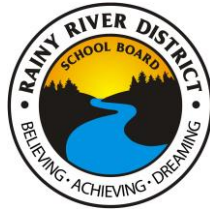




REPORT

Special Education Advisory Committee

- *Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting November 16, 2015.*



**Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes
Education Centre
November 16, 2015 – 12:00 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Kelly Forbes, Special Education Administrator; Allan McManaman, Superintendent of Education; Allene Perusse, Community Living-Fort Frances & District; Mike Lewis, Trustee, Rainy River District School Board (videoconference); Kim Redford, Parent Representative

REGRETS: Christie Gushulak, Community Living-Atikokan; Shelley Dion, Firefly; Lorraine Gauthier-Stromberg, Kenora-Rainy River District Child & Family Services

STAFF: Sandra Ward, Recording Secretary; Jason Jones, Native Language Coordinator

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Allene Perusse, at 12:16 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A handout of the revised Community Activity Cycle was included. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mike Lewis and seconded by Allene Perusse.

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of September 9, 2015 was deferred until this meeting. Approval of the minutes of as circulated was motioned by Mike Lewis and seconded by Kim Redford. Approval of the minutes of October 14, 2015 is deferred to the December 9, 2015 meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Recruitment for new Committee Members

The Special Education Administrator has contacted Confederation College to request a replacement for Gwen Marsonet on the Committee. Seven Generations Education Institute will arrange to have a new Committee member in the near future.

6. New Business

a) Presentation – Jason Jones, Native Language Coordinator

The Native Language Coordinator spoke about the emphasis being placed on identity, culture and community awareness through the MERL Project. The project focuses on Ojibway language revitalization through the use of technology. SayITFirst is an organization that has been a facilitator in the revitalization of native languages, and its founder Mike Parkhill, has been working in partnership with the Rainy River District School Board and Seven Generations Educational Institute. Three videos were shown as examples of some of the work being done by SayITFirst. The videos were shot using drones, and show youth in their communities relating to their favourite places within the community. The Native Language Coordinator showed how the meaning behind the youth names and places within their community by translating it from Ojibway to English.



7. Correspondence

a) Policies Under Review

Policies that are currently out for stakeholder input were shared with Committee members and they were asked to relay any feedback regarding these policies to Kaylie Lundgren at kaylie.lundgren@mail.rrdsb.com, by Monday November 23, 2015. All feedback will be brought to the attention of the Policy Committee.

8. Special Education Administrator's Report

Kelly Forbes, Special Education Administrator for the Rainy River District School Board, provided highlights of the November report. Items noted included:

- A second Behavioural Therapist is being hired for the Board. Interviews will be conducted shortly. Elementary and Secondary students have access to the therapists. This can be implemented through the School Support Services referral process. Mike Lewis spoke to the importance of having these supports in place and indicated that the Trustees have been very supportive of these efforts.
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) training will be held at the Townshend Theatre on November 30, 2015. All Educational Support Personnel will be participating. The training is from 9 to 3 and Special Education Advisory Committee members are welcome to attend.
- Educational Assistant and Early Childhood Education interviews are ongoing.
- The Mental Health Steering Committee met early in November. The Mental Health Leader has enlisted Mental Health Champions at each school site and is making connections with them to help facilitate any supports that are needed.

9. Future Meeting

The next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is Wednesday December 9, 2015. Trustee Mike Lewis advised that in December the Board will determine which Trustees will be assigned to specific Committees, so it may or may not be him attending the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Report

Date: November 16, 2015
To: Special Education Advisory Committee
From: Kelly Forbes
Principal of School Support Services / Special Education Administrator

Recommendation: It is recommended that the report be received for information only.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Continue the focus on supports for students with special needs.

CONTEXT

To inform the Special Education Advisory Committee of the supports and programming being provided for students with special needs.

SUMMARY

Education Support Personnel Interviews

Many interviews have been conducted over the past few month in an effort to hire more casual Educational Support Personnel (ESP) and to fill temporary and permanent ESP vacancies. Regular recruitment for casual ESP will continue over the next several months.

Special Education Law Webinar

The Special Education Administrator, Superintendent of Education, and a School Administrator attended the 10th Annual Advanced Issues in Special Education Law session on October 19th via webinar. Topics included mental health, anaphylaxis, human rights, and dealing with difficult behaviours in class.

Mental Health

On October 26th, the Mental Health Committee gathered for the first meeting of the school year. The Committee discussed the Rainy River District School Board Mental Health Strategy and ways to continue to grow mental health support for students and build capacity amongst staff. The Mental Health Leader has enlisted Mental Health Champion Volunteers at each school site and is making connections with them to help facilitate any supports that are needed.



Professional Development

On October 30th, Communication Assistants and Library Assistants attended training at Fort Frances High School. The Communication Assistants worked with the Speech and Language Coordinator on programming and reporting for students. The Library Assistants worked with the Head Librarian on the new library pilot project amongst many other topics. The Educational Support Personnel attended school based professional development. Some of the topics included strength based practices, literacy, numeracy, computer technology and building community in schools.

On November 30th, all Educational Support Personnel will be invited to attend a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum (FAS) workshop at the Townshend Theatre. Some teachers from Fort Frances High School and School Support Services will be attending this event also. This professional development is being organized in partnership with the FAS District Committee and attendance is open to community organizations and the public.

Special Education Resources

A number of resources have been purchased for students with special needs. Sand timers, fidgets, books, sensory tools, bean bag chairs, pea pod seats, rocking chairs and the Assessment of Functional Living and Learning Skills (AFLLS) are examples of resources purchased to meet student needs. SEA equipment including mobility devices and computer technology have also been ordered for those students who have written prescriptions from qualified recommending professionals.

ROUTING

SPT/Senior Administration	November 25, 2015
SEAC	November 25, 2015
Board	December 1, 2015
