

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DRAFT SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, June 16, 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
Angela Lloyd Trustee (Committee Vice-chairperson)
Cyndi Dickson Trustee
Jaine Klassen Jeninga Trustee (Alternate)
Kim Carson Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Peterborough
Debra Toth Alternatives Community Program Services
Incorporated
Alison Rodriguez Community Living Peterborough

Regrets: Kathy Traynor Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough
Wendy Johansen Ontario Association of Families of Children with
Communication Disorders
April Smoke First Nations

Also Present: A.M. Duncan, A. Hunt-Schmoll, C. Filip, L. Schoenmaker, J. Massie, T.
Singh, P. Chowdhury, K. Hill, A. Rose, L.O'Grady 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 3:32 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 A. Lloyd, SECONDED BY A. Rodriguez
That the agenda be adopted as printed.**

CARRIED

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

Adoption of Minutes

MOVED BY M. Robinson, SECONDED BY A. Lloyd

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday, May 28, 2020, be adopted as recorded. **CARRIED**

Board Report

Trustee A. Lloyd updated the Committee on events and initiatives being undertaken by the Board. Schools are implementing very creative and unique ways to acknowledge their graduating students.

After School Skills Development Program (ASSDP)

Superintendent Duncan informed the committee that the After School Skills Development Program (ASSDP) is a specially funded program through Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF). This program supports children living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the development of their social and life skills, which transfer to the school environment. By re-enforcing these skills, the students are becoming school ready at home. These programs are conducted outside of school hours. The programs were originally going to run face to face; however, due to school closures, they are running successfully virtually.

Lloyd Schoenmaker, System Principal of Special Education, explained that the partnerships with Lake Ridge Community Support Services and Tri-County Community Support Services were facilitated in response to COVID 19 school closures; otherwise the programs were arranged to run with Board staff, in our schools. It was acknowledged that these agencies had great ideas in terms of how to provide this program virtually to students living with ASD. Funding for this program is for three years and this is the first year.

L. Schoenmaker introduced the team participants; Pritha Chowdhury, Applied Behavioural Analysis Coordinator (ABA), Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB; Angela Rose, Supervisor, Lisa O'Grady, and Kim Hill, Tri-County Community Support Services (TCCSS) and Tisha Singh from Lake Ridge Community Support Services.

Background information regarding the goals and objectives was provided by Pritha Chowdhury, who explained that we wanted to provide students living with ASD opportunities to learn skills outside of teaching time. We chose to focus on social, communication, self-regulation and life planning skills.

Members from the Lake Ridge Community Support Services presented to the Committee their program. The first program is offered to students ages 8 to 12. A variety of skills such as social cues and playing with peers was highlighted. Lake Ridge Community Support Services provided two parent training sessions, one staff training session and a behavioural skills training session.

Lake Ridge Community Support Services is also offering sessions for teen groups ages 13 to 18. There are 8 student sessions, two parent training sessions, one staff training session and a "Mission Possible" assignment. In the sessions, they introduce a number of

activities that students can do at home to continue to work on these skills. The teens also identified some goals they wished to practice which are: starting and maintaining conversations with peers; challenges around identifying social cues and knowing when to end those conversations appropriately.

Members from the Tri-County Community Support Services presented their programming to the committee. They are offering a Secret Agent Society program. It is a comprehensive program for students ages 8 – 12 who have difficulties with emotional recognition, emotional management, and social skills. To keep the spy theme throughout the learning they changed language such as homework to home missions and strategies to activating gadgets. The program provided a framework for collaboration; children's club meetings, parent group sessions, training and consultation for teachers. Students also have access to an on-line spy game for the next 12 months to continue practicing their skills.

Tri County Community Support Services also has a teen group for ages 13 to 18. There are 8 sessions over 4 weeks and sessions for parents. They are targeting specific social and safety skills, both on-line and off-line. The program is designed to provide teens a safe place to connect and discuss important factors such as grooming, safety and identify theft. Skills targeted include online etiquette, texting, relationship building, cyberbullying, on-line safety and privacy. They hope to present to Secondary SERTS in the fall on the content and resources.

Questions of clarification posed by committee members were addressed by various presenters.

Special Education Budget Update

Superintendent Duncan informed the Committee that we have not received our Grant for Student Needs (GSN) funding information from the Ministry. Superintendent Duncan shared a projected Special Education budget and noted that she would share changes, if there were any, with the Committee in September.

Special Education Plan

Superintendent Duncan lead the group in a discussion and review of the Special Education Plan. There are 20 standards. If any members have feedback on the plan, they are asked to email A.M. Duncan by mid-July 2020. All modifications will be submitted to the Ministry by July 31, 2020. A.M. Duncan suggested that next year a standard be reviewed at each meeting.

Administrative Update

Superintendent Duncan outlined the Special Education and Mental Health summer programs being offered. The Ministry of Education has given PPF funding for this year only to support mental health professionals over the summer, to fund summer learning/summer school support, and to support transition programs. The KPRDSB summer learning/summer school programs to be offered are: elementary programs for Grades 1 to 5 which will focus on literacy, numeracy and ELL; Grade 8 to 9 transition

programs, where students will receive a learning skills credit; course upgrades; credit recovery, and full summer school courses.

The Special Education Department decided to employ SERTs as they will be able to support student learning in these programs and expand who can take part in summer learning. Mental health professionals will be employed to ensure support that has been available to students will continue to be in place with people with whom students have already built relationships. Funds for transitions programs have been allocated to schools to provide teachers to return to school for two days to be able to do in-person transition meetings with students.

Questions of clarification posed by Committee members were addressed by Superintendent Duncan.

Association Updates

Agencies in attendance provided information including updates on upcoming meetings and how they are offering services to clients during these challenging times.

Future Topics

A survey with topics was provided to Committee members for their feedback. The survey results were reviewed by the Committee and it was decided that a list of topics would be provided to members prior to the next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

September 15
October 6
November 3
January 5
February 2
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
June 15

The next meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held via WebEx Video Conference, at 3:30 p.m. on September 15, 2020.

Adjournment

MOVED BY A. Lloyd, SECONDED BY M. Robinson

That the meeting be adjourned (5:00 p.m.).

CARRIED

A. Cranfield
Committee Chairperson