



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 17, 2021

PRESENT: Committee Members: M. Guenette, B. Morris, A. MacKenzie,
D. Lacombe

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

Guests:

ABSENT: (With Regrets) A. Bergeron

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. MacKenzie called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF 17 November 2021

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

The motion was CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 20 October 2021

MOVED BY B. Morris, seconded by M. Guenette, that the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021.

4. STAFF UPDATES

B. Smith discussed Special Incident Portion (SIP) funding. SIP reporting requires a significant amount of data collection and support documentation that is submitted every year. It supports the cost of staff who support our students with the most complex needs. Total funds in previous years was \$27000, this year it is \$28,518.

C. Barber shared that secondary programming support has been ongoing for both in person and remote students. Fall IPRC meetings have been completed for Secondary. Lots of promotion and gathering of registrations for the Make the Cut virtual event being hosted by Carleton University next week. Our SERTs are participating in a student success review that is taking place this year. The review provides an opportunity to reflect on how our work has evolved over time, what serves us and what challenges we face as we move forward. We are looking at how we use our school and central supports to promote student success in the four pillars of student success which are literacy, numeracy, community culture and caring and pathways.

L. Rigby shared that IEPs are complete in elementary. They have been attending their fall IPRC meetings and spending a lot of time in classrooms doing observation visits and brainstorming with classroom teams to help them support special needs students.

As a follow up from last month we shared the Stats slideshow and there was a question regarding the jump in IEPs. The incline in IEPs in later grades are typical to what you see in Boards that use a response to intervention model as we do at RCDSB.

S. Smith shared that she has been working with the staff in an intermediate classroom at Rockwood PS on an executive functions lesson series. Learning skills and work habits will also be improved as we develop executive functions as the two work together. Next step I will go back into the classroom and teach the first model, in which after the teacher will continue with the remaining series. We have also had an SSC reach out to who would like to use these lessons as a tool with her social skills group.

A. MacDougall-Popke shared that she has been supporting the secondary OSSLT (grade 10 literacy test). Due to remote learning we have grade 10 and 11 students completing the OSSLT this year. Four schools have completed the testing RCI, MV, ADHS and VAL. FHS is writing this week with MCS and OHS writing in the next few weeks. It has been separated like this because it is drawing a lot of devices. This way IT can provide extra devices to students. The digital version is new to our schools and we are making sure everyone has access, including our students who require extra accommodations.

First round of SEA applications are closing this week. I have been receiving a lot of questions from new SERTs regarding learner profiles, and who needs access to devices more consistently than others and helping them to complete the applications. I then review all the applications and allocate SEA equipment accordingly.

Our Special Education team met to reflect on our Special Education Review recommendations and prompt ourselves about what we accomplished last year, and what goals we would like to focus on this year.

M. Ingram shared that she has been spending a significant amount of time working at the elementary level. Administrators are reaching out for extra support for our kindergarten and grade 1 students as they are having a difficult time transitioning. I will go in and be able to offer support and direct staff where other supports can be accessed, some of which are also found within their own schools, such as visual supports.

6. REPORT FROM THE BOARD

M.Guenette shared that at the recent Program and Achievement Committee there was a presentation by Pat Brazeau SHSM Coordinator, Alex Harris OYAP Coordinator and Peter Burnette Principal of eLearning, Leader of Experiential Learning, Innovative Technologies and Deep Learning. The presentations provided information for all students including our special needs students and how there are other opportunities and avenues for future careers.

Of note the secondary school review for experiential learning opportunities is included in collaborative discussions with current cooperative education staff they are inservicing for careers and technology and teachers with a wide range of experience ongoing deliberations with SHSM leads in schools. They are inservicing our staff as well as collecting a student voice with student focus groups.

B. Morris shared that at a special board meeting this week they will be discussing the rebalancing of Petawawa schools for September 2022 Valour JK-12, Herman Street and Pineview.

7. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

D. Lacombe shared that her team is pleased to be participating in level 1 VTRA training.

One of our funding pots for Autism supports has changed in the past it supported children with JK transition and intermediate to secondary transition. Our service descriptors have changed for next year to only supporting adolescent transition into secondary school.

A. MacKenzie shared that PMFRC has partnered with other MFRC's in Ontario and Nationally. The goal is to share programming and resources for families, making support consistent across Canada as families are moved from base to base they have access to similar special needs support. One training that we will be providing virtually in the spring is PEERS training. We extend the invitation to the RCDSB if they would like to also attend this training as well.

The other training is Children's Friendship Training, we also extend the offer for this training as well at a reduced cost.

We have also noticed that families are reaching out to request support for transitions at home and at school. Our mental health requests have also increased. Our timeline for support is under 2 weeks, but we also still have a weekly walk-in clinic that can support families in crisis.

Our agency will be working back in person this January.

8. NEXT MEETING

January 19, 2022

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by B. Morris, seconded by D. Lacombe, that the meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm

The motion was CARRIED.