



# **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

December 15, 2021

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: M. Guenette, B. Morris, A. Bergeron

Administration: J. Poirier, B. Smith, M. Ingram, C. Barber, S. Smith, A. Hiltz, L. Rigby, A. Macdougall-Popke

Guests:

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) A.MacKenzie, D. Lacombe

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

B. Smith called the meeting to order.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF 15 December**

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

The motion was CARRIED.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 17 November 2021**

MOVED BY M. Guenette, seconded by B. Morris, that the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021.

The motion was CARRIED

#### 4. STAFF UPDATES

B. Smith shared that the department has been providing support in schools likely due the increase in illnesses by Covid-19 and regular cold and flu season.

In the secondary panel classes have moved back to the 4 classes a day per semester system which we are providing planning and support for as well.

We have also been providing system support by issuing temporary staffing supports such as EA, SERT and SSC allocations.

The Special Education department has a new ABA Specialist- K. Wright was hired after covering an interim position.

C. Barber shared that the secondary panel made the switch to four classes a day and 50% of students had never experienced that before. There was a lot of preparation and planning done with these students ahead of time, such as mapping out timetables, social stories, and doing walkthroughs to help prepare them.

Make the Cut virtual event that was hosted by Carleton University recently passed. Our student number attendance was less than previous years. Partially due the event taking place in students afternoon classes and did run past home time, which made it difficult for students to attend. They did record the event and sent it out to students to view on their own time. There was great information shared about transition planning, documentation, as well as learning strategy links and supports. This event really highlighted and supported the development of executive functioning and self advocacy skills for students.

Integrated transition planning is underway, it is available to students between the ages of 14-21 who have a confirmed developmental disability or an autism diagnosis. FCS is the lead agency for this planning with D. Lacombe and our secondary serts and I work on this initiative together. We identify students who are eligible for planning and arrange to meet with the student, families, caregiver and service providers as needed to develop an integrated plan. Once completed the plan identifies the steps needed for the student to achieve their individualised goals throughout highschool and beyond.

L. Rigby shared that it has been a busy month planning, ongoing observations and brainstorming with our school teams. Also providing ongoing assessment and training for our SERTs. S. Cassidy Roulleau and myself presented at the Highview staff meeting regarding oppositional defiance disorder.

Also all the elementary consultants have been participating in a junior math project named High 5 Junior Math Project. It is designed to help students with special education needs for destreamed math in secondary schools. The ministry provided funding through Priorities and Partnership Funding to operate pilots to identify high yield instructional strategies and support in math for kids with special education needs in grades 4-6 . Currently, we are focused on grade 5 in 3 of our schools. The focus is on testing and identifying effective strategies and supports to increase student engagement and close learning gaps in math.

S. Smith shared that the system team attended an amazing presentation by Chris DeSouza on Equity.

We also attended a presentation on FASD in the classroom and what that may look like in the classroom. Providing suggestions for how to support the accommodations that would support that specific brain domain. We also discussed with SERTS how under diagnosed FASD is as well as how the suggestions would also work for many students who do not necessarily have that diagnosis but are presenting similar areas of needs.

In addition we also had our monthly IEP collaborative meeting with members from other school boards that are in similar roles. As well as our Regional Special Education meeting which provides an opportunity for brainstorming and inquiry.

A. MacDougall-Popke shared that she is just completing SEA devices. We have had an increase in applications. 70 applications for assistive technology since September, we are trying to get 35 more out by this Friday. We are starting to get more questions and it is providing an opportunity to share information and add more details and resources to the Assistive Technology portion on our Special Education website.

I also attended the Making the Cut for the first time. It provided a great opportunity to ask questions specific to our school board and students as it did focus a lot of technology. There also included a focus on self advocacy and college and universities expectations of students.

M. Ingram shared that she has had the opportunity to supply in our Section 23 program New Horizons, which is a day treatment program that is run in conjunction with the Phoenix Centre. The program provides mental health support as well as educational programming. Students come for a year and learn strategies to successfully integrate back into their home schools. During this time she states that she has been able to see the students grow and develop as well as being able to monitor and see what is working, what isn't and how we can make improvements to support these students.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE BOARD**

M.Guenette shared that at the Board meeting on December 7, 2021, we elected our Chair, Vice Chair and committees chairs, which remained the same as previous years. This includes B. Morris and M. Guentte remaining on our SEAC committee.

## **7. ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A.Bergeron shared that she is looking for ways to reach out to families of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing within our area letting them know about events, facebook pages as well as provide the VOice resource, as the closest one is currently Ottawa.

B. Smith stated that we can share A. Bergeron's information with our families that have that diagnosis.

J. Poirier stated that if A. Bergeron shared information with her, she could take it to Exec to inquire about posting information items on our board website.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

January 19, 2022

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by M. Guenette, seconded by B. Morris that the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

The motion was CARRIED.