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# REPORT

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## ***Special Education Advisory Committee***

- *Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting February 8, 2017*



**Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Education Centre**  
**February 8, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Char Bliss, Special Education Administrator; Allan McManaman, Superintendent of Education; Ralph Hill, Trustee, Rainy River District School Board; Allene Perusse, Community Living-Fort Frances & District; Kim Redford, Parent; Angela Mainville, Seven Generations Education Institute; Sandra Turner, Confederation College

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

**STAFF:** Alison Simpson, Reading Recovery Coordinator; Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

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**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Allene Perusse, at 12:04 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of January 18, 2017 were approved as distributed and it was noted there was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. New Business**

**a) Presentation – Literacy Supports – Alison Simpson**

Alison Simpson, Reading Recovery Coordinator, presented on Literacy Support being provided to elementary students in the Rainy River District School Board.

**6. Correspondence**

**a) Letter from Bluewater DSB**

Re: Support for Limestone District School Board's SEAC letter of concern to the Minister of Education, regarding the reduction in the special education funding under the new funding model.



**b) Letter from Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB to the Minister of Education**

Re: Support for the Toronto District School Board's SEAC letter of concern regarding the overall reductions in the Special Education Funding formula, with a special request that the Ministry review the high needs portion of the funding calculation and reconsider the reductions to funding.

**c) Policies Under Review**

Committee members were provided with 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](mailto:sandra.ward@mail.rrdsb.com), by Monday, February 27, 2017. 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 February report. See attached.

**8. Future Meeting**

The next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.



## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Special Education Report

**Date:** February 8, 2017  
**To:** Special Education Advisory Committee  
**From:** Char Bliss  
Special Education Administrator

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

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#### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Continue to support the achievement and well-being of students with special needs, honouring their strengths to ensure the foundation for their success.

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#### CONTEXT

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

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#### SUMMARY

##### Kindergarten Registration

From February 6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, Kindergarten registration will be taking place at our 10 elementary schools. The Transition to School document will be completed by our community partners for those students with special needs to ensure schools know the supports that our earliest learners will need for success when starting school. This collaborative document also lets parents share their children's strengths and interests, health, safety and learning and any needs that their children have. The Transition to School document clearly defines the roles and responsibilities in ensuring a smooth transition into school for the child.

##### Individual Education Plan Collaboration

Special Education Resource Teachers are working with staff and parents to update Individual Education Plans for Term 2/Semester 2. Special Education Resource Teachers support classroom teachers, and others working with students with special needs, to develop, implement, and monitor high-quality IEPs. During this process, Special Education Resource Teachers will collaborate with teachers to modify programming, if necessary, review accommodations, update assessments and make any other necessary changes to each student's Individual Education Plan. The IEP provides an opportunity for all those involved with the student to work together to provide a program that will foster achievement and success.

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### **Understanding Trauma at its Heart Conference on March 6<sup>th</sup>**

There will be four administrators attending a one-day conference in Winnipeg on Understanding Trauma at its Heart. Dr. Gabor Mate, a renowned speaker and bestselling and award winning author, will be speaking on the linkage between childhood diagnoses, adult disorders, addictions and adverse childhood experiences. He will also address the ties between complex trauma and the impact on children's physiological and cognitive, and emotional development. The impact of the environment on brain development will be discussed, along with ways of recognizing and helping to heal the negative consequences of early loss when working with vulnerable children and youth. The RRDSB staff attending this conference will come back and share their learning with other administrators and their own staff.

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#### **ROUTING**

Board	March 7, 2017
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