

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

January 15, 2021

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| MEETING DATE: | Friday, January 15, 2021 |
| LOCATION OF MEETING: | Microsoft Teams Meeting & CEC Board Room |
| SUBJECT OF MEETING: | Special Education Advisory Committee |
| TIME OF MEETING: | 1:30 PM - 2:31 PM |
| NEXT MEETING: | 1:30 PM Friday, February 19, 2021 |

| | 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 – Phyllis Eikre

2. Roll Call:

- Norine Schram will be joining the meeting late as she has a work commitment. Diane VanderZande will chair the meeting.
- **Regrets:** Leslie Legros, Teresa Gallik

3. Approval of December 18, 2020 meeting minutes:

- **Moved by:** Tom Fawcett
- **Seconded by:** Dianne Griffiths

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****MEETING MINUTES****January 15, 2021****4. Trustee Report – Anne Sweeney**

- Anne Sweeney reported on the Annual Board Meeting held on December 15, 2020. This is the meeting where the Trustees select the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Teresa Gallik was acclaimed as Chair and Mike Favreau was acclaimed as Vice Chair.
- The Trustees were pleased to receive Christmas greetings from:
 - Corinna Glazier, Principal for St. John School in Red Lake sent greetings on behalf of all the principals.
 - Leanne Davidson sent greetings on behalf of OECTA.
 - Jennifer Pencoff sent greetings on behalf of OPSEU.
- The Student Trustees reported that they are getting used to their virtual environment.
- Candy Cane Lane was well attended and a huge success.
- The Trustees regretfully accepted the resignation of Derek Haime as the Director of the Kenora Catholic District School Board.
- The Trustees each expressed their farewells and good wishes to Director Haime. Trustee, Jeffrey White also gifted to Director Haime two healing eagle feathers in grateful recognition of his leadership over the past two years.
- The Trustees also welcomed Paul White as the Director of Education and Phyllis Eikre as the Advisor to the Director of Education.

5. Correspondence: Nil**6. New Business:****KCDSB 2020 – 2021 School Year Calendar Survey – Phyllis Eikre**

- The survey is now underway for the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar. It opened on January 11, 2021 and will close on January 22, 2021. Cathy has sent out an email to all SEAC members with links to complete the survey.
 - The School Year Calendar is done in cooperation with:
 - Rainy River District School Board
 - Keewatin Patricia District School Board
 - The Northwest Catholic District School Board
 - Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales
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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2021

- The boards work together on a committee. Our boards must have the same calendar as we share bussing in all our communities.
- It must be finalized and ready for the February Board Meeting.
- The committee has come up with two school year calendar options – **Attached 5**
 - Calendar Option 1: Students begin school on September 1, 2021 and end school on June 24, 2022.
 - Calendar Option 2: Students begin school on September 8, 2021 and end school on June 30, 2022
 - The Survey ask you to choose Option 1 or Option 2 but also gives a third choice of having no preference.
- The survey results will be collated between all the boards between January 25 -29. A final recommendation will be presented to the Trustees at the February Board Meeting. The recommendation still must go to the Ministry of Education for final approval. The approval usually does not come back from the Ministry until April. When approval is received it is made public.
- Phyllis Eikre reported something that may affect the calendars is normally the board would have received from the Ministry the PD Day schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Due to the ongoing issues with the pandemic, we have not received the schedule. We have contacted the Ministry but they do not know yet when the PD Day plans will be available, so they have not been able to give us any direction.

Update regarding Provincial State of Emergency – Phyllis Eikre

- On January 14, 2021, the Province of Ontario announced it is immediately declaring a second provincial state of emergency to address the COVID-19 crisis.
 - All KCDSB schools will remain open. If you are an employee who can work from home than you must work from home. The Board Office is closed to the public with only a skeleton staff is in the building.
 - Students in Grade 1-3 are now required to wear masks. Masks are also required for any outdoor activity if you cannot stay two meters apart. Masks are also required on all busses and at all bus stops.
 - On January 13, 2021, Director White sent a letter out to all our KCDSB families outlining the new requirements. - **Attached 7**
- 7. Professional Development – Andrea Batters**
- We have no items for Professional Development at this time.
 - Andrea would like to bring a new member of the Special Education Team to next month’s SEAC meeting to speak about Jordan’s Principal.
 - She invited SEAC members to bring forward any request for PD they would like to learn about.

8. School Updates – Andrea Batters - Attached 9

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- **FIREFLY – Joel Willett – Attached 13**

- **KACL – Angela Holmstrom**
 - Regarding service delivery, KACL continues to do virtual visits but is doing some in person service where it is deemed essential to physical or mental health.
 - KACL is trying to get a parent group up and running again online to allow parents to connect during the lockdown.

- **Other Reports from Members-at-Large**
 - **Tom Fawcett –**
 - Tom Fawcett did have a question regarding the EQAO and the OSSLT Test. He was wondering if they would still be happening this year.

 - Phyllis Eikre responded that to the best of her knowledge she had not heard that it is happening.

 - Tom asked if the students are unable to take the OSSLT will they have to take it later?

 - Phyllis Eikre responded that she will check into his question and get back to the SEAC committee with the information.

 - **Dianne Griffiths - Nil**
 - **Leslie Legros - Regrets**
 - **Diane VanderZande –**
 - Diane wanted to thank the board on behalf of the SEAC committee for the Christmas Card and Gift Card. She is looking forward to being able to use it when everything opens back up again.
 - **Norine Schram - Nil**

11. Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters - Attached 14**12. Next Meeting: Friday, February 19, 2021, 1:30 PM**
Microsoft Teams

2021 - 2022 School Year Calendar

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PD DAY EXAMS



All students begin school on September 1, 2021 and end school on June 24, 2022

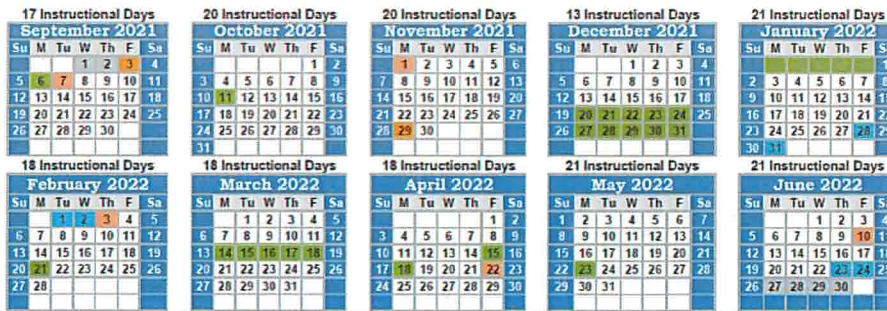
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| School Holidays September 6, 2021 October 11, 2021 Dec 20, 2021 - Dec 31, 2021 February 21, 2022 March 14-18, 2022 April 15, 2022 April 18, 2022 May 23, 2022 First Day of School for Students September 1, 2021 Last Day of School for Students June 24, 2022 | Labour Day Thanksgiving Christmas Holidays Family Day March Break Good Friday Easter Monday Victoria Day | Professional Activity Days August 30, 2021 August 31, 2021 November 1, 2021 November 29, 2021 April 22, 2022 June 10, 2022 | Professional Development Professional Development Professional Development Professional Development Elementary Report Cards Secondary Curriculum Professional Development Elementary Report Cards Secondary Curriculum | Elementary Progress Report Report Card Report Card Secondary Semester 1 Semester 1 Term 1 Semester 1 Term 2 Mid Term Report Exams Final Report Semester 2 Semester 2 Term 1 Semester 2 Term 2 Mid Term Report Exams Final Report | November 17, 2021 February 16, 2022 June 24, 2022 September 1, 2021 - January 27, 2022 August 31 - November 5, 2021 November 8 - January 27, 2022 November 22, 2021 January 24, 25, 26, 27, 2022 February 8, 2022 January 28 - June 24, 2022 January 28 - April 19, 2022 April 15 - June 24, 2022 April 21, 2022 June 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 2022 July |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|

Calendar Option 2 / Calendrier Option 2

The second calendar has students beginning school on September 8, 2021, and ending school on June 30, 2022. Dans le premier calendrier, les étudiants retournent en classe le 8 septembre 2021 et terminent l'année scolaire le 30 juin 2022.

2021 - 2022 School Year Calendar

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PD DAY EXAMS



All students begin school on September 8, 2021 and end school on June 30, 2022

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| School Holidays September 6, 2021 October 11, 2021 Dec 20, 2021 - Dec 31, 2021 February 21, 2022 March 14-18, 2022 April 15, 2022 April 18, 2022 May 23, 2022 First Day of School for Students September 8, 2021 Last Day of School for Students June 30, 2022 | Labour Day Thanksgiving Christmas Holidays Family Day March Break Good Friday Easter Monday Victoria Day | Professional Activity Days Sept. 3, 2021 September 7, 2021 November 1, 2021 November 29, 2021 February 3, 2022 April 22, 2022 June 10, 2022 | Professional Development Professional Development Professional Development Professional Development Elementary Report Cards Secondary Curriculum Professional Development Elementary Report Cards Secondary Curriculum | Elementary Progress Report Report Card Report Card Secondary Semester 1 Semester 1 Term 1 Semester 1 Term 2 Mid Term Report Exams Final Report Semester 2 Semester 2 Term 1 Semester 2 Term 2 Mid Term Report Exams Final Report | November 22, 2021 February 22, 2022 June 30, 2022 September 1, 2021 - Feb 2, 2022 Sept 7 - November 11, 2021 November 12 - Feb 2, 2022 November 26, 2021 January 22, 31, Feb. 1, 2, 2022 February 15, 2022 Feb 3 - June 30, 2022 Feb 3 - April 20, 2022 April 21 - June 30, 2022 April 27, 2022 June 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 2022 July |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|

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3. Which option is your preference for the 2021 - 2022 School Year Calendar? Quelle option préférez-vous pour l'année scolaire 2021 - 2022?

- Calendar Option 1 - Students begin school on September 1, 2021, and end school on June 24, 2022. / Calendrier Option 1 - Les étudiants retournent en classe le 1er septembre 2021 et terminent l'année scolaire le 24 juin 2022.
- Calendar Option 2 - Students begin school on September 8, 2021, and end school on June 30, 2022. / Calendrier Option 2 - Les étudiants retournent en classe le 8 septembre 2021 et terminent l'année scolaire le 30 juin 2022.
- No preference / Pas de préférence

Done

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See how easy it is to [create a survey](#).

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January 13, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Yesterday the Ontario Government issued a [media release](#) to announce that the province is immediately declaring a second provincial emergency to address the COVID-19 crisis and save lives. Effective Thursday, January 14, at 12:01 a.m., the government is issuing a 28-day stay-at-home order requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work.

All schools at the Kenora Catholic District School Board remain open for in-person learning. We will continue to work closely with the Northwestern Health Unit and follow their direction. It is our commitment to continue to provide an exceptional Catholic education for your child(ren) and will carry out everything we can to ensure the safety of our students and employees.

As part of this announcement the Ontario Government is implementing additional health and safety measures for in-person learning to keep students, employees and schools safe:

- **Masking** - Masking will now be compulsory for all students in Grades 1 – 3 indoors in schools and will be required for specific outdoor activities where physical distancing is not possible. Reasonable exceptions on the requirement to wear masks will apply. Masking is now required for all students from Grade 1 - 12. Students in Kindergarten will continue to be encouraged but not required to wear a mask. Families are asked to send a cloth mask with your child to school effective **Thursday, January 14**. Students may wear their own mask, and if they do not have one, a mask will be provided by the school.

Starting Thursday, January 14, masks must be worn on the school bus as well as outdoors at bus stops by students in Grades 1 – 12. Masks are strongly recommended for bus riders in Kindergarten.

- **Congregating** - To support provincial efforts to stop further spread of COVID-19, schools will be highlighting the importance of students not congregating before school starts and returning directly home at the end of the school day.
- **Screening** - All students and staff should conduct daily screening for symptoms of COVID-19 every day before attending school using the [COVID-19 school screening tool](#). The Ministry of Education has advised that additional information on screening will be available in the coming days.
- **Expanded Targeted Testing** - The Ministry will be expanding targeted testing for students, staff and their respective households in high-priority areas. Expanding access to testing will be a valuable tool for parts of the province experiencing high levels of community transmission and outbreaks.

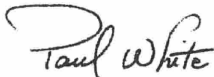
Child care centres and home-based licensed and unlicensed child care remain open during this time, and emergency child care will continue.

School bus transportation operated by the Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium will continue to be provided following regular arrangements and schedules. Starting Thursday, January 14th masks must be worn on the bus as well as outdoors at bus stops by students in Grades 1-12. Masks are strongly recommended for bus riders in Kindergarten. Families are reminded that screening must be completed prior to boarding the bus each day.

We understand that the past few months have been challenging for everyone. Our mental health supports will remain in place during the 28-day stay-at-home order. Should you have any concerns around your child's adjustment to the current circumstances, anxiety about in-person learning, or struggles with remote learning, we have a team of Regulated Mental Health Workers who can help. Please contact Sue Devlin, Mental Health Lead at mhccovid@kcdsb.on.ca.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work together to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish you and your family God's abundant blessings of peace, health, safety, and hope during this new year.

Yours in Catholic education,



Paul White
Director of Education

KCDSB January 2021 School SEAC Updates

Ecole Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys

The staff and students transitioned to virtual learning for the first week back in January. Students in the Empower program and other interventions continued to receive programming virtually. It is not ideally learning but we have had some very positive feedback. We are all happy to be back at school this week.

The items from the SEA grants have arrived and are being put to good use. This includes some sensory items and wiggle seats.

All IEPs are currently being reviewed as they are put into the new student record system.

A plan is in the works to focus on more tier 1 interventions in both Math and Literacy in order to address the needs of students that are struggling in the primary grades.

Pope John Paul II

-continuing to use Assistive Augmentative Communication with students in the form of low-tech communication boards and ProLoQuo2 on the iPad

-ongoing communication and consultation with the Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Pathologist from FIREFLY

-weekly online and in-person Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy visits from FIREFLY

-weekly TinyEye online Speech and Language sessions

-ongoing EMPOWER Reading sessions

-daily Literacy intervention

-weekly IST meetings

St. Isidore Virtual School

Here is how our elementary and secondary students are being supported at St. Isidore Virtual School:

- We maintain regular communication with teachers, parents, and students to assist with student engagement and IEP goals.
- We have weekly IST meetings to discuss next steps for student support.
- Empower: Grades 2-5 spelling and decoding is being offered virtually to elementary students.
- A Google Classroom support space has been created for both elementary and secondary students. Students are provided with small group instruction, or 1:1 assistance as needed, via Google Meet.

- Offline learning packages have been prepared and distributed to students who have been exempt from synchronous learning, or who require supplemental materials to help enhance their learning experiences in the virtual classroom.

St. John School

Given the circumstances of returning to school during a pandemic, the majority of our students who receive Special Education services have done a PHENOMENIAL job of adjusting to what school is currently like. They have adjusted to wearing masks, have shown a great deal of patience in situations like waiting for hallways to clear before going out for their recess, have demonstrated maturity dealing with the emotions of missing friends from other classrooms due to co-horting, and most impressive of all is that they have been able to adjust to going to school in a classroom with rules and routines that are completely different than what they have been used to. Of course, it's not perfect every day, but all members of our Educating teams have been working hard to meet the students where they are at. Honoring what these students need, paired with some creative thinking has proven to be very successful. We are very proud of all our SJS students.

St. Louis Living Arts School

With the School Transition Program funding provided by the Ministry of Education, the St. Louis Living Arts School transition team were successful in transitioning 30 students back into school, following the mandated school closure. We contacted the families of all students with anticipated transition needs and invited them to participate in a school tour prior to the first day of school. Prior to the tours, we were able to employ an Education Assistant to set up the directional arrows and signage, preparing the school for students to become familiar with expectations, such as following directional arrows, use of washrooms, hand sanitizing, and mask wearing, for their arrival on the first day of school. Although 100% of our students who participated in this program successfully transitioned into school, we did find that there were students we did not anticipate having difficulty, who struggled with this transition and had more absences due to concerns with COVID. In response to these unexpected needs, mental health referrals were made, and we worked closely with our in-school mental health worker to schedule individual sessions at school for students who required additional support. The ability to provide a safe person at the school, to address student concerns, was invaluable to the successes we are now having with regular student attendance.

St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Danielle Grosset and Kara Orr welcome Kirsten Dexter to the St. Thomas Aquinas Learning Resource Team.

The main focus of the Special Education Department at St. Thomas Aquinas HS this year has been on implementing reading programs for students who have been identified with difficulty reading. With the many changes due to COVID there has been an increased workload in many areas including special education. Other LRT responsibilities at St. Thomas Aquinas have included the creation of more IEP phases as we now follow the quadmester system and therefore high school students are switching teachers and courses 4 times during the year instead of just the usual two semesters. There are also many more in-school transitions as there has been a lot of movement between St. Thomas Aquinas HS and St. Isidore Virtual School. Another outcome of COVID has been the rise in mental health issues for our students and the added importance of finding ways within the safety regulations to work closely with a variety of supports throughout the pandemic. The Special Education team continues to work effectively to implement programming, support students, teachers, families, and EAs with transitions, collaborate with school, board and outside service providers, and advocate for the needs of our students.

Reading Programs:

Kara and Kirsten are being trained in the EMPOWER reading program which is a multi-strategic, research-based meta-cognitive program. They provide this programming during the second language block to grade 7 & 8 students.

Kara works with five Gr 7 students 4x/week for 45min

Kirsten works with four Gr 8 students 4x/week for 45 min

It has been a good transition and students are becoming more comfortable sharing thoughts as the program continues. The two strategies that they have focused on to date are the Sounding Out Strategy and Rhyming Strategy. As they progress they will be introducing the other three EMPOWER strategies.

Danielle uses the FAST reading program created by Steve Tattum that she was trained in last spring. The program was used previously in KCDSB schools and she is able to use the many resources we already had in our school. She works with a few grade 7 students 45min- 1 hour and one grade 8 student one-to-one for 45min- 1 hour 4x/week. The goal of the program is to help students improve their word identification and decoding strategies in order to become more independent readers through the use of systematic phonics, auditory processing, and literature based instruction. Most of the students in this program are higher needs and have a 1:1 EA who are learning the program, as it is taught, in order to apply the skills consistently throughout the day with the students. Students have increased their reading fluency by 20 wpm and are continuing to build their confidence and growth mindset in their ability to read and spell words.

IEPs:

There are four rounds of IEPs this year due to the 4 quadmesters compared to the usual 2 semesters. We are beginning to prepare for the third round of IEPs. We have a caseload of 104

students with IEPs and a total of 123 students we monitor and offer support. Time is spent scheduling meetings with students and teachers as they prepare for exams and brand new courses to review accommodations, modifications, and alternative programs. We look forward to using Aspen to create and update IEPs and other Special Education features when all of the issues have been resolved with this program.

Transitions:

The week of virtual learning continued with the reading programs and we supported EAs and teachers and students including many calls home to touch base with students and families. We created a how-to video to show EAs and Teachers how they could create separate Google Meets to work with small groups and students 1:1 and re-shared many resources that we put together during remote learning last spring.

We continue to work closely with Mark Richards (VP of St. Isidore) and Sommer Kennedy (LRT of St. Isidore) to stay up to date with the many switches between in-person learning and the virtual school ensuring that there are no gaps in ensuring important information in student IEPs are shared with new teachers and accommodations and course modifications are occurring.

Collaboration:

We continue to work closely with our guidance team, school social worker, MHAN, mental health lead, attendance counsellor, positive behavioural lead, board SLP and Firefly OT, SLP, PT, and other service providers such as rec workers to ensure we work together to ensure our students are receiving all available supports.

Funding Priorities:

Due to the very long wait list for the Regional Teacher Diagnostician to complete assessments, the St. Thomas Aquinas High School has allocated money to pay for the many assessments required for our students so that important assessment data can be attained as soon as possible so that we can ensure the necessary and appropriate supports are in place in a timely manner.

FIREFLY
KCDSB SEAC update
January 15, 2021

- FIREFLY continues to see clients for virtual and face-to-face sessions both at home and school. During the lock-down clinicians can continue to see all priority level client for face-to-face visits at school if virtual is not possible. Priority one and 2 clients can continue to be seen for face-to-face visits at the office and for home visits. Virtual is always first choice during COVID unless the client must be seen face-to-face. FIREFLY continues to monitor the COVID rates in our area and will adjust the guidelines for seeing clients if necessary.
- FIREFLY has been granted membership with Empowered Kids Ontario. The agency has applied to MCCSS to become a Children's Treatment Centre. If granted, FIREFLY will apply for funding for specialty clinics (ex. Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Seating and Mobility, Pediatric Feeding/Swallowing, Pediatric Hearing,) to better support our clients
- Youth engagement in Red Lake has found a Youth Leader , Vicki Healey. Youth will be working with Vikki (CYMH Lead) to get a youth advisory going in Red Lake – future expansion to other communities.
- Virtual walk-in mental health sessions have started. These are a single session and are on Thursdays – youth can request a session through FIREFLY Intake. If deemed appropriate, brief services can be booked afterwards or the client can choose to be put on the waitlist for regular counselling services. The virtual walk-in sessions can be pre-booked.
- As lead CYMH agency, FIREFLY has received 3rd round of COVID emergency funding. CYMH team looking to enhance virtual services and strengthen in person services with this money. Working with core service providers and partners to enhance services for Children, youth, and families in the region.
- New in-school counsellor position and partnership with KCDSB. Sherri Herr has been hired in that position.
- Additional Position to enhance partnership with KPDSB – In-school counsellor for virtual school (virtual service provider) posting is up.
- Lots of Bell Let's Talk initiatives and events: Thursday, January 28



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: | Special Education Coordinator's Report |
| DATE: | Friday, January 15, 2021 |
| PREPARED FOR: | Special Education Advisory Committee |
| AGENDA AREA: | Public Session |
| PREPARED BY: | Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator |

The following learning sessions have been confirmed for the January 29 PD Day for Educational Assistants:

- "Supporting Inclusion" – Angela Holmstrom and Olivia Karle (KACL)
- "Self-Regulation" – Ashley Bryson (KCDSB)
- "Tips for Supporting Students" – Darcy Ura, Eric Hardy and Andrea Batters (KCDSB)
- "Supporting Your Mental Health in the Pandemic" – Sue Devlin, KCDSB Mental Health Lead
- "Technology: Virtual Learning Platforms and Tools" - Megan Baker, KCDSB Technology Enabled Learning Teacher
- *Separate groups for Secondary and Elementary EAs
- "The Duty to Report" – Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services & Kenora Rainy River Family Services

Our Learning Resource Teachers who are new to supporting the Empower Reading instructional programs, are completing the next phase of their virtual training in the coming weeks. Both the Primary and Intermediate Empower Reading programs include four workshop training days dispersed throughout their first year supporting the program and virtual mentor visits. In subsequent years, LRTs delivering the Empower programs continue to receive annual refresher training. Empower Spelling and Decoding programs are offered as Tier 3 literacy interventions at Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Pope John Paul II School, St. Louis Living Arts School, St. John School and, new this year, St. Isidore Virtual Elementary School. New Intermediate Empower Decoding & Spelling grades 7 and 8 groups are also being run at St. Thomas Aquinas High School during the 2020-2021 school year.