at FIREFLY in Sept. She will work 3 days per week and will focus on ASD, FASD and Mental Health assessment. However, we may also be able to look at contracting out for Psych Ed assessment as well.
- SPARK classroom referrals being received for 2021-2022
- Respite Project - Application submitted in collaboration with Thrive, GJCC, One Kids Place and CCR to service the North for Caregiver-Mediated Early Years Program through MCCSS
- PEERS (**Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills**):
 - FIREFLY is trialing a program called PEERS, which is a program designed to help adolescents make and keep friends through working on social skills. The program teaches “ecologically valid” social skills

(skills that work in real-life situations) and is appropriate for adolescents that are socially motivated.

- It is very important that the youth is motivated to participate in the program (I.e., they want to develop/work on social skills). If this has not been identified by the youth as a goal, this may not be the best program for them.
- This program is a pilot FIREFLY is running from March-June, and there is no waitlist for future participation at this time. Participants will be chosen based on a variety of criteria (group composition, highest need, etc.). Being referred to PEERS gives you the opportunity to be chosen for the pilot but does not guarantee participation in the PEERS program.
- Some areas of learning include: conversation skills, electronic communication, choosing appropriate friends, using appropriate humour, entering, and exiting conversations, handling conflict and peer rejection, hosting or being a guest at get-togethers.
- Duration is 16 weeks starting mid-March (after March Break) and will take place in the evening (between 6 and 7:30pm). It is expected that both the caregiver and youth will participate in all sessions. The same caregiver must participate every week.
- This program is being offered through telepractice only at this time. Both the caregiver and the youth will require a device to join the session separately (2 devices per household).

Evie asked if the vacancy would be filled? Lana replied that all efforts are being made to replace the person leaving.

Member Reports

David Cornish shared news from last night's Bd. Meeting: Chantal Moore is now a permanent Superintendent of Education (she was previously 'interim' superintendent). Chantal was congratulated by the committee members.

Chantal expressed her gratitude and shared her passion for working with the Special Education Advisory Committee and advocating for our special needs students.

Correspondence

Evie shared the letter from Prince Edward-Hastings County which expresses their concern regarding the prioritization of vaccinations during Phase II in support of students with special education needs, and their staff. Members received a copy of this letter in their package, so they were able to review it prior to the meeting.

David asked if we were being asked to support the school board?

Evie replied that she didn't get that impression from the letter. She felt it was for information only. If we do wanted to support this through a letter, we would have to clear it through the Board's Senior Administration team. The committee agreed with the need expressed in the letter and accepted it as information only.

Other Business - Nothing

Next Meeting: April 21, 2021.

Presentation for April: Transitions (transitions between grades, classes, elementary to secondary and beyond)

Adjournment Moved by David Cornish that we do now adjourn.

6:10 p.m. CDT

CARRIED

Evie O'Flaherty, Chair