



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 2, 2024
Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre | Virtual
Time: 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to order

2. Roll call

Chair J. Balfour called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present. Nicole Young, Clinical Services Manager from One Kids Place Children's Treatment Centre, was welcomed as a new member filling the position vacated by Helga Harris.

3. Approval of agenda

Moved by B. Reain, seconded by D. McInerney that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Committee action items

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the March 5, 2024, meeting

Moved by D. McInerney, seconded by S. Bullock that the minutes dated March 5, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

5. Administrative updates

5.1 2024-2025 special education budget update

J. Johnston reported that the funding model for the 2024-2025 school year has not yet been received. She provided an update on the recent year's input moved by SEAC to support special education initiatives. Input for next year's budget were discussed, including greater communication to build understanding about universal design for learning (UDL), educational assistant recruitment and retention, and continued release time to support in-school team meetings.

5.2 System updates

J. Johnston shared the following updates:

- A GSA conference celebrating Day of Pink took place at Bracebridge Muskoka Lakes Secondary School on April 2.
- Schools are preparing for the EQAO testing period for Grade 3 and 6 students, which will take place from May 27 to June 10.
- Staffing processes are underway.
- Consideration is being made for an additional elementary Practical Academics and Life Skills (PA&LS) class in the City of Kawartha Lakes.
- Leadership learning sessions are taking place with administrators across the district.
- Superintendent of Learning Paul Goldring will be retiring this summer. A restructuring of superintendent portfolios will be taking place. A posting for the position of Superintendent of Special Education was recently announced.

5.3 Department updates

M. Lefler shared the following updates:

- Special education leadership professional development has been focused on reviews of IPRC processes.
- Recent in-person system class professional development focused on literacy and numeracy, in collaboration with the Curriculum Services Department.
- System class teachers will be visiting each other's classes around the district to enhance opportunities to collaborate and network.
- Applications for system classes are being processed.

6. SEAC projects

6.1 IEP Survey update

The IEP survey launched on April 2 and will remain open until April 12. Communications will continue throughout this timeframe.

6.2 Review of IEP videos

The committee discussed the IEP videos available on the Board website and made some suggestions on additional topics that they would like to see covered, including UDL and what happens when an IEP is no longer needed.

7. Other business

7.1 Updates and other items for discussion

J. Balfour attended a recent PAAC on SEAC meeting and will share information on SIP, MACSE, SEA, soft expulsions, and other items discussed at a later date.

R. McHugh noted that Autism Awareness Day promotion this year is more inclusive of the views of people on the autistic spectrum.

7.2 Association and community news

- D. Callan announced that Five Counties Children's Centre now has a third pediatrician supporting assessments. The agency is also continuing to review its tiered intervention support in hopes of further expansion.

7.3 Future business.

- Budget presentation, once GSNs are announced.
- Mental Health Services presentation

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Next meeting

Date: May 7, 2024
Location: Muskoka Education Centre | Lindsay Education Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Moved by B. Reain, the meeting was adjourned.