

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

October 16, 2020

MEETING DATE:	Friday, October 16, 2020
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting & CEC Training Room
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM - 2:35PM
NEXT MEETING:	1:30 PM Friday, November 20, 2020

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input 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 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"/>	Anne Sweeney	Trustee Representative
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Derek Haime	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"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. Opening Prayer – Dianne Griffiths

2. Roll Call – N Schram, Tom Fawcett, Leslie Legros, Teresa Gallik sent regrets

3. Approval of September 18, 2020 meeting minutes

Moved by: Joel Willett

Seconded by: Dianne Griffiths

4. Correspondence: Letter from the Durham District School Board regarding a Request for Fall 2020

Process Exemption: Special Incidence Portion Submission Requirements. – Attached

A motion was put forward by Joel Willett to send a letter of support from KCDSB SEAC similar to the DDSB letter.

Seconded by Dianne Griffiths

Derek Haime, Andrea Batters and Cathy McQuillan will put together a letter in support of the DDSB letter. The Board of Trustees will be notified, and the letter will be presented it at the SEAC meeting on November 20 for approval.

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

October 16, 2020

5. **New Business: Nil**

6. **Professional Development:**

Andrea will be presenting our new IEP platform at a future meeting, She asked the SEAC to bring forward any requests for areas that the committee would like further information that pertains to Special Education programs or services.

7. **School Updates:** Andrea will speak about the school updates in her Coordinator Report.

8. **Business arising from last meeting: Presentation of the Pivot Plan – Derek Haime**

The Pivot Plan for KCDSB continues to evolve. We are receiving feedback from parents, students, staff, and our board of trustees.

Marnie Buffet, our Early Years Coordinator and her team have put together a comprehensive plan regarding online learning for our youngest learners. Marnie included in the plan the harmful nature of excessive screen time on brain development. She also included some new research that not all screen time is created equal and not all screen time has the same negative effects. The KCDSB has included this information in the Pivot plan to reassure parents, students, and staff that if the content is engaging and pushes the student to think then the effects on the brain are beneficial. The recommendation for our youngest students is still to take frequent breaks from the online learning which is consistent with the nature of the young learner - not the prescribed 180 minutes for the JK/SK students or 225 minutes for our older students. This will be a discussion between the teacher and the parents depending on the circumstances in the home and the needs of the learner.

KCDSB has increased the instruction of the virtual learning environment by including more websites, videos, and text instruction. In the event a school or classroom needs to be closed due to Covid-19 each class has prepared instructions on virtual learning environment lesson so they can transition to online learning platforms more easily. Teachers will regularly do a refresher on these skills by doing a real learning activity in the virtual environment

Derek reported that he and Andrea Batters have been working with Special Education representative from other boards as Special Education remains a big challenge with virtual learning and the needs of our students.

Joel Willett commented that some of the frustrations of the families that FIREFLY work with was that if the child has one to one support in the school setting, they do not have that same support at home. She asked if there are any recommendations in the Pivot Plan to help families support higher needs students. If an Education Assistant would be able to be in a family bubble.

Derek responded that the North Western Health Unit is not recommending that KCDSB have staff go into homes as they have their own bubble. The Learning Resource Teacher will communicate with the families on a one to one basis to determine if Education Assistants can support our student learning virtually.

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

October 16, 2020

Dianne Griffith commented with helping her grandson virtual schooling the lack of paper and is looking for reassurance about the lessons the students are doing online.

Derek responded that KCDSB has lesson and materials pick up and drop off for our virtual students at our Catholic Education Center.

Joel Willett commented that her children feel well prepared if they did have to pivot to virtual learning at some point in this school year.

Dianne VanderZande commented compared to other boards she feels our board is much further ahead as far as offering supports to our students and teachers.

Derek commented he is very proud of how our staff and trustees have adapted to this situation and will pass on these positive comments to them.

Joel Willett received some clarification from Andrea Batters regarding the virtual schools' students accessing FIREFLY supports. Andrea explained the virtual school has a dedicated Learning Resource Teacher who would be the main contact for service providers.

9. Agency Reports

- **FIREFLY – Joel Willett - Attached**
- **KACL – Angela Holmstrom**

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month to celebrate the power of inclusion in our community. You can support this by wearing purple and blue on October 22.

- **Other Reports from Members-at-Large**
 - **Tom Fawcett - Regrets**
 - **Dianne Griffiths – She just wanted to comment on the added challenge of her hearing disability at this time with everyone wearing masks.**
 - **Leslie Legros - Regrets**
 - **Diane VanderZande - Nil**
 - **Norine Schram – Regrets**

10. **Trustee Report – Anne Sweeney – Attached**

11. **Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters – Attached**

12. **Next Meeting: Friday, November 20, 2020, 1:30 PM,
Training Room at CEC and Microsoft Teams**

KCDSB SEAC Meeting

Oct 2020

FIREFLY update

- FIREFLY clinicians are now allowed to see all clients, no matter their priority ranking for face-to-face visits. Virtual should still be the first option for service for all priority level of clients.
- 2 new Directors have been hired within FIREFLY
 - Darcia Curtis – Director of Service Excellence and Partnerships, Child and Youth Mental Health
 - Jackie Hummelbrunner – Director of Service Excellence and Partnerships, Child and Youth Developmental Services (CYDS)
- SNAP began it's 13 week program at the beginning of October. Due to the pandemic, we have had to minimize our group numbers to ensure the health and well being of our clients, their families and our staff. Currently we are offering both a boys and girls group – with four participants each. To offset the limited number of caregivers (1 per child in person), we are offering virtual groups for those caregivers interested in receiving the information, but unable to attend in person with their child. Feedback thus far has been great.
- Autism: Minister of MCCSS Todd Smith announced last week:
 - provided further clarification about eligible and ineligible services and supports that can or cannot be purchased using your childhood budget or interim one-time funding during the COVID-19 outbreak
 - extended the amount of time you have to spend your interim one-time funding and submit your expense form by up to six months. You now have up to 18 months, if necessary
 - extended the amount of time you have to spend your childhood budget funding and submit your expense form by up to six months, if necessary. You now have up to 18 months to spend your childhood budget and submit your expense form
 - extended the March 31, 2020 deadline to submit your Ontario Autism Program registration form and supporting documents to be eligible for interim one-time funding. We will establish a new deadline at a future date.

Board Meeting Recap – September 15, 2020 – Anne Sweeney

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Director Derek Haime provided a report about Kenora Catholic's Return to School Plan. Director Haime shared that there has been a smooth start to the school year given the planning and preparation by staff, students and parents.

Dr. Haime reported that Kenora Catholic has been working with the Fire Marshal and now has a clear interpretation of evacuation procedures regarding physical distancing.

Dr. Haime thanked parents for preparing their children for school and thanked students for adapting incredibly well to the different school year.

VIRTUAL LEARNING SCHOOLS AND MINISTER LECCE CLASSROOM VISIT

Vice Principals Mark Richard and Jared Ralko provided a report on Kenora Catholic's new St. Isidore Virtual School. As part of the September 15 Board Meeting, the Trustees approved the name of the school after the patron saint of the internet and computers. The Trustees also approved three draft logos, in principle, for the school community to vote on. The consultation is open for students, families and staff of the St. Isidore Virtual School until September 24.

St. Isidore Virtual School currently had 178 students enrolled in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 online school and a team of dedicated teachers and administrators.

On September 9, Minister of Education Stephen Lecce visited Lori Bazelo's Grade 11 Business Accounting Class to spend time talking with students and see how their online learning is going. Minister Lecce shared encouragement for teachers and students as they adapt to the return to school and all the enhanced health and safety protocols.

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM (44:15)

Hilary Aitken, Principal of Kenora Catholic's Summer Learning program, provided a report on the board's first fully virtual program. The theme of the program was to 'keep the Learning Going'.

The program had over 80 students enrolled, with approximately 60 students actively participating throughout the three-week program. The program also included a Kindergarten to Grade 2 French Immersion program.

Aitken credits the success of the program to the amazing teaching team.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT AND INTRODUCTION OF MAXWELL FROESE (59:07)

Student Julia Tkachuk is serving her second year, and Maxwell Froese is new to the boardroom table as Kenora Catholic's incoming Student Trustee.

The Student Trustees presented that students are excited to be back to school and making new memories as they add a new chapter to their stories.

The students reported on the many changes, such as the staggered start, quadmesters, enhanced health and safety protocols and cohorts.

Despite the changes, the students are making the best of everything and adapting well. The students closed by offering that they are praying that the world can recover from COVID-19, and everyone can live once again without fear. The students are eager to make new memories, connect with friends and be able to gather together again.

2020 STAFFING REPORT (1:03)

Superintendent of Business Services, Alison Smith provided an overview of staffing changes at each location at the Kenora Catholic District School Year.

Smith reported that typically staffing is completed in the spring, however, the board is continuing to fill positions in September.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Board Meeting for the Kenora Catholic District School Board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 PM via Microsoft Teams.



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, October 16, 2020
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

The **Ministry Transition Program** was a funding transfer payment agreement allocated to school boards to help students with special education needs successfully return to school. Ending on September 30, a total of 196 KCDSB students were able to access various transition supports. This funding provided Learning Resource Teachers with the scheduled time and resources to offer students and families a range of transition supports during the last two weeks of summer holidays and into the return to school period. Based on the student and family's needs, here are just a few examples of the range of transition supports available to learners:

- Phone calls to families,
- Professional consultations with service providers,
- Assisting families with bussing concerns,
- Transition meetings with families,
- Opportunities to collaborate on updating Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals and Safe & Successful Day Plans,
- Items purchased to relieve stress, help focus or energize (fidgets, wiggle seats, rocking chairs, etc.),
- Additional transition materials (tips sheets, checklists, social narratives) on topics such as preparing for the return to school, handwashing, mental health and personal wellbeing, mask wearing procedures, and physical distancing),
- School tours,
- Opportunities to practice new school norms (following directional arrows, physical distancing, requesting a visit to a break room, wearing a mask, playground zones, etc.)

Multi-Project Transfer Agreement – 2020-2021

This new Project is aimed to support students with mental health and/or special education needs by providing additional supports and resources for the 2020-21 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. This project has two parts, Project 1: Supporting Student Mental



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

Health and Project 2: Special Education: Return to School. The Special Education portion of the project has allocated flexible funding that can support increasing staffing resources for students with special education needs, professional assessment services, specific evidence-based programs or interventions that can be used to address learning gaps, and additional learning resources including assistive technology. This one-time funding is a combined amount from the provincial and federal governments to support students with special education needs. So far, some of these funds have been directed towards a portion of the new St. Isidore Virtual School's Learning Resource Teacher's position wages.

On Thursday, October 8, Director Haime and I virtually-attended the **Regional Special Education Committee (RSEC)** meeting. This session allowed regional special education leaders the opportunity to connect, receive Northern Supports Initiative (NSI) information, and plan meetings for the balance of the year. Retired Education Director and NSI project manager Rick Boisvert (NCDSB) provided the NSI update, including an overview of the 2020-2021 approved project areas, application processes, and reporting requirements. Sylvia Parker, Retired Education Director (RRDSB) shared news that the "Learning For All" second module resource is available now on [The Critical Thinking Consortium](#) website. This module communicates best classroom practices for Preparing for Responsive and Differentiated Instruction and Assessment. The RSEC meeting concluded with determining the new co-chairs for the remainder of the school year. Director Haime and I will be co-chairing the committee along with Al McManaman and Charlayne Bliss from the Rainy River District School Board.