



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The virtual meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held via Teleconference on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Welcome Evie O’Flaherty welcomed everyone to the meeting. Welcome to Olivia Karle as the alternate representative for Kenora Association for Community Living.” Shannon Jeffers was thanked for her years of service on this committee.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair Vice Chair – Shirley Jette was asked if she would like to continue as Vice Chair. She declined. Gerald Kleist volunteered to be Vice Chair for 2020 – 2021.

Chair - Evie O’Flaherty (nominated by Joan Kantola) accepted the position of Chair for 2020 – 2021.

Approval of the Agenda Moved by: Shirley Jette
Seconded by: Debbie Michaud

THAT the agenda for the Sept. 16, 2020 meeting be approved.
CARRIED

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

THAT the minutes of the meeting on June 17, 2020 having been circulated, be confirmed.
CARRIED

Business Arising

Revision of Meeting Dates for 2020 – 2021
Schedule for SEAC Meetings 2020 – 2021
(Updated dates in bold print)

September 16, 2020
October 21, 2020
November 18, 2020
December 16, 2020
January 20, 2021
February 17, 2021
March 24, 2021
April 28, 2021
May 19, 2021
June 16, 2021

(Revised August 31, 2020)

Moved by: Darrin Head
Seconded by: Lana Goodman

That the Meeting Dates for 2020 – 2021 be approved as revised.
CARRIED

Presentations
- **Joan**
Kantola

Process for students and staff returning to school this fall -
Joan noted that this isn't ideal to meet by teleconference but since this is a regulated meeting, we must follow the direction of the Ministry. When we are allowed to go back to video conferencing, we will follow the Board's method at individual schools – as in the past.

Update: Joan reviewed summer programs:

- Supports for July and August with inhouse student counsellors who were available for virtual services for anyone who wanted support
- Summer Special Education Program (3 weeks) – Jenn McMaster was the principal leader to organize the supports/programs. There were between 20 -25 students per day. Three resource teachers provided program support. Excellent feedback from parents.

- Transition before school started to provide some virtual and actual physical transition for higher needs students who were anxious about returning. This was delivered on an 'as needed/requested' basis – two weeks prior to start-up.

This year we have 2 methods of instruction:

1. Face to face enrolment (aka Bricks & Mortar)
2. Virtual classes

Full face to face enrolment (bricks & mortar) is organized classes - moving forward with all service supports. All the necessary communication has occurred, including a public town hall virtual meeting to share info with the community and an open session with all staff, to discuss all focus areas. At this meeting, all school administrators were given the information they needed to start the year. Special thanks to our Director, the Senior Team, and the Communication Officer for their hard work and organizing all the information sessions. These helped to alleviate the anxiety within the community. We have developed very rigid protocols based on direction from both the provincial and local Health Units. Administrators have been phenomenal in following the protocols in both face to face and virtual schools. *Virtual school* started on Sept. 14 and is based on information and guidelines that we received from the Ministry which required lots of planning. We have just under 900 registered in our virtual school which has two principals: Jenn McMaster and Jason MacDonald.

We are asking our community members to be mindful to the thought and organization that goes into this new type of school ... and to be patient as we work through this. We received lots of direction from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and we continue to seek guidance as we go but we are happy with the progress that we have made. We are fortunate in our region that we have no COVID-19 cases at the moment, but we must continue to be vigilant. When we are building our virtual school, we need to organize our school so that in the event that we have to move all kids to virtual school again, we will be ready! Our central team is in regular communication with community partners, particularly Firefly. We want to extend thanks to all partners who have been very patient. We need to respect the internal protocols of all partners so that we align. Constant communication is so important. The committee was reminded to check the KPDSB website for the latest information.

L. Goodman answered questions on behalf of Firefly.

J. Kantola assured the group that we have in school counsellors who will continue to deliver service face to face or virtually if required by students. However, she noted that only essential travel is happening now, so they are working within the schools and virtually to outlying areas until the Board is comfortable with travel.

Ali Gow informed the group that the speech language assistant would be delivering programming for the Speech Language Pathologist, at her direction. e.g. in Red Lake

- **Terri Forster**

Update on the Board Special Education Plan, which needs approval from SEAC

Terri Forster gave a very in-depth report of all the changes to the Special Education Plan for this year. The changes are noted below:

Summary of Changes Made To Special Education Plan 2020-2021

1. Title Page: Updated Vision Statement to 'The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board puts students first by creating a culture of learning.'

Section 2 General Model For Education

2. Pg. 5: Updated Mission Statement to 'The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board accepts all students and is committed to providing an excellent education that prepares each student to be a successful individual and a responsible member of society.'
3. Pg. 5: Updated Vision Statement to 'The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board puts students first by creating a culture of learning.'

Section 5 The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPCR) Process and Appeals

4. Pg. 48: Updated to reflect last year's IPRC numbers
5. Pg. 50: Updated link to Parent's Guide to Special Education (this will be done after approval from Board)
6. Pg. 58: Updated Principal/Vice-Principal/Administrative Assistants List to reflect this year's staffing

Section 6 Individual Assessments

7. Pg. 60: Updated Consent to Release Confidential Information (SE-013A) Form

Section 12 Provincial and Demonstration Schools

8. Pg. 108: Updated to reflect the number of students attending Provincial Demonstration Schools

Section 13 Special Education Staff

9. Pgs. 109-111: Updated to reflect this year's staffing

Section 14 Staff Development

10. Pgs. 112-114: Changed dates to this school year

Section 16 Accessibility of School Buildings

11. Pg. 118: Removed 'Sioux Lookout Access Centre' and added 'QEDHS' as Adult Ed has moved to QEDHS - Updated Total Sq Footage accordingly.

Section 18 Special Education Advisory Committee

12. Pg. 120: Changed 'Native Trustee' to 'Indigenous Trustee'
13. Pgs. 121-122: Updated information to reflect this year's SEAC

Section 20 Submission Requirements

14. Pg. 125: Updated date of October 2020 Board Meeting

It is a requirement that every board has a special education plan which must be updated annually in all areas.

Discussion

Topics for Presentation for 2020 – 2021

- Suggestions from members

Suggestions:

(Joan) – Sherri-Lynne Pharand to join October meeting – to provide update
(Joan) -Richard Findlay to do a financial update on supports and services
(Joan) – Children's Mental Health Leader – services in our Board
(Evie) – standing presentation from staff member re update on COVID and how our schools are doing. (COVID 19 School Update)

Evie and Joan to discuss other presentations for the year.

Members were asked to send any other suggestions via email to Evie.

Association Reports

**- Olivia Karle,
Kenora
Association
for
Community
Living**

Olivia Karle, KACL presented the following report:

We have had a change in our service delivery in the past month. We are now providing outdoor home visits to families that feel comfortable. We have also just put together a protocol to allow families to attend visits at our office if they do not feel comfortable with outdoor home visits. We are looking to put together a protocol for indoor home visits now that the weather is becoming cooler and less predictable as well, which we will hopefully be implementing in the next few weeks.

We have been supporting families with transition back to school, whether families have opted for in-class or remote learning. We are available for case conferences and other school supports, where needed.

We have seen an increase in referrals from parents who are having difficulty coping with their child's behaviour as a result of the pandemic. To support families during this time, we are accepting these referrals for children under the age of six. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept referrals for children

over the age of six without a diagnosis. We have had 4 families from Kenora and 2 from Fort Frances.

Questions: Please send a summary of in-home support services so we could send out to principals. Olivia said they will be having a Team meeting ~~is~~ on Tuesday and after that, she will send something.

- **Shirley Jette,**
Harmony
Centre for
Community
Living

- We work with older adults and are in the process of implementing policies and procedures to enable our individuals return (because of COVID). The older adults have a return to day programs and employment programs.
- We had to deal with the evacuation which was problematic.
- Our residential units are like long term care, so we are implementing guidelines that the government directs.

- **Lana**
Goodman,
Firefly

- Priority rating scales – We have prioritized our clients according to Priority 1, 2, and 3. We are allowing staff to stay face to face for Priority 1 and 2. And those are the children who have potentially listening and transferring, and toileting needs, have regressed / are in pain – follow-up is needed. We haven't approved Priority 3 yet, which are the bulk of our clients. We are bound by individual colleges in Ontario who are requesting that we do as much virtually as possible, when possible – it's a fine line and we want to keep everybody safe, while providing the best service possible.
- We are hoping to return to face to face visits soon, but at the moment, we are encouraging virtual services as much as possible.
- We are working closely with KP and schools to follow all policies/ procedures and trying to mesh them. Ursula (Director of Service Excellence and Partnership) has resigned, effective Sept. 30 so Firefly will be hiring for her position as well as for a Director for Children and Youth Mental Health.
- Working on Childcare Resources – the autism piece with funding that is flowed to Firefly. We developed presentations by different staff based on the survey that was put out to see what parents were looking for. They were well attended (not necessarily by our region as it was open province wide). We are continuing to build the autism services. Our clinicians will be touching base with schools to see what is needed in terms of parent or teacher presentations.

Shirley noted that they have received 3 virtual services by Firefly and they were amazing!!!

Member Reports

none

Correspondence

none

Other Business Heads up – need all contact information needed – please let Brenda know.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2020 @ 5:30 To be informed re method of meeting i.e. VMR or Teleconference

Adjournment 6: 22 p.m. CDT