

Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and Church.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2021

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| MEETING DATE: | Friday, September 17, 2021 |
| LOCATION OF MEETING: | Microsoft Teams Meeting |
| SUBJECT OF MEETING: | Special Education Advisory Committee |
| TIME OF MEETING: | 1:30 PM –2:49 PM |
| NEXT MEETING: | 1:30 PM Friday, October 15, 2021 |

| | ATTENDANCE | PERSON | TITLE |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Norine Schram | Member at Large, Chair |
| 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Diane VanderZande | Member at Large, Vice Chair |
| 3. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dianne Griffiths | Member at Large |
| 4. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tom Fawcett | Member at Large |
| 5. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Leslie Legros | Member at Large |
| 6. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Aimee Foucher | KACL Representative |
| 7. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Joel Willett | FIREFLY Representative |
| 8. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul White | Director of Education |
| 9. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nicole Kurtz | Superintendent of Instructional Services |
| 10. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Andrea Batters | Special Education Coordinator |
| 11. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Anne Sweeney | Trustee Representative |
| 12. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cathy McQuillan | Recording Secretary |

1. Opening Prayer – Nicole Kurtz

2. Roll Call: Regrets, Diane VanderZande, Aimee Foucher, Paul White

3. Approval of June 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes:

Accepted: Tom Fawcett

Seconded: Norine Schram

4. Correspondence: Letter from Michael Jacques to SEAC Chair – Attached 4

Norine Schram suggested perhaps he would do a virtual presentation.

Cathy McQuillan will get more information for the SEAC.

Joel Willett suggested doing a partnership with FIREFLY if we could bring him in for a presentation. Joel thinks it would be very interesting to hear from a young adult who has accessed special needs supports from agencies and educators. She feels it would be great for other students to see those children as champions as young adults and see where they end up. She also noted that he is donating partial proceeds of his books to Special Olympics Canada and Community Living.

Norine Schram suggested there may be more community partners that may be interested in hearing Michael speak.

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5. New Business: Proposed In-Person SEAC School Presentations – Andrea Batters

Andrea Batters welcomed our new Superintendent of Instructional Services, Nicole Kurtz to SEAC.

Andrea was also asked by our school teams to bring to SEAC the issue we are having with our students receiving eye exams. Optometrists in Ontario began a job action and are no longer serving patients covered by OHIP.

Joel Willett commented the *Eye See I Learn Program*, which helps kindergarten students access free eyeglasses may not be able to happen. Joel suggested that SEAC should some advocacy on behalf of our Optometry programs.

Norine Schram suggested a letter to the regulatory body of Optometry and the Minister of Health.

6. Professional Development – Nicole Kurtz

Proposed Plans for SEAC 2021-2022 School Year – Attached 6

7. School Updates – Andrea Batters

The approach for the 2021- 2022 school Year for the School Updates will be for the schools to do their presentations according to the schedule below.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Friday, January 21, 2022 | Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoy School |
| Friday, February 18, 2022 | St. Louis School |
| Friday, March 25, 2022 | Pope John Paul II School |
| Friday, April 29, 2022 | St. Thomas Aquinas High School |
| Tuesday, May 17, 2022 | St. John School/CEC Board Room |

8. Business arising from last meeting:

Follow up regarding Leslie Legros being a member of SEAC – Norine Schram

Norine Schram will get Leslie Legros contact information and forward it to Cathy so she can send Leslie a Tax Package.

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9. Agency Reports

- **FIREFLY – Joel Willett - Attached 10**
- **KACL – Aimee Foucher – Regrets**
- **Other Reports from Members-at-Large**
 - **Tom Fawcett**
 - **Tom Fawcett** had a question regarding the IEP. He wanted to know if the IEP followed the student into the next school year until the new IEP was available.
 - **Nicole Kurtz** confirmed that the IEP does not expire and would follow the student into the next school year.
 - **Norine Schram** asked if on behalf of SEAC that Nicole could ask the principals to remind teachers that IEPs that were in place last year are current until they are updated.
 - **Tom Fawcett** also asked if all the KCDSB staff will be vaccinated.
 - **Nicole Kurtz** answered that KCDSB is following the Ministry guidelines. The aggregate data is actually on our [website](#) of what percentage of staff are currently vaccinated. Per Ministry guidelines, KCDSB Staff who are choosing not to be vaccinated or do not want to disclose their vaccination status must do rapid testing twice a week. They must also complete a Ministry online course.
 - **Anne Sweeney** added that the Trustees have sent a letter to the Ministry of Education that the Trustees feel vaccines should be mandated - **Attached**
 - **Dianne Griffiths**
 - **commented that we should all take advantage of the opportunity to be vaccinated.**
 - **Diane VanderZande – Regrets**
 - **Norine Schram**

10. Trustee Report – Anne Sweeney

Trustees held their Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 15, and received the following presentations:

- **Opening Prayer**
- **St. Thomas Aquinas High School Achieves at Festival de Théâtre de Jeunesse**
- **Introduction of New Student Trustees**
- **Student Trustee Report**
- **Presentation to Student Trustees**
- **Resignation of Bérangère Thibault for the purposes of retirement.**
- **Borrowing Resolution**
- **Special Education Annual Review**
- **School Council & Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Reports**
- **Graduation 2021**

Watch the June 15, Regular Board Meeting Video: <https://youtu.be/yrKxXB7Zhcc>

- 11. **Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters – Attached 11**
- 12. **Next Meeting: Friday, October 15, 2021 via Microsoft Teams**

August 2021

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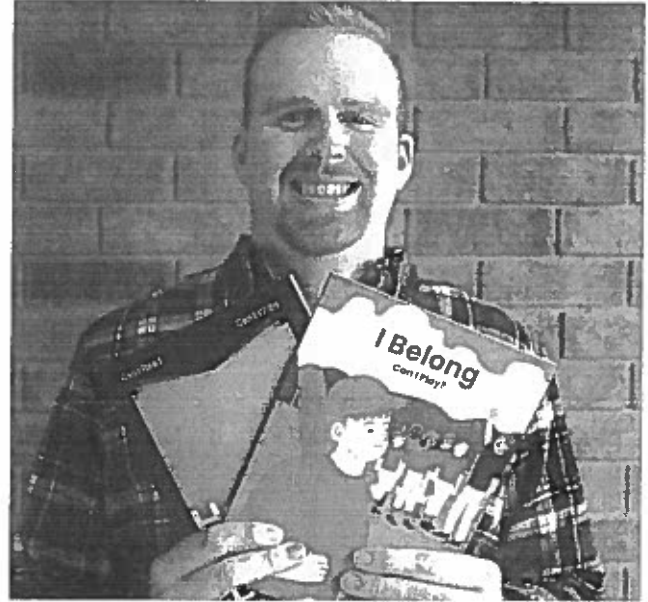
SEP 14 2021

heresmybook.com

michael.jacques1@gmail.com

Guest Speaker
Michael Jacques *the Kenora Catholic District School Board*

—
 “My mission is to be a role model for youth and inspire them to celebrate their differences and include everyone.”



To Whom It May Concern,

As SEAC Chair you are well aware of the obstacles students with challenges face everyday in todays society. From the classrooms to workplace to community our world has a lot of work to do in order to create authentic inclusion. As a retired Principal, I witnessed the commitment from parents and staff to support, teach and guide students. I also felt many resources focused on what it means to have a disability rather than focusing on the abilities and potential of every student.

One way to create a more inclusive society is by inspiring youth. Hearing from individuals who are sharing their personal story to make a greater impact in the world.

My son, Michael Jacques, like anyone else wants to feel included. He has autism and an intellectual disability and faces many challenges day to day. However, at 29 years old he is an inspiration and role model to many. He cannot read or write but has written two books with the help of technology and support from others, sell over 20,000 copies. He's been appointed to MACSE (a provincial committee that provides advice to the Minister of Education on issues of Special Education). He is the VP of Community Living Ontario and is international recognized by the Queens Commonwealth Trust as a young adult making a positive change in his community.

Over the last 3-years he has done over 200 in person presentations and over 100 virtual presentations across the country. His audiences vary but most are with schools boards, talking directly with elementary and secondary students (individual classes or entire school), staff (on PD days) and with parents (eg. parent engagement meetings, SEAC meetings, etc.).

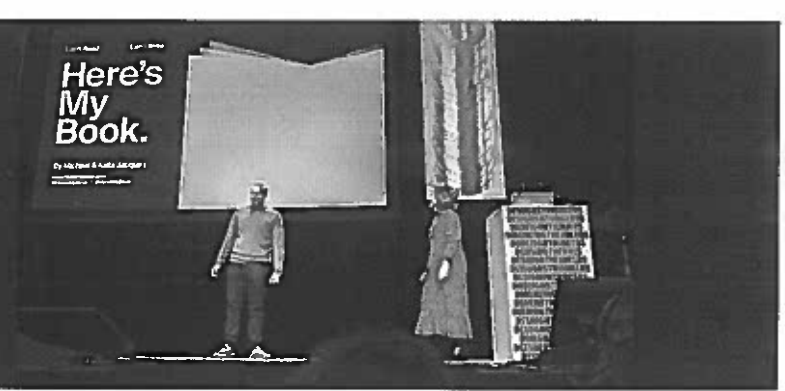
I have attached a 1-page flyer to this letter that will provide you more information about Michael or you can visit his website at www.heresmybook.com

Michael as a proud graduate of the Catholic School System would be honoured to receive an invite to be a Guest Speaker. If you would like further information please contact us at michael.jacques1@gmail.com

Michael's hope is to share his story, connect with people, and inspire a more inclusive, accepting world. We believe a large part of this starts in the education sector.

Take care & thank you for your time.
 Marcel Jacques (Michael's proud father)

A story to be shared



Michael is a public speaker and activist, who in 2018 wrote and self-published *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book* using speech-to-text technology. In 2020 he released a children's book that he co-authored with Heather Gale titled, *I Belong: Can I Play?*

At a young age, Michael was diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability. Never one to shy away from obstacles, Michael has made his authorial debut, sharing experiences from his life to help audiences understand accepting and belonging. His story demonstrates the empowerment that comes from being comfortable in your own skin, knowing your strengths, valuing relationships, and giving back to your community.

Michael looks for opportunities to inspire and educate people on diversity and inclusion. What Michael has learned being part of this conversation is that diversity is a reality, we need to embrace and celebrate differences. On the other hand, inclusion is a choice, we have a responsibility to make sure everyone in our world belongs. Through his brave story, witty personality, and positive outlook on life, Michael is an inspiration to many. He speaks to schools (elementary, secondary, and post-secondary), educators, organizations, parents, communities, etc. both in-person and virtually.

Michael gives back by donating partial proceeds of his book sales to Special Olympics Canada and Community Living, two organizations doing great work in these areas.



Contact Michael for speaking opportunities at:
michael.jacques1@gmail.com

Things you should know about Michael:



Young leader and public speaker receiving international recognition on the [Queen's Commonwealth Trust](https://www.queenstrust.ca/) website.



Wrote his first book by dictating to his iPad and has sold over 20,000 copies. Book available in English & French.



Wrote a children's book with Heather Gale titled, *I Belong: Can I Play?* Available in English & French and has sold over 1,000 copies.



Elected Vice President for the Board of Directors with Community Living Ontario.



Special Olympic athlete, competing in baseball and basketball.



Appointed to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education.



Chosen as Fonthill's 2019 Citizen of the Year.



Works at Sobeys Grocery Store in Fonthill.

Long Range Plans for SEAC 2021-2022

| Date | Goal | Responsibility | Details/Notes |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------|
| September 2021 | Discuss needs and ideas with SEAC for input on professional development for 2021-2022 year. | Special Education Coordinator | |
| October 2021 | <p>Professional Development on Special Education Manual Part : Special Education Programs and Services section on The Board's General Model for Special Education (page 5) and the section on Roles and Responsibilities (pages 5 to 16).</p> <p>Andrea has reached out to Tom Doherty, St. John School teacher and a Metis' Society to do a presentation to SEAC.</p> | Special Education Coordinator | |
| November 2021 | Review the Special Education Budget and Ministry Funding. | Alison Smith | |
| December 2021 | Professional Development on Special Education Manual Part : Special Education Programs and Services section on Early | Special Education Coordinator | |

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| | <p>Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies (pages 16 to 23).</p> <p>KCDSB Equity Plan and all the great work being done at our board.</p> | Mariette Martineau | |
| January 2022 | <p>PD to be determined.</p> <p>École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys - Presentation</p> | | |
| February 2022 | <p>Professional Development on Special Education Manual Part : Special Education Programs and Services section on In-School Team (IST) Process (pages 24 to 26).</p> <p>ASPEN – our new student information system.</p> <p>St. Louis Living Arts School Presentation</p> | <p>Special Education Coordinator</p> <p>Jamey Robertson Jared Ralko</p> | |
| March 2022 | <p>To be determined.</p> <p>Pope John Paul II School Presentation</p> | | |
| April 2022 | <p>Present initial revisions to the Special Education Plan to SEAC for feedback</p> | <p>Special Education Coordinator Superintendent</p> | |

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| | St. Thomas Aquinas High School Presentation | | |
| May 2022 | <p>Present final revisions to the Special Education Plan to SEAC with two motions to be moved and seconded by SEAC members. These recommendations are printed on one page including the mover and seconder and attested to and signed at the bottom by the chair and vice chair of SEAC and sent with the package to the Director of Education for inclusion at the June Board meeting.</p> <p>St. John School Presentation</p> | Special Education Coordinator Superintendent | <p>Motion #1 That, since SEAC has completed its consultations; and its annual review of the Board's Special Education Plan/Manual and consulted on the checklist, SEAC approve the May 2022 amendments to the Special Education Plan/Manual as presented.</p> <p>Motion #2 SEAC recommends that the Board approves the 2022 amendments to the Special Education Plan/Manual as presented and further, that the Board forward the amendments and the required checklist along with the Report to the Ministry of Education.</p> |
| June 2022 | <p>Present final revisions to the Special Education Plan to SEAC with two motions to be moved and seconded by SEAC members Following Board approval send complete package to the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>Discuss the upcoming municipal election on October 24, 2022.</p> | <p>Special Education Coordinator Superintendent</p> <p>Superintendent</p> | <p>Board Motion #1 That the Board approve the 2022 amendments to the Special Education Plan/Manual.</p> <p>Board Motion #2 That the Board forward the 2022 amendments to the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>Following the municipal election, the new Board will appoint SEAC members for a four year term beginning in November 2022. The Board is required to place an ad in the local</p> |

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| | | | <p>newspaper and on their website for SEAC members. The Board is also required to send letters to local qualified agencies asking them to appoint a representative (Firefly, Canadian Hearing Society, Kenora Association for Community Living). Each interested at large SEAC member must apply for consideration. ALL SEAC members must be Catholic ratepayers and have to provide proof of this with a copy of their recent tax bill (redact monetary amounts). These names are taken to the November or December Board meeting for appointment by the Board. Following Board appointment a letter is sent to each new member.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

NOTE: Samples of documents are attached to this plan.

FIREFLY
KCDSB SEAC update
September 17, 2021

- Had successful summer initiative activities in partnership with KCDSB and TNCDSB.
- New Online Self Referral Form for youth launching next week!!! With new self referral youth will be able to skip and intake appointment
- Brief Services review and project underway to decrease wait times and meet increased demand
- SNAP programming starting next week in Kenora - 2 groups
- OAP program applications:
 - FIREFLY submitted application to provide Entry to School service to ASD clients ages 4-6 on their first entry to school. This would involve 6 months of intensive half day programming involving ECE, Behavior therapists, OT, SLP
 - Currently completing Urgent response Service application (URS) – 12 weeks of intensive supports for ASD clients
- New Youth Outreach and Engagement worker has started on Kenora CYMH team: FIREFLY will be looking to work with schools in respect to her role
- School Based Rehab Services (SBRS): FIREFLY intake is implementing online referral options for SBRS so schools will be able to submit referrals online.
- FIREFLY childcare services will transition to KDSB as of December 31, 2021. KDSB operates child care programs in Dryden, Red Lake, and Ear Falls. They have the resources and expertise to support the Kenora program and staff, while offering the opportunity for a peer network of other child care providers across the region.



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: | Special Education Coordinator's Report – September 2021 |
| DATE: | Friday, September 17, 2021 |
| PREPARED FOR: | Special Education Advisory Committee |
| AGENDA AREA: | Public Session |
| PREPARED BY: | Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator |

The **KCDSB In-School Team (IST) school administrator and learning resource teacher assignments** this year are as follows:

- **Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys** – Principal: Hilary Aitkin, Vice-Principal: Andrea Sachowski, Learning Resource Teacher: Kristy Smith
- **Pope John Paul II School** – Principal: Tammy Bush, Vice-Principal: Travis Batters, Learning Resource Teachers: Anissa Fraser and Tahsha Shelske
- **St. Louis Living Arts School** – Principal: Maureen Frankcom, Learning Resource Teacher: Leanne Chisholm
- **St. John School** -- Principal: Corinna Glazier, Learning Resource Teacher: Shawna Lamme
- **St. Isidore School** – Principal: Tammy Bush, Vice-Principal: Travis Batters, Learning Resource Teacher: Chrissy Biehn
- **St. Thomas Aquinas High School** – Principal: Kylie Hughes, Vice-Principal: Mark Richards, Vice-Principal: Travis Batters, Learning Resource Teachers: Danielle Grosset (Special Education Area Chair), Kirsten Fair, Sommer Kennedy, and Ashley Shouldice.

The **Ministry's** second year of **Return to School (COVID Response) funding** dollars were once again accessed by school teams in aiding children and families with special education needs with their preparations to return to school in the fall.

- KCDSB was able to offer a new **Back-to-School Summer Reading Boost Program** for students (Kenora area) entering grades 2-4 this fall. This inclusive, in-person summer literacy program provided a gap-closing literacy 'boost' facilitated by KCDSB Teachers and Educational Assistants for 2 week in mid-August. Before and during the program, KCDSB's Curriculum Coordinator, Dallis Novelli, and I provided PD and support during the program to the **BTSSRB** program educator teams who learned the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program and how to maximize the blended learning use of the Lexia Core 5 Reading software. Megan Derouard, KCDSB's Heathy Active Living Lead, also



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

played a key role organizing and delivering fun games and fitness activities attending the program. Additionally, program educators embraced creative literacy learning, cooperative activities, and art projects with their students to complement the literacy programming students received.

- **Ministry Special Education: Return to School Project Summer Literacy and “2 Week Transition”** funding once again allowed each school team the dollars to hire educator staff, during the last two weeks of August, to support students with special education and/or mental health needs by providing additional staffing and program support to be delivered in-person during the two-weeks preceding the return to school for the 2021-22 school year. *Examples* of some individualized student assistance measures in our KCDSB included:
 - Educator(s) contacting families of students with special education needs to query what supports may be needed and answer any questions that may arise;
 - Providing students and families with an opportunity to become reacquainted with the school environment (tours, practicing routines, etc.);
 - Creating or purchasing transition materials to support quiet/transition spaces in the learning environment, and
 - Supporting the inclusion of recommendations made by other professionals supporting at student’s return to school goals.

The **2021-2022 Opening PD Days** took place on August 30-Sept 1. Sessions with an inclusive education approach included:

- Steven Graner – Project Director for the Neuro-Sequential Model in Education **“Neuro-Sequential Model in Education”** (relationship based learning rooted in understanding of the individual’s emotions and needs before learning can take place).
- Patti Pelli – Ministry of Education **“De-Streaming Math: What Does it Really Mean for All Educators?”**
- Caroly Treadgold -Former Superintendent of Special Education and School Principal with the Durham District School Board – **“The Top 10 Things You Need to Know About IEPs”**

The next KCDSB PD day is set for November 1, 2021 with a focus on Catholicity.