



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 20, 2017

PRESENT: Committee Members: K. Dunsmoor-Lough, B. Morris, C. Smith, S. McBride, S. French, L. Cobb, F. Mick-Johnston, T. Williams

Administration: J. Poirier, B. Smith, H. van der Mark, C. Barber, M. Blimkie, A. MacDougall-Popke, J. Pantuso

Guests: D. Root

ABSENT: (With Regrets) R. Bernard

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting-Chair B. Smith called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone back and expressed his appreciation to members for their time and commitment. Mitch Blimkie, the new Special Education Consultant for Elementary replacing Shannon Cassidy-Rouleau, was introduced. Mitch brings a variety of experience and wealth of knowledge in special education to the position.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

MOVED BY F. Mick-Johnston, 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 21 JUNE 2017

MOVED BY K. Dunsmoor-Lough, seconded by T. Williams, that the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017.

The motion was CARRIED.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

As no interest or nomination came from committee members for the position of chair, Bill Smith remained in the acting-chair role. A chair may still be elected for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year or for individual meetings if anyone is willing.

5. OVERVIEW OF SEAC HANDBOOK PROCEDURES, SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN AND FIVE YEAR REVIEW CYCLE

B. Smith outlined his plans for reviewing these special education documents throughout the year. The handbook has minor revisions and will be reviewed at the next meeting. The Special Education Plan will be reviewed again by sections with changes highlighted for discussion. The Five Year Plan was distributed and B. Smith proposed reviewing the following sections over this first year: IEPs, IPRCs, Parent Brochures, Special Education Forms and Special Education Web-page. Sub-committees will have to be established including representation from SEAC, administration and trustees.

6. MEETING DATES

Meeting dates were established as follows for the remainder of the year:
October 18, November 15, December 20, 2017
January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 20, 2018.

The committee discussed the possibility of holding the November meeting in Barry's Bay to tour the new school. A change of start time to 3:00 p.m. was also suggested. Details to be confirmed.

7. REPORT FROM THE BOARD

B. Morris updated the committee on the following Board initiatives and positive changes:

- new Director – Pino Buffone
- new Superintendent – Jacqueline Poirier
- new Superintendent - Stephen Blok (responsibility for Early Years, Environmental Education, Information and Communication Technology, International Education and Petawawa, Deep River and Madawaska Family of Schools)
- new Student Trustee – Shawn McCloskey from MVDHS
- new Principal of Achievement and Well-Being – Veletia Richards
- trustee Wendy Hewitt successfully completed office administration program
- new shared space for Whitney PS and St. Martin of Tours Catholic School
- roll-out of RCDSB 2017-2020 strategic plan

K. Dunsmoor-Lough added:

- smooth start up to school year especially with transportation process
- updates on Summer Learning Opportunities such as Summer Learning Pilot at RCIS and the Student Work Experience Program

8. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

S. French, LDAO, reported the first Parent Information night for the new school year will be Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 160 Percy Street in Ottawa from 7-9 p.m. Topic will be "When your Brain's CEO is not a Good Leader" presented by Margaret Anne Belanger-Schaadt, Speech/Language Pathologist.

The LDAO is hoping to start up a Parent Support Group with the following goals:

- Share common experiences of parenting a child with an LD/ADHD
- Develop an awareness of services available within the schools & community
- Rebuild self-esteem & foster confidence in parenting skills

The LDAO is currently offering a series of four workshops featuring Dr. Maggie Mamen. Tickets are \$30/per workshop or \$100 for the four. These workshops are being held at the Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Ave, Ottawa. Topics and dates are as follows:

- September 19 - Behaviour Issues
- October 17 - Managing Anxiety
- November 7 - Facing Homework Demons
- November 28 - Family Dynamics & Sibling Issues

T. Williams, Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley, reported their Annual General Meeting will be held on September 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel. The guest speaker is Nick Foley and the public is invited to attend. He will also be speaking at Fellowes H.S. and Champlain Discovery P.S. A brochure for a Conference for Youth, October 20-22, and the Community Living IN TOUCH Newsletter were distributed as information items. T. Williams also reported on employment supports for students with disabilities.

F. Mick-Johnson reported that the Parent Networking Committee is presenting Social Networking and Online Safety by Paul Davis at Fellowes HS on October 2 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A presentation will also be held at Valour School and Highview P.S. On September 30, the Purple Ribbon campaign will host a play date at RY-J's from 1-3 p.m. with a free movie in the a.m. at the O'Brien Theatre in Renfrew.

9. OTHER ITEMS

Engagement on Governance Supports

B. Smith distributed a letter and discussion guide from the Ministry of Education looking for feedback from various groups on the following issues: integrity commissioner and trustee code of conduct, trustee honoraria, electronic participation in board and committee meetings, student trustee term of office and election process and broadening the director of education qualifications. Further discussion can be held at the October meeting if there is interest in submitting a response prior to the November 13 deadline.

Agenda

B. Smith reviewed the plans for the meetings over the year. Presentations will include finance/special education funding, autism programs, SEA and technology, and staffing. Committee members were asked to share any thoughts on the process, people and places. If there is something you would like to see happen or any changes you would like to make, do not hesitate to let Bill know.

10. NEXT MEETING

- October 18, 2017

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Susan McBride, seconded by K. Dunsmoor-Lough, that the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 4:50 p.m.

The motion was CARRIED.