

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Fishbowl Meeting Room, Education Centre, Peterborough ON

ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Present: | A. Lloyd | Trustee (Committee Chairperson) |
| | A. Cranfield | Five Counties Children's Centre (Committee Vice-chairperson) |
| | C. Dickson | Trustee |
| | J. Klassen | Trustee (Alternate) |
| | Jeninga | |
| | T. Hill | Development Services Ontario |
| | M. Robinson | Autism Ontario – Peterborough Chapter |
| | A. Rodriguez | Community Living Peterborough |
| | D. Toth | Alternative Community Program Services Incorporated |
| | K. Traynor | Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough |
| Regrets: | W. Johansen | Ontario Association of Families of Children with Communication Disorders |
| | A. Smoke | First Nations |
| Absent: | Kim Carson | Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Peterborough |
| Also Present: | A.M. Duncan, C. Filip, A. Hunt-Schmoll, J. Massie, S. Wood, A. Manley, L. Hull and E. O'Neil | |

In light of the current health advisory and public health measures in place provincially, members were in attendance both virtually using WebEx, and in-person following mask protocols and social distancing.

Land Acknowledgement

Trustee A. Lloyd, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. It was recognized and acknowledged that the committee was meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga First Nations.

Adoption of Agenda

**MOVED BY A. Lloyd, SECONDED BY M. Robinson
That the agenda be adopted as printed.**

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

MOVED BY M. Robinson, SECONDED BY A. Lloyd

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, be adopted as recorded. CARRIED

Board Report

Trustees updated the committee on events and initiatives being undertaken by the Board. Trustee A. Lloyd commented on the unique start-up experienced due to Covid-19 and reviewed the operations that continued during the summer, including summer school, and preparations for September start-up. A. Lloyd commented that a new world in education is being created and those who have worked hard to find innovative ways to perform their roles were commended.

A. Lloyd updated the committee on the hiring of Jamila Maliha, Superintendent of Education for Clarington, and on the on-going recruitment for a Superintendent of Education and a Director of Education.

C. Dickson spoke to the work being completed on the Virtual Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Presentation

Susan Wood, Senior Psychologist and Aimee Manley, Psychoeducational Clinician, shared a presentation highlighting:

- services provided to schools, students, and families;
- the role of a psychological assessment in investigating factors contributing to academic achievement, mental health and wellbeing; in identifying student strengths and needs, then in providing recommendations;
- how information is gathered, and how a referral package is created;
- the difference between identification and diagnosis;
- what adaptations to services have occurred to accommodate the return to school during COVID-19 pandemic.

Questions of clarification posed by committee members were addressed by S. Wood and A. Manley.

Administrative Update

Superintendent Duncan spoke to this year's departmental theme: Supporting Positive Student Behaviour and Early Reading Intervention from an Equity Lens.

Superintendent Duncan provided an overview of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) Special Education Back to School Planning document for staff, outlining the program parameters and departmental expectations for both central and school staff (virtual and in-person). Professional development for teachers new to their role as Learning Life Skills (LLS) teachers or Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT), virtual or in-person, has begun to support this work.

An overview of the KPR mask protocol was provided, with an emphasis on explaining exemptions for students with special needs.

Superintendent Duncan provided committee members with an overview of the special education department budget which was approved in July. Highlights include:

- Increase in permanent support staff allocation to more accurately reflect numbers year over year;
- Autism support is now the multidisciplinary Central Autism Support Team;
- The Empower Reading Program has its own line in the budget, separate from other professional development;
- SIP revenue;
- The breakdown of Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) and Learning and Life Skills teachers in elementary and secondary;
- How the summer special education and mental health funding received from the Ministry was deployed.

Questions were asked by committee members and addressed by Superintendent Duncan.

Superintendent Duncan provided an overview of the new intranet Mental Health website created by D. Swift, Executive Officer of Professional Services and Mental Health, and K. Koster-Lilley, Manager, Professional Services, which includes resources and videos to support mental health education for staff and students.

The KPR COVID mask protocol was introduced, and members were encouraged to read protocol posted on the KPR website.

Association Updates

The following associations provided verbal reports that included updates on upcoming meetings, in-services, projects, and various events:

- Development Services Ontario
- Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough
- Alternatives Community Program Services Inc.
- Community Living
- Autism Society of Ontario
- Five Counties Children's Care

Future Topic

October 6, 2020 Role of the SERT

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held in Room 158 at the Education Centre, 1994 Fisher Drive, Peterborough, in-person and through WebEx, at 3:30 p.m. on October 6, 2020.

Adjournment

MOVED BY A. Rodriquez SECONDED BY A. Lloyd

That the meeting be adjourned (5:27 p.m.).

CARRIED

A. Cranfield
Committee Chairperson