



# Special Education Advisory Committee

October 11, 2017

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 of meeting at 7:00 pm, in the St Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee members: Cindy Watson
  - Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Sophia Catania, Jennifer Checkley, Mary Cunningham, Graham Dunn, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider
  - Association Alternates: Amanda Schultz,
  - Non-Association Members: Stuart Cross, Sherri Popovich, Carmen Sutherland
- Board Staff in attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Scott R Miller, Karin Sonnenberg

Regrets: Kris Pryke, Kathy Waybrant, Faye Zevenbergen, Deanna Driedger Seeger,

Guests: Amy Dibben, Kathy Moreland

## Call to Order

SEAC Chair A. Sider called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

## Approval of Agenda

Moved by A. Schultz, seconded by J. Oosterveld:

That the agenda of the October 11, 2017 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

Carried

## Approval of Minutes

Moved by G. Dunn, seconded by M. Cunningham:

That the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

## **Guest Speaker**

Graham Shantz, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being (Information Technology Services) along with A. Sider, are on the WRDSB Internet Content Filtering Committee. Graham was invited to speak to SEAC members about topics concerning filtering and how online tools are utilized for our students.

Michael Morgan, Senior Manager (Information Technology Services), provided an overview of how WRDSB implements graduated filtering. He provided a PowerPoint presentation and explained content filtering and what it does and doesn't do. Questions were fielded.

Chromebooks and other devices, when used in our buildings, are subject to the Board's filtering rules. Chromebooks do not have a hard drive so users cannot download information from the internet either at school or at home. Section 23 students are provided with either a Chromebook or an iPad that are supported by WRDSB staff.

Digital Citizenship is taught to students from JK to Gr 12 and it stresses the importance of developing proper etiquette when using computers/digital devices.

Members were divided into 2 groups to hear about different platforms, these included: Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube, Instagram and twitter. The presenters, Trish Morgan and Kim Gill are teachers in the WRDSB, Kim at Groh Street Public School and Trish is a Special Education Itinerant Teacher. Both teachers provided great presentations that showed how these platforms empower all students, particularly how they support students with special needs.

## **Special Education Update**

Special Needs Strategy Update - Minimal news has been shared from the Ministry of Education since the last meeting. The transition of services from CCAC to KidsAbility will occur on April 1, 2018, S. Miller and C. Benedetti will be on the transition committee.

EQAO Results - Will be discussed at an upcoming meeting

Guiding Principles- Reflecting on Priorities -Identified gaps, recommendations and possible staff action was shared. At next meeting, we will continue to get feedback on these principles and develop next steps.

## **Other Business**

Policy Review - A list of policies coming up for review was sent to members. If anyone has any suggestions/comments regarding a policy, please send your feedback to S. Miller or A. Sider.

## **Association Reports**

To be forwarded to Karin for distribution.

## **Trustee Report**

No Trustee report.

## **Chair Report**

2 items came to Angela by email

1. Evacuation processes- C. Benedetti clarified the process. A school will advise her of any student that would require special accommodation to evacuate. Evac chairs have been deployed to certain schools that require them. Information regarding anyone that requires special support to evacuate the

school is contained in the firebox for firefighters to access. Contact C. Benedetti if a school has someone that requires special accommodation.

2. Bell Times- future agenda item
3. Request was made to place Off Campus Busing for Field Trips as a future agenda item. At this point it was determined that if there are any incidents where a student is denied access to a field trip because they cannot find accessible transportation contact S. Miller.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 7:00 pm in the St. Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by M. Cunningham, seconded by J. Oosterveld:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.