

SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DRAFT SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Via WebEx Video Conference

ATTENDANCE

Present: Alex Cranfield Five Counties Children’s Centre
(Committee Chairperson)
Toni Hill Development Services Ontario
Marilyn Robinson Autism Ontario – Peterborough Chapter
Wendy Johansen Ontario Association of Families of Children with
Communication Disorders
Angela Lloyd Trustee (Committee Vice-chairperson)
Jaine Klassen Jeninga Trustee (Alternate)
Cyndi Dickson Trustee
Kim Carson Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Peterborough
Debra Toth Alternatives Community Program Services
Incorporated
Alison Rodriguez Community Living Peterborough
April Smoke First Nations
Kathy Traynor Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough

Also Present: A.M. Duncan, A. Hunt-Schmoll, C. Filip, L. Schoenmaker, J. Massie, D. Swift, K. Koster-Lilley and E. O’Neill.

In light of the current health advisory and public health measures in place provincially, the meeting was held virtually using WebEx.

Land Acknowledgement

Committee Chairperson A. Cranfield called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. It was recognized and acknowledged that the Committee was meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga First Nations.

Adoption of Agenda

**MOVED BY M. Robinson, SECONDED BY K. Traynor
That the agenda be adopted as printed.**

CARRIED

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

Adoption of Minutes

MOVED BY A. Rodriguez, SECONDED BY M. Robinson

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, be adopted as recorded. CARRIED

MOVED BY W. Johansen, SECONDED BY A. Lloyd

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, be adopted as recorded. CARRIED

Board Report

Trustee A. Lloyd updated the Committee on events and initiatives being undertaken by the Board. A. Lloyd spoke to school concerns as it is uncertain how long schools will be affected. Everyone is working diligently to find ways to meet the needs of students and prioritize the new way of conducting business.

Trauma Informed School, Deanna Swift, Executive Officer, Professional Services

Deanna Swift, Executive Officer, Professional Services, and Kristine Koster-Lilley, Manager of Professional Services, Chief Social Worker, presented highlights from their system presentation on Trauma Informed Schools. Background information and research was shared with the Committee that indicated 1 in every 4 children have been exposed to a traumatic event in their life. These traumatic events affect how a child develops and how a child adapts physically, behaviourally and mentally. The importance of school staff and community partners making a connection with the child and parents was emphasized, stating there is a “need to connect before we correct”. A pilot has been ongoing at Norwood District High School since September 2019. Currently, 150 staff members have been trained in Trauma Sensitivity. During the next school year, staff training will continue to build capacity within our schools.

The Special Education Department surveyed School Administrators asking them to identify key concerns in their schools and their professional development needs. Responses from the survey included how can we better understand student behaviours; what are processes to address increasingly more complex/challenging behaviours; and how do we address the impact these behaviours are having on the school?

Using the feedback from the survey, a pilot program was introduced at Norwood District High School in September 2019 that provided professional development to 150 staff members on Trauma Sensitivity. Since the implementation of the pilot, there has been an 80% reduction in suspensions and the staff reports a more positive climate within the school. Professional development will expand over the upcoming school year to build Trauma Sensitivity in more schools with a goal to expand the program to include all staff (eg: secretaries, custodians, EAs, etc.) in a school.

Strategic Priorities Review

Superintendent A.M. Duncan presented the Board's Strategic Priorities and reviewed the process with the Committee. The Committee reviewed the Three Pillars, discussing specifically how KPR inspires our students to Succeed in Life and how KPR will Enrich our Communities. The Committee discussed and provided feedback on how their Agencies can support KPR in achieving these priorities.

Administrative Update

Superintendent A.M. Duncan provided an overview of the Board's Special Education plan for distance education to support our teachers, students and families. A.M. Duncan informed the Committee that IEPs and IPRCs are still a focus with staff, noting that some amendments are being made to both processes to accommodate the current learning environment. Questions of clarification were addressed.

Association Updates

All Agencies in attendance provided information including updates on upcoming meetings and how they are offering services to clients during these challenging times. Representative M. Robinson presented her report to Committee members. The full report will be emailed to Committee.

Future Topics

May 6, 2020 – Budget, Special Education Plan
May 28, 2020 – Compassion Fatigue

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held in Room 158 at the Education Centre, 1994 Fisher Drive, Peterborough, at 3:30 p.m. on May 6, 2020.

Adjournment

MOVED BY T. Hill, SECONDED BY D. Toth
That the meeting be adjourned (5:13 p.m.).

CARRIED

A. Cranfield
Committee Chairperson