

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Special Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 9, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Videoconference Sites:

Board Office, Marathon
Geraldton Composite High School, Geraldton
Lake Superior High School, Terrace Bay
Manitouwadge High School, Manitouwadge
Nipigon-Red Rock District High School, Red Rock

Call In Information:

1-888-289-4573
Access code: 6955626

AGENDA

<u>Voting Members</u>					
Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)	OS	TC	VC	A	R
AUDIA, Jessica: Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living		✓			
BROWN, Cindy: Trustee		✓			
FIGLIOMENI, Kim: Trustee	✓				
FISHER, Matthew: Trustee (Alternate)				✓	
GROENEVELD, Sharon: Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living Alternate		✓			
MACKENZIE, Lisa: North of Superior Counseling Programs			✓		
MANNISTO, Mark: Trustee (Alternate)		✓			
NELSON, Theresa: Greenstone Social Services					✓
TYANCE, Shirley: Thunder Bird Friendship Centre				✓	

<u>Resource Members</u>	Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
McRAE, Pinky: Board Chair (Ex-Officio)			✓		
TAMBLYN, David: Director of Education	✓				
PETRICK, Nancy: Superintendent of Education	✓				
HOUSTON, Cassidy: Student Trustee				✓	
SCHRAM, Kathleen: Special Education Coordinator		✓			
DRAZENOVICH, George: Mental Health Lead					
BIANCO, Melissa: Positive Behaviour Support Consultant		✓		✓	
FREEBURN, Hillary: Teacher Diagnostician		✓			
BAKER, Nina: Mental Health Nurse				✓	

1.0 Call to Order 7:00 pm

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Motioned by: Cindy Brown

Seconded by: Lisa MacKenzie

3.0 Additions to the Agenda

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Letter of support re: Wait times for Speech Services

Nancy Petrick

- We had previous conversations on whether we should write our own letter. We did receive a letter from Lakehead District School Board (attached to agenda) indicating they were writing in further support of the wait list, screening of services, ease of access and delivery of services etc. for speech and language. I had a conversation with Karen Figliomeni who provides speech and language services for our board, who was hired last year by Children's Centre Thunder Bay, and with speaking with Lisa MacKenzie there didn't seem to be a concern with wait times. This position was vacant at the end of the year. We are not sure if this position has been filled or if another agency has taken this contract on., therefore we do not know what the wait times will be for this school year. Geraldton, Schreiber and Terrace Bay are all ok it is just the Marathon and Manitouwadge area.
- We will defer this decision until more information is available. It was suggested that SGDSB SEAC could write a letter of support for other boards.

4.2 Peers Helping Peers – Video

Melissa Bianco

- Nancy Petrick - The video is not quite extensive enough to show at this time.

5.0 Agenda items

5.1 Special Education Coordinator Report

Kathleen Schram

- Aug. 27, myself, Nancy and Suzanne Eddy (Our Student Success Lead) attend a conference put on by LDAO (Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario), they hosted an Educators Institute in Toronto about demystifying learning disabilities in the classroom. We all attended and we also attended different breakout sessions and were able to gather lots of information that will help us this year. The LDAO website has lots of great resources, the breakout sessions were recorded and they are supposed to be posted on the site.
- Sept. 12 there is a face-to-face with SERTS and ADMIN
 - The learning goals for this session are based on a continuation from last year.
 - ✓ The first being to continue to understand the concept of Neuro Diversity and the need to shift paradigms from one based on deficits and remediation to one based on the cultivations of strengths.
 - ✓ The second learning goal is the importance of assessment data and the creations of IEP's being working documents that meet the needs of our students.
 - Other agenda items include:
 - ✓ Discussion – Neuro Diversity Book (last chapter – “The Stength Based School”
 - ✓ Dr. Jenn Welsh
 - ✓ PPM 156 – supporting transitions
 - ✓ PPM 8 – Identification and program planning for students with learning disabilities.
 - ✓ Assistive Technology

5.2 Mental Health Lead

George Drazenovich

5.3 Positive Behaviour Support Lead

Melissa Bianco

- I am supporting with various transitions and communicating with schools. I am looking at having various training incentives, one being through the Geneva Centre for Autism, ADA online certificate course that will be available for up to 7 people throughout our board.
- The “Peers-Helping-Peers” video was a successful program and I look forward to sharing.

5.4 Teacher Diagnostician (TD)

Hillary Freeburn

- June – many assessments and report backs to complete. There were many meetings regarding transitions as well as some discharge meetings.
- September - follow-up with teachers and getting up to know students. A few JK/SK who are unknown to service providers and meeting with support to coordinate services.
- Continuing to travel with Jen Welsh.
 - ✓ travel rotation began with travelling to Geraldton this week. In 2 weeks TD will be in Nipigon and Schreiber and 2 weeks after that in Marathon and Manitouwadge. TD is looking forward to meeting with new SERTS, ADMIN and the new students.

5.5 Mental Health Nurse

Nina Baker

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Policy/Program Memorandum No: 8 Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities (attached)

- This PPM has not be revised since 1982. Discusses what the Ministry's definition for a learning disability. It talks about providing programming and learning opportunities for students with learning disabilities. We understand that strategies used for students with LD are also good for all students.
- A learning disability can range in severity and impacted on the environment.
- It also indicates we are to look at implementing procedures for early years and ongoing identification for learning disabilities and the needs of students.
- Talks about different kinds of assessments and how that assessment should be tailored to what the assessment indicates. How those assessments inform what we plan and what the individual plan is.
- If the assessment indicates a learning disability they are not identified as having exceptionality.
- During an IPRC meeting the student is legally identified with the learning disability.
- The Ministry will be using multiple venues to support educators with this revised PPM. The Ministry is funding the Learning Disabilities of Ontario in order to develop a range of online resources. The PPM will take effect January 2015.

6.2 Lakehead Public Schools Letter (attached) -Spoken to under 4.1

7.0 New Business

- Dave Tamblyn – I received an email asking about Neuro Diversity Day. I think it is a compliment around our Neuro Diversity Day. (read letter)
- Nancy Petrick – If anyone has any agencies in mind to sit on the committee please let me know. Parents are able to sit on the committee. I will find out how many can and bring it to the next meeting.

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Upcoming Professional Development Dates:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------|--|
| i) | September 2, 2014 | Elementary and Secondary - School Improvement planning & WellNet |
| ii) | September 26, 2014 | Elementary and Secondary - School Improvement planning & WellNet |
| iii) | October 24, 2014 | Elementary and Secondary - Numeracy |
| iv) | January 30, 2015 | Elementary Report Card Writing |
| v) | January 30, 2015 | Secondary Inquiries/PLCs/Student Success Mtgs. |
| vi) | April 24, 2015 | Elementary and Secondary - School Improvement Planning |
| vii) | June 8, 2015 | Elementary Report Card Writing |
| viii) | June 8, 2015 | Secondary School improvement/timetabling/SS Mtgs. |

8.2 Secondary Exams:

- i) January 23 – 29, 2015
- ii) June 22 – 26, 2015

9.0 Agenda Items: Next Meeting Date/Time/Venue

9.1 October 14, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by: Cindy Brown

Seconded by: Lisa MacKenzie

✓ ***That, the SEAC Meeting be adjourned at 7:39 pm.***