



REPORT

Special Education Advisory Committee

- *Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting November 12, 2014.*



**Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes
Education Centre
November 12, 2014 – 12:00 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan McManaman, Superintendent of Education; Kelly Forbes, Special Education Administrator (video conference); Lorraine Gauthier-Stromberg, Kenora-Rainy River District Child & Family Services (video conference); Gwen Marsonet, Confederation College; Mike Lewis, Chair of the Rainy River District School Board; Allene Perruse, Community Living-Fort Frances & District; Christie Gushulak, Community Living-Atikokan (video conference); Kim Redford, Parent Representative;

REGRETS: Shelley Dion, Kenora-Rainy River District Child & Family Services; Donna Chief, Seven Generations Education Institute Representative;

STAFF: Sandra Ward, Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Lorraine Gauthier Stromberg at 12:01 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by Gwen Marsonet and seconded by Mike Lewis.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of October 8, 2014 as circulated was motioned by Mike Lewis and seconded by Lorraine Gauthier-Stromberg.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

- a) Recruitment Status

The Special Education Administrator introduced Kim Redford as the new parent representative on the Committee.

6. Correspondence

- a) Letter – Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN
Re: School Health Support Services –The Rainy River District School Board is not experiencing these issues.
- b) Letter – Durham Catholic District School Board
Re: Support for extending the teacher education program to two years encouraging special education be part of the core component of the program.
- c) Letter – Grand Erie District School Board
Re: Speech/Language services – The Rainy River District School Board is not experiencing these



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issues.

- d) Letter - Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
Re: Support for extending the teacher education program to two years encouraging special education be part of the core component of the program.

- e) Policies Under Review

If anyone has any feedback regarding the policies in the package, please forward them to Kathie Zatulsky at kathie.zatulsky@mail.rrdsb.com, by November 24th. All feedback will be brought to the attention of the Policy committee.

7. New Business

- a) Presentation – Jason Jones, Native Language Coordinator, School Support Services

Aboriginal education resources are accessible to all students on the Board web site. The presentation focused on the Edublog link which takes visitors to the askanelder page. There are numerous questions listed that have been asked, with corresponding video responses of an elder. Elders are also now interacting with classrooms via Skype.

- b) Review Current Special Education Plan

The plan is posted on the web site. Committee members were asked to review the plan in preparation for the next meeting in order to provide feedback.

8. Special Education Administrator's Report

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

Ontario is moving ahead with a Special Needs Strategy. This strategy will help give children and youth more timely and effective service at home, school, and in the community. The Special Needs Strategy will include three key areas: identifying kids earlier and getting them service sooner, coordinating service planning, and integrating the delivery of rehabilitation services.

The New Teacher Induction Program had its orientation for new teachers on November 6th. The Special Education Administrator presented on Special Education requirements, how to access services and make referrals, and what resources are available to teachers.

An Aspiring Leaders session was held on October 30th and the Special Education Administrator presented on Special Education from an administrative perspective.

Behavioural Management System training took place at Mine Centre during the October PD day. This session was co-presented by the Special Education Administrator and Gwen Marsonet from Confederation College with Teachers and Education Assistants participating in the training. This training will also occur on the November PD day with Education Assistants at J.W. Walker.



Heather Campbell
Director of Education

Michael Lewis
Chair

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Thirty students have now been through the School Support Services Counseling intake process and will receive counselling.

9. Future Meeting

The next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 10, 2014.

10. Adjournment .

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.



Special Education Administrator's Report – Nov. 12, 2014

School Support Services Counseling

The School Support Services Counseling service is now well under way. Roughly 30 students have been referred to the counseling service. Intake for service is scheduled weekly and there is currently no wait list for services.

Aspiring Leaders

The Special Education Administrator met with the RRDSB aspiring leaders on September 30th. The group discussed the role of the administrator and their responsibilities specific to special education. Supports, resources, partnership with parents and collaboration with community partners were some of the topics discussed.

New Teachers Induction Program (NTIP)

Teachers new to the board met with the Special Education Administrator to discuss special education supports, resources, and responsibilities at the NTIP orientation held on November 6, 2014.

Behaviour Management Systems Training

All teachers and Educational Support Personnel at Mine Centre School were trained in Behaviour Management Systems on Oct. 24th. The training focused on strategies to successfully manage behaviours so that all students have safe and secure learning environments. J. W. Walker Educational Support Personnel will also receive BMS training on the Nov. 24th PD Day.

Special Education Law Webinar

On September 20th, the Special Education Administrator, Superintendent of Education, and two teachers attended the 9th Annual Special Education Law session. The panel of lawyers discussed topics such as administering medication at school, transitions, mitigating factors to be considered in student discipline, managing injurious behavior, and understanding student and parent rights and responsibilities.

Supports for Schools

By November 18th, members of School Support Services will have completed presentations of supports available to all teaching staff at school staff meetings. Special education supports such as transition planning, mental health, and applied behavior analysis were some of the supports highlighted.