



REPORT

Special Education Advisory Committee

- *Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting October 12, 2016.*



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes
Education Centre
October 12, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Char Bliss, Special Education Administrator; Allene Perusse, Community Living-Fort Frances & District; Dianne McCormack, Chair, Rainy River District School Board (teleconference); Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Angela Mainville, Seven Generations Education Institute; Kim Redford, Parent; Sandra Turner, Confederation College

REGRETS: Lorraine Gauthier-Stromberg, Kenora-Rainy River District Child & Family Services; Christie Gushulak, Community Living-Atikokan; Allan McManaman, Superintendent of Education

STAFF: Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Allene Perusse, at 12:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Heather Campbell and seconded by Kim Redford.

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of September 14, 2016 was moved by Allene Perusse and seconded by Angela Mainville.

5. New Business

a) Presentation – Technology – Brad Gushulak and Tanya Kroocmo

Brad Gushulak and Tanya Kroocmo, STEM Coordinators, presented on Edusight, a web-based tool used for documenting student work through a variety of media and for assessing and reporting on student work. Some of the features of this program include:

- A digital portfolio for meeting the requirements of the 'All About Me' portfolio (K-6);
- The ability to easily document student work by taking pictures, adding comments and uploading to students' timelines;
- The option for students to publish to their timeline;
- One-way communication to enable students and parents to review student timelines.



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It was noted that Edusight will be rolled out to all elementary and secondary students by the end of October.

b) Discussion of Membership

After a short discussion, it was decided that Firefly should be contacted to obtain a representative for the Committee.

6. Correspondence

a) Letter from Renfrew County Catholic District School Board SEAC Chair

Re: Secondary students transitioning out of school and the employment prospects for students with disabilities.

b) Letter from PAAC

Re: SEAC Training Resources have been developed and made available at www.paac-seac.ca. There is a revised *PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook for SEAC Members, 2016* and three *SEAC Training Video modules*.

It was noted that these resources would be posted on the Board website.

c) Policies Under Review

Committee members were provided the policies that are currently out for stakeholder input and were asked to share any feedback regarding these policies to Sandra Ward at sandra.ward@mail.rrdsb.com, by Monday, October 24, 2016. All feedback will be brought to the attention of the Policy Committee.

7. Special Education Administrator's Report

Char Bliss, Special Education Administrator for the Rainy River District School Board, provided highlights of the October report. See attached.

8. Future Meeting

The next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Special Education Administrator's Report

Renewed Math Strategy

The Ministry of Education will support the use of more precise instructional strategies for students with special education needs. Focused support will be provided to strengthen math learning, teaching and leading across Ontario for students with special education needs, particularly for students with learning disabilities. Professional learning will be provided for educators to develop student learning profiles and implement personalized and precise assessment and instruction based on individual learning strengths and needs, including the use of assistive technology as an accommodation for students with learning disabilities and learning tools for all students. Our Numeracy Coordinator, Brad Oster, is working with schools to ensure all students have the supports they require.

Kindergarten Support for Transitions

Kindergarten teachers are working closely with the Kindergarten/Primary Curriculum Coordinator, speech pathologist and behavior therapists to ensure their students are well-supported and that their needs are being identified for early success. Kindergarten teachers are continuing to work on routines in the classroom so that students are able to transition from one activity to another and expect a consistent schedule and/or procedures. If unexpected special learning needs or safety concerns are identified, then Kindergarten teachers will work closely with their principals and SERTs to ensure their Early Learners have the right supports in place.

Students Transition Out of IBI into the Connections Program

There are three students who are in the Connections Program. These students transition to school from Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) therapies and services offered through the Autism Intervention Program (AIP). *Connections for Students* can help students move from IBI services offered through the AIP to the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) teaching methods used in our schools. Our Connections teams consist of the following: a team lead (principal or designate), a parent or guardian, a teacher, an ASD Consultant, a Behaviour Therapist, a Special Education Resource teacher, an educational assistant, and other professionals (such as Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist). This team will work together for approximately 12 months to ensure a successful transition into school, 6 months before the students begins full integration and 6 months following their exit from the Autism Intervention Program.