

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

December 20, 2023

PRESENT: Committee Members: M. Guentte, D. Lacombe, N. Tabbert, A.Mackenzie, S. Tait
Administration: J. Smith, A. McGregor, C. Brash, S. Smith, L. Rigby, M. Wagner, J. Francis, S. Ward, A. Hilts
Guests:
ABSENT: (With Regrets) A. Derochers

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. MacKenzie called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF 20 December 2023

MOVED BY D. Lacombe, seconded by M. Guenette, that the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda for today's meeting.

The motion was CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 15 November 2023

MOVED BY M. Guenette, seconded by D. Lacombe, that the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on **15 November 2023**

4. STAFF UPDATES

A. MacGregor briefly discussed the

M. Wagner shared that she has been tracking students and staff that she has provided training and worked with since January 2023 and it is over 1000 students that I have supported via one on one, small class and working with french teachers on building capacity.

S. Ward meeting with students as well as developing a process for transition support for students that will not qualify for an ITP meeting. The process will document as well as describe how to proceed with the process for different schools.

C. Brash shared that the past month has had a variety of items on the go this month. Focusing on supporting teachers' literacy development and support for small classes, as well as in our locally developed classrooms. I have also completed numerous Berlin screenings as well as viewed classrooms looking for opportunities to support teachers.

J. Francis shared that she has been working on executive functions with students in Arnprior and Petawawa schools. Also completed Acadience training (screener the board uses), goal is to train all the SERTs for the screeners moving forward for literacy. Also began planning for a small class day to work with UFLI training and other strategies to support some of our students in small classes.

L. Rigby shared that this time of year there is a lot of wrapping up, schools are completing meetings and assessments that have not yet been completed.

S. Smith stated that the recommended course that SEAC member S. Tait shared that she has begun the course and shared it with other Special Service team members.

A. McGregor also indicated her support for the program. Special Services staff meeting will be meeting for the first time tomorrow, also inviting our new psychometrist, ASD facilitators will be in attendance. For the PD for the group we will share the details of the course, plan for professional development on executive function and planning for safe and supportive schools.

A. McGregor opened discussion on the SEAC handbook and offered collaboration in consultation with the RCDSB Special Services department. Next meeting we will review and discuss the SEAC Handbook.

J. Smith stated that the RCDSB SEAC handbook will be our guide with processes that help us understand our responsibility as a SEAC committee ensuring that we are meeting the expectations of the committee.

6. REPORT FROM THE BOARD

M. Guenette shared that on Nov 28, 2023 at the Committee of the Whole meeting announced union contracts were ratified.

Last meeting we discussed accessibility of a ramp to the stage in one of our schools.. It was suggested that the space provided room for a lift would as opposed to a ramp. There is a possibility of this coming to fruition.

Lastly, the Trustee Chair wrote a letter to Minister Lecce sharing their reluctance of targeting 15-16 year olds to pursue trade related careers leaving school early in order to pursue this.

7. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

N. Tabbert shared that his family received a new diagnosis for his daughter, Tourettes, she already has ASD, ADHD. But they will not diagnose OCD as she is unable to verbalize. The changes being made are showing improvements.

There has been a discussion with the school to create a larger multi-sensory room for students with swings etc. like others within our board.

D. Lacombe shared it has been very busy at the agency, as they do a lot of christmas meals and christmas presents this time of year.

S. Tait shared on behalf Easter Seals, there are still funds available for equipment, typically this time of year there are no funds remaining.

Application for family camps open in January.

Apprenticeship models for students with physical disabilities will be coming forward.

The Ministry of Education has looked at SEA and SIP requests and asked for input. A recommendation would be how to lighten the administrative load annually to apply for funds. An example shown from other boards was a board- wide SEA equipment inventory that includes pictures and dimensions of equipment. Discussion also took place regarding nurses in the schools.

Also discussed the recommendation that there should be standardized IEP processes through schools in Ontario. Currently, there are a large mix of how parents are being provided an IEP process.

Red shirt day May 30th, 2024

A. MacKenzie asked does the RCDSB get nursing requests within our board? Are there hurdles? A. McGregor stated yes there are.

S. Smith stated that it is not our process, it is an outside homecare process and is funded through the Ministry of Health.

J. Smith stated that we are working on procedures to have in place when we create partnerships with external agencies and third party providers.

A. MacKenzie shared that PMFRC recently expanded to MCS and FHS for deployment services to provide support. Our MH team has also expanded to FHS as well.

With deployment we have had a few hundred members have returned recently and another round is being deployed shortly. A lot of family dynamic changes and transitions are happening.

Starting lego club on Jan 15th, 2024 after school.

8. NEXT MEETING

January 17, 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT



MOVED by N. Tabbert seconded by D. Lacombe that the meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

The motion was CARRIED.