

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

December 18, 2020

MEETING DATE:	Friday, December 18, 2020
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting & CEC Training Room
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM - 2:28 PM
NEXT MEETING:	1:30 PM Friday, January 15, 2020

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Norine Schram	Member at Large, Chair
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane VanderZande	Member at Large, Vice Chair
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dianne Griffiths	Member at Large
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Fawcett	Member at Large
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leslie Legros	Member at Large
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angela Holmstrom	KACL Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	FIREFLY Representative
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Director of Education
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phyllis Eikre	Advisor to the Director of Education
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair of the Board of Trustees
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Favreau	Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Trustee Representative
14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. **Opening Prayer:** Andrea Batters

2. **Roll Call: Regrets:** Leslie Legros, Teresa Gallik

3. **Introductions – Paul White**

Following the resignation of Director Derek Haime, the following appointments have been made by the Board of Trustees:

Paul White: Director of Education

Phyllis Eikre: Advisor to the Director of Education.

Paul White thanked the SEAC committee for welcoming him. He explained to the SEAC committee that while the replacement of the Superintendent of Instructional Services is in process, Phyllis Eikre has returned from retirement to mentor and support Paul in his transition to Director. The Board

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

December 18, 2020

wanted to ensure there was limited impact on our students while the staffing positions are being filled. Phyllis will take on the Special Education portfolio.

Phyllis Eikre shared that she is excited to return to the Kenora Catholic District School Board. She commented that the KCDSB is close to her heart and she is pleased to be returning to support Special Education, which is her passion.

4. Approval of November 20, 2020 meeting minutes:

Moved by: Joel Willett

Seconded by: Dianne Griffiths

5. Trustee Report – November 17th Board Meeting – Anne Sweeney – Attached

6. Correspondence: Nil

7. New Business: Xello Presentation – <https://youtu.be/RF5Sdk1hBFk> Cindy Melenchenko - KCDSB Experiential Learning Lead

8. Professional Development: Virtual Meeting Captioning Features - Andrea Batters and Dianne Griffiths

Andrea and Dianne demonstrated how to utilize Captions in Microsoft Teams.

Dianne reported what a good tool it is as it is real-time captioning which means what is being captioned is what is being said at the time.

9. School Updates – Andrea Batters

Typically, from January to June each year our schools will host a SEAC meeting. This is a chance for the school teams, administration, and learning resource teacher(s) to share with the SEAC spaces and programs available in their schools. This year due to COVID, they will not be able to host the SEAC meeting on-site. The schools are looking at alternatives such as sharing a monthly update message or taking turns to virtually to the SEAC. Andrea hopes to have a decision from the schools on how they would like to move forward with this, and she will work with SEAC to set up a schedule at that time.

10. Business arising from last meeting: Nil

11. Agency Reports

- **FIREFLY** – Joel Willett - Attached

- **KACL** – Angela Holmstrom

KACL is still offering services in person as well as virtually.

- **Other Reports from Members-at-Large**

• **Tom Fawcett:**

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

December 18, 2020

His two grandsons are doing virtual school with much success. His one grandson is currently also doing empower reading and he is finding that successful as well.

- **Dianne Griffiths:**

Nil

- **Leslie Legros:**

Regrets

- **Diane VanderZande:**

Welcomed Paul and Phyllis to SEAC.

- **Norine Schram:**

Welcomed Paul and Phyllis to SEAC and wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

12. **Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters - Attached**

13. **Next Meeting: Friday, January 15, 2021, 1:30 PM,
Training Room at CEC and Microsoft Teams**

Trustee Report – Board Meeting - November 17, 2020 – Anne Sweeney

XELLO Individual Pathways Program

Cindy Melenchenko, Experiential Learning Lead and Grade 7 student Maddyn Hughes provided a presentation on Kenora Catholic's XELLO Individual Pathways Program.

The team shared a video that showcased how XELLO is being used across the board to support students in planning their own educational journey and exploring potential career pathways. The video shared that in month one of launching XELLO, Kenora Catholic was among the top three districts with the highest usage in Canada, with over 1,400 logins. The program is available to students from Grade 6 – 12.

Watch the XELLO Video by [tapping this link](#)

Kenora Youth Wellness Hub

Jeff Richards, Teacher at the Community Youth Wellness Hub, provided a progress report on the successes of the partnership with the Kenora Youth Wellness Hub. Richards also provided a virtual tour of the facility and an overview of all the opportunities and partnerships to support youth in Kenora.

Richards shared that he's the only teacher in Ontario of the 13 Youth Hubs spread across the province. He's currently focusing on building relations and supporting students in reaching their own successes.

The Community Youth Wellness Hub supports youth with mental health, substance use, primary care, access to health care, vocational and housing issues, and is a one-stop-shop model of care for youth in a friendly atmosphere.

Richards shared that it's been fulfilling helping and supporting youth. He's connecting in the community,

Director Haime shared that Jeff Richards is doing missionary work for education, helping students with a variety of pathways, that are not always about getting credits and obtaining the OSSD.

Kids in the Know Program

Sue Devlin, Mental Health Lead and Natasha Tsevendé Mental Health Worker, highlighted the Kids in the Know Program and the child abuse statistics that support the need for the program.

In the fall of 2018, Kenora Catholic partnered with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and the Ontario Provincial Police to build capacity within Kenora Catholic to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. The partnership provided resources for the Kids in the Know Program and other supports to improve the personal safety of students.

The Kids in the Know Program teaches personal safety strategies that are developmentally appropriate for students and uses a cast of puppet characters to deliver core messages.

Student Trustee Presentation

Student Trustee Julia Tkachuk and Maxwell Froese provided a report on the activities and initiatives happening at St. Thomas Aquinas High School during November. Students highlighted some of the recent events such as the quadmester change, Halloween, exams, Remembrance Day Service at Kenora Legion. Students are looking to plans around random acts of kindness day and anti-bullying week.

2019 – 2020 Audited Financial Statements – Jennifer Pyzer Whetter, Partner BDO Canada LLP

Jennifer Pyzer Whetter, Partner with BDO LLP provided a report on Kenora Catholic's 2019 – 2020 Audited Financial Statements.

[Tap this link](#) to review the 2019 – 2020 Audited Financial Statements.

Letter from Kenora Catholic to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education – Teresa Gallik

Chair Gallik presented a letter that was written to Minister Lecce on November 12, to encourage a safe return to face-to-face learning as soon as possible because of the many benefits for the majority of students. The letter also highlights the challenges associated with virtual learning as well as other issues such as maintaining three modes of education, bussing, funding shortfalls and staffing issues and identifies solutions.

Virtual learning will continue at Kenora Catholic and around the province, as determined by parents and teachers working together for the best interests of students.

[Tap the link](#) to read the letter to Minister Lecce.

FIREFLY

KCDSB SEAC update

December 18, 2020

- FIREFLY clinicians continue see all priority level clients. Clients are to be seen virtually whenever possible. If virtual is not possible, face-to-face is allowed.
- FIREFLY is lead agency for the Northern Collaborative committee to pursue the goal of: Access to, and retention of, quality trained respite workers with ability to provide in home services. There is currently a survey for families to complete to give their feedback so we can best tailor the training, etc. to meet family's needs. The link to the survey is below, please feel free to share with families and on your social media.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CUjffMhIKUCoBcec-qpvCZxwn55Xe8lBjkP2GtfjhfBUOEhUSjM2QUJDR1Y0QVNNQjAxRUw0VFJIUy4u&fbclid=IwAR2vDNcWlUwdVto3thAvNEQE26SUSrVgmlviBxgCY12oVbPxeICUFPnh-g4>



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 the Church.

SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

SUBJECT:	Special Education Coordinator's Report
DATE:	Friday, December 18, 2020
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

We continue to contract psychologists to meet with students, parents, and educator teams to provide follow-up consultation on formal assessments administered by Teacher Diagnosticians or Psychometrists. A psychoeducational assessment may be recommended by the In-School (educator) Team, with the parent and/or student of legal age's consent, to gather additional information about the learner to aid in individualized program planning.

During this time of COVID-19, these professional meetings are taking place virtually. After the consultation session and the review of the student's assessment scores, the psychologist provides a detailed report highlighting the student's learning strengths, areas of need, and suggested accommodations. These professional recommendations aid educator teams, in consultation with students and parents, with the development of individualized learning plans. The psychologist may also diagnose learning or other disorders which may be put forward by the parent or school principal to the Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC). An IPRC is a formal committee that meets to decide if a student should be identified as exceptional and, if so, the program placement that will best meet the student's needs.