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# REPORT

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

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



**Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Education Centre**  
**March 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; Lorraine Gauthier-Stromberg, Kenora-Rainy River District Child & Family Services (teleconference); Dawn Lessard, Firefly (teleconference)

**REGRETS:** Sandra Turner, Confederation College; Christie Gushulak, Community Living-Atikokan

**STAFF:** Peg Keffer, Principal, School Support Services; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

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**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Allene Perusse, at 12:07 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the addition of 7a) Letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic DSB re: Funding Formula.

**3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of February 8, 2017 were approved as distributed.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business to report.

**6. New Business**

**a) Presentation – Student Success – Peg Keffer**

Peg Keffer, Principal of School Support Services, presented on the Student Success programming being offered by the Rainy River District School Board. These programs provide students with multiple avenues to achieve their Secondary School Diploma and allow students to gain valuable workplace experience, learn specialized skills and leave high school better



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prepared for post-secondary education and the workplace. Some of these initiatives and program pathways include:

- Education and Career/Life Planning Program
- Dual Credit Program
- Specialist High Skills Major
- Cooperative Education
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
- Credit Recovery

**b) Strategic Planning – Heather Campbell**

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, presented on the Strategic Planning Student Voice session held on February 14, involving trustees, senior administrators and 40 students from Grades 7 to 12 from across the Board. The Committee was asked for their thoughts on the proposed changes to the plan.

**c) Special Education Plan Amendments Section III**

The proposed changes included in the agenda package were reviewed. No changes were noted.

**7. Correspondence**

**a) Letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic DSB to the Minister of Education**

Re: Letter of concern to the Minister of Education, regarding the reduction in the special education funding under the new funding model.

**8. Special Education Administrator's Report**

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

**9. Future Meeting**

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

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Special Education Report

**Date:** March 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

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

##### **Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training Program**

With a focus on prevention, this training program equips staff with proven strategies for safely defusing anxious, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage. With a core philosophy of providing for the care, welfare, safety, and security of everyone involved in a crisis situation, the program's proven strategies give educators the skills to safely respond to various levels of risk behavior while balancing the responsibilities of care. Strategies of the program include:

- Reduction of risk of injury
- Meeting regulatory/accreditation standards
- Improving staff retention
- Minimizing exposure to liability
- Promoting care, welfare, safety, and security

Four (4) staff from the Rainy River District School Board will be trained and certified in early April, and will provide training to other staff within the Board the following school year.

##### **Transition Planning for Students Entering Secondary School**

Throughout March and April, transition meetings will be taking place between elementary and secondary schools in order to plan for the needs of students with Individual Education Plans. These meetings allow for students, parents, teachers and other support staff to meet to discuss the needs of the student and ensure a smooth transition into a new school and/or grade. During these meetings, parents and/or

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guardians can share any information they feel the school needs to know and teachers can discuss programming options for the students.

### **Special Education Resource Teacher Training**

Special Education Resource Teachers will be meeting again on April 27<sup>th</sup> to work with Katie from Dr. Sullivan's on the WIAT achievement test. She will address any questions regarding the scoring of the assessment and clarify any concerns SERTs have. Katie will also be doing some moderated marking of the writing tasks from the assessment. The other half of this day will be spent working on transition planning for those students transitioning from secondary to their post-secondary pathway. One area of focus will be ensuring students who need updated assessments get them done in the third year of secondary school. This will alleviate some stress for students and parents when preparing for post-secondary education and making sure the supports will be available to them when they transition to their school of choice. Community partners will also join us for the afternoon to discuss "Person-Centered Thinking and Planning" and how to support our students with higher needs when transitioning into adult services and programming.

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### **ROUTING**

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Board

April 4, 2017

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