

SEAC Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2020



KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held via Teleconference on April 15, 2020.

Present

Evie O'Flaherty	Lana Goodman	Debbie Michaud
Joan Kantola	Sheelagh Reid	Gerald Kleist
Candice Kerkermier	Kari Couch	Michelle Sanderson
Gayle Mutrie	Nerria Facca	Darrin Head
Lisa Lira (Recording Secretary)		

Regrets

**Guests
Absent**

Call to Order at

Evie O'Flaherty called SEAC meeting to order at 5:53 p.m.

Welcome

Evie O'Flaherty welcomed everyone.

**Approval of the
Agenda**

THAT the agenda of the meeting on April 15, 2020 be approved.

Moved By: Gerald Kleist
Seconded By: Kari Couch

CARRIED

**Approval of the
Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the meeting on February 19, 2020 were reviewed and approved as amended. Transition question was documented, answer was not. Answer was yes.

Moved By: Kari Couch
Seconded By: Lana Goodman

CARRIED

Business Arising

Report Darrin wanted done from the February minutes will go on the May agenda as the March meeting was cancelled and the April meeting was centered around COVID-19.

Presentation

Joan Kantola did an overview of the virtual portal being used by staff and students. She stated there was a need to see if everyone was on the same page. Joan offered a high-level summary providing distance learning to students in regard to special needs and the work that has been done to date.

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- 3 staff members > virtual platform for supporting students. System Operation Committee includes: Senior Admin, HR, DOE and two Principals (one Elementary Principal and one Secondary Principal). This Committee has been meeting every day at 9am since March 21. The virtual portal started on April 6, 2020. The distance learning portal is interactive and includes lesson plans, videos, and resources that are relevant for each teacher/class for every area of education: Spec Ed, Physical Activity, Native Language, French, Tech Support etc. They went over what kind of virtual tools were needed to connect with parents and students. Its an all staff resource. Gayle Mutrie and Natasha Menard-Mousseau and the Spec Ed team leads
- John Carlucci > is handling paper copies. He reproduces resources and mails them to all families who do not have access to internet etc.
- Distributed SEAC equipment
- Distributed chrome books to families who don't have a device
- Survey will go out regarding any gaps in this process

Gayle Mutrie presented the role of the Special Education Team in learning from home. Team supports educators in responding to individual student learning needs. Many of their duties remain the same but all members need to become familiar with the learning platforms that will be used to deliver programming.

Special Education Resource Teachers

- Team still working closely to support students
- Roles are basically the same. Not doing any assessments right now
- Updating the portal with resources and supports
- Can have phone or video conference
- Virtual meetings
- Natasha and Gayle will supply the information from the survey that is to go out.

SERTS and EA's needed for training. A lot of training for teachers at least 2 sessions a day to help support students in an online manner. SERTS participating in forum by Google Meet or Zoom. Alternative intervention planning, developing information that can be shared and put on the platform, going over lesson plans. Lots of work going on for teachers to support students.

Each school is able to schedule EA and SERT support in the way that they feel best meets their student needs and as a result schools are at different places with this. In addition, schools and educators are at different places in their comfort and understanding of technology. Natasha Menard-Mousseau (Rapid Response Northern Support Team) and Gayle Mutrie are the Special Education Learning team leads and we have developed a plan for learning opportunities, along with two SERT team leads and two EA team leads, for the SERT's and EA's. This plan is based on information gathered by surveying the groups and then developing learning opportunities for them. Last week was focused on determining how they were going to teach and many needed training. Once they decided, the EA's were given a schedule and talked with teachers about the platform they would use and then we developed training to meet their needs.

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Is there a plan to support families? Parents are not teachers, especially if this child has a leaning issue.

Gayle responded: There are plans in place and resources the family (parent) can access.

2 levels of resources – still developing what resources all families are needing. Will be more individualized depending on what each family needs. Support staff are contacting families they would deal with daily.

Candice Kerkermeier presented on Student Counsellor Outreach during Covid-19 Protocol

1)

- Divided into three phases, we are currently already into phase two
- Phase One: was from the week after March Break up to April 6th; phase one consisted of the student counsellors attempting outreach to students and families on their current, existing case load either by phone or through email. At that point in time we put a hold on new referrals, simple to allow the team to make contact with those students they were currently supporting, to allow for normal processing period and to also ensure that we didn't completely overload our student counsellors with referrals
- Phase two; started April 7th and allowed for new referrals to flow through the school Principals. We have asked the school principals to use the Tiered system for supporting student's mental health and to consider TIER 2 students for possible referrals to our student counsellors. New referrals at this point in time have been slow
- Phase 3 was created in consideration of an extended school closure until June, with an additional focus on mental health promotion and possible online MH symposium for youth
- The protocol has been shared with key community partners, including KCA, FIREFLY, NODIN and MHANs given the close relationship we have with these community partners and shared responsibility for supporting student mental health

2) Outreach to Students and Families:

- Have been using Google Survey to track all outreach to students and families
- 275 responses/outreaches made to students and families since March 25th
- Tracking outreach, new referrals, how service was provided to and what the service looked like, data in this format is recorded anonymously and in addition to the identifying case notes the student counsellors have

3) Board Website

- COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Section
- Promoting new Jack.org/ SMHO and Kids Help Phone Resource Hub
- Collaboration with Sheena Valley on the Community Outreach page COVID-19

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- 4) Student Counsellors are participating in and sharing ideas and resources for providing counselling services online. The group participated in an online learning session this morning by Liana Lowenstein, where a number of really unique ideas were presented for interacting with students and caregivers online in a counselling format (i.e. I / CAN / BE / CALM)
- 5) Instagram KPDSB schools mental health site – site has been created and currently pending approval from senior admin so students and staff can be added to the account. Student counsellors and I will share the responsibility of posting daily items to the account. Specifically geared for students but staff are also able to follow
- 6) Staff Mental Health
 - Folder in all staff working and learning from home
 - Number of resources for staff mental health /Managing Emotional Well-Being During COVID-19/SMHO resources
 - EFAP Morneau
 - Outreach by other agencies with resources (i.e. LifeSpeaks/ CAMH/ CMHA/SMHO)
 - Daily memos to staff and weekly memos to families contained resources and supports for mental health and well-being

Stage 1 – student counsellor reaching out

Stage 2 – April 6th - new referrals flow in to principals regarding Mental Health - if they needed to have contact with teachers.

- No new referrals
- Mental Health promotions if school closures extended
- Replicate a model – google survey anonymously
- How students are doing and how they are coping
- Offering counselling
- Website - there are Mental Health resources on there

Evie question: What supports are in place for staff?

Candice responded: Learning/working from home drive. Mental health resources in there – webinars

Joan added: Operations committee daily staff memo's with loads of resources. Weekly updates to parents with mental health supports as well. Will do everything they can to support staff. Focus is that Spec Ed supports students and families.

**Association
Reports**

Sheelagh Reid of KACL – will update the following:

1. Children's Services has made changes to our service delivery model in response to COVID-19. We will continue to be available to families to provide the support we can through phone and or video conversations, depending on their preference.
2. Parent Zoom Group – a weekly parent group hosted by the consultants
3. Youth Employment Group – Meets weekly over TEAMS to explore employment interests and skill development

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Lana Goodman of FIREFLY – updates include:

FIREFLY has moved forward with providing service through telepractice in both our CYDS (OT/PT/SLP) and Child and Youth Mental Health programs. At this time, we are using the OTN, Zoom (paid version that meets the PHIPA guidelines and SeeSaw platforms. Many families have been receptive to receiving service through telepractice. This includes School Based Rehab Services (SBRS – previously CCAC) even though it is intended to be a service received at school.

FIREFLY continues to accept new referrals through the same pathways as always.

Clients who have SEA equipment have received this equipment at home if the school board approved. FIREFLY clinicians will work with those families on how to utilize their equipment specific to OT/SLP/PT needs.

FIREFLY clinicians have been making video clips of rehab strategies to add to our FIREFLY Facebook page, Instagram and YouTube sites.

PD sessions – our clinicians have been trying to organize professional development for teachers for the upcoming PD day. I will hopefully know more about before the SEAC meeting.

As with the rest of Ontario, FIREFLY will encourage social isolation as much as possible. Almost all staff are working from home.

Member Reports

None

Correspondence

None

Other Business

Evie thanked the SEAC members for the flowers and support.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 via teleconference at 5:30PM

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.