

## 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 12, 2024**

MEETING DATE:	January 12, 2024
LOCATION OF MEETING:	CEC Board Room & Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM – 2:42 PM
NEXT MEETING:	1:30 PM Friday, February 16, 2024 - CEC Board Room & Microsoft Teams

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	Voting Member - FIREFLY Representative - Chair
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane VanderZande	Voting Member - Member at Large, Vice Chair
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dianne Griffiths	Voting Member - Member at Large
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Voting Member - Member at Large
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lina O'Connor	Voting Member - KACL Representative
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leah Bailey	Alternate – Voting Member – KACL Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shirley Jette	Voting Member – Harmony Centre for Community Living Red Lake
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Parsons	Alternate - Voting Member – Harmony Centre for Community Living Red Lake
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marie Lundin	Voting Member – Trustee Representative
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Director of Education
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maureen Frankcom	Assistant to the Director
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair, Board of Trustees
14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. **Opening Prayer: Nicole Kurtz**
2. **Roll Call: Cathy McQuillan Regrets: Dianne VanderZande, Marie Lundin, Teresa Gallik**
3. **École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys Presentation: Kristy Smith, Jordan Temple - Attached 3**
4. **Approval of December 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes:**
  - **Approved: Lina O'Conner**
  - **Seconded: Dianne Griffiths**
5. **Board and Ministry Updates: Nicole Kurtz**
  - **2024 – 2025 School Year Calendar Vote Consultation is currently live and you can vote on your preference of the two options available.**
  - **The first semester is almost finished at St. Thomas Aquinas and the students are currently completing their culminating activities.**
  - **Final exams are scheduled from January 22, to January 25.**
  - **Semester Two starts on January 28, 2024.**
6. **Business arising from the last meeting:**
  - 6.1 **Follow up on IEP Process Presentation to Parents: Andrea Batters**

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- At the December 8, 2023, SEAC meeting the committee asked about having a parent presentation on the IEP Process.
- A letter will be sent to parents/guardians, and students the age of 16 and over, to gather their feedback on doing an IEP process presentation.
- The letter will ask the question: If we planned an information session on the IEP Process would you be interested in attending?
- The letter will be sent out with the Term Two IEP letter.

### 6.2 Confidentiality in the Special Education Advisory Committee: Nicole Kurtz

- Nicole Kurtz reminded the SEAC committee that we are a public committee. If comments are made in the meetings that may identify an individual the meeting will be paused, and the committee will be reminded of its responsibility of confidentiality.

### 7. Professional Development:

7.1 EQAO and IEP Students at KCDSB: Nicole Kurtz – **Defer to February 16<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting**

7.2 North Western Health Unit (NWHU) Presentation: Trish Wearne - Attached **11**

### 8. Correspondence: Nil

### 9. New Business: Nil

### 10. Agency Reports

- FIREFLY – Joel Willett - Attached **23**
- KACL – Lina O’Connor – Attached **24**
- Harmony Center for Community Living – Shirley Jette – Nothing to Report

#### Other Reports from Members-at-Large

- Dianne Griffiths – Nothing to Report
- Anne Sweeney – Nothing to Report
- Diane VanderZande - Regrets

### 11. Trustee Report: Marie Lundin - Regrets

### 12. Coordinator Report: Andrea Batters

- With the Christmas Holidays and the return to classes resuming just this week, there are no new KCDSB Special Education updates to report.
- Andrea will also be sending a Google Form to the SEAC Committee to obtain targeted feedback to support discussion at the next Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) meeting.

### 13. Next Meeting: 1:30 PM, Friday, February 16, 2024: St. Louis School will be presenting at the CEC

# SEAC Presentation

Reading is not just a skill, it's a lifelong tool for learning. Discover the process of reading and the strategies to improve reading skills at SMB.

**K** by **Kristy Smith**



# The Importance of Reading

## Benefits of Reading

Reading enhances knowledge, vocabulary, and critical thinking. It reduces stress and improves focus and empathy.

## Reading as a Basic Skill

Reading is the foundation of education and essential for communicating, understanding information, and achieving success in various fields.

## Reading as a Lifelong Learning Tool

Regardless of age, reading allows us to explore new ideas, gain insights, and continuously expand our knowledge and interests.

# The Science of Reading



## What is the science of reading?

The Science of Reading refers to a body of research from the fields of education, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, and neuroscience, that explains how individuals learn how to read and best practices for reading instruction.

## Statistics:

95% of student can learn to read when using instruction and programs based on the Science of Reading.

- 30% With any instruction
- 50% With explicit and direct instruction in foundational skills
- 15% With additional time and support
- 5% Will likely continue to struggle due to cognitive disabilities

# How We Read

- **The Process of Reading**  
Reading involves decoding written symbols into meaningful information through visual, phonological, and linguistic processing.
- **Reading Speed and Comprehension**  
While reading speed varies among individuals, comprehension is crucial for understanding and retaining information effectively.
- **Factors that Influence Reading**  
Reading comprehension is influenced by prior knowledge, vocabulary, concentration, and the ability to make connections.

# What Reading Looks Like at SMB

- Reading Tiers**

The importance of literacy in education cannot be overstated. SMB offers Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading supports. We also have to consider how this looks like in the context of a French Immersion school.
- Interventions**

We have implemented various reading intervention programs to address literacy issues. These programs encompass targeted instruction, small group interventions, and specialized resources to support struggling readers in English and French.

# Tiered Approach





# Assessments

**English: Acadience**

**French: IDAPEL**

## **Reading Assessments at SMB**

Assessing the effectiveness of reading programs and current data is crucial. We do reading assessments in English and French 3 times a year.



# Conclusion

“The science of reading is not a program or a simple recipe for how to teach reading. It’s not a product you can purchase in a shiny box. It’s not a name brand or a proper noun. It’s knowledge of how literacy develops”

- Anderson, Davis, Jordan and Anderson



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Health Unit**

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# Speech, Hearing, and Vision Team

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Blind Low Vision Early Intervention Program  
(BLVEIP)

Infant Hearing Program (IHP)

Preschool Speech and Language Program (PSL)  
(North Words)



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# Blind Low Vision Early Intervention Program (BLVEIP)

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- Funded by Ministry of Children Community and Social Services (MCCSS)
- Established in 2007 to provide supports to children and their families living in Ontario from birth to school entry who are blind, have low vision or neurological visual impairment
- Services offered in child's home and in child care and community settings



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# The Numbers . . .

- Prevalence of visual impairments is approximately 1/1000 in newborns
- Approximately 130 babies born each year in Ontario with visual impairment
- A visual impairment in early childhood may put a child at risk for developmental difficulties and hinders the acquisition of social, communication and cognitive skills required for school readiness.



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# Eligibility Requirements

- Families must be residents of Ontario
- Families have obtained, or are in the process of obtaining a diagnosis of visual impairment for their child
- Children are eligible from birth to school entry



# Referrals

- Referrals to the program may be made by parents, caregivers, or professionals with the consent of the parent.
- Referrals may be made online through the OCEAN platform using the link [Northwestern Health Unit – Blind Low Vision Referral Form](#). Referrals can also be made by clicking on the referral tab under the Blind-Low Vision program via our website at

[www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)



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# Infant Hearing Program (IHP)

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- Funded by MCCSS and implemented in 2001
- Provides universal newborn hearing screening to all Ontario-resident families
- Provides Audiological surveillance of infants and children as having a risk indicator for late onset or progressive hearing loss
- Provides Audiology assessment and intervention
- Provides Language Development Services for children identified with a permanent hearing loss



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# Goals of IHP

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- To minimize the impact of permanent hearing loss on the child's development
- Average age of hearing loss confirmation can be under three months of age with intervention initiated by 6 months of age.
- Time frames are very important
  - access “critical period” for language development



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# Referrals

- Referrals may be made online through the OCEAN platform using the link [Northwestern Health Unit – Infant Hearing Program](#). Referrals can also be made by clicking on the referral tab under the Preschool Speech and Infant Hearing program via our website at [www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)



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# Preschool Speech and Language (PSL) North Words

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- MCCSS program established in 1999 across Ontario.
- Partner with Riverside Health Care Facilities in Fort Frances and Firefly in Kenora
- At least 10% of the preschool population demonstrates speech and or language difficulties.



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# Goals of Preschool Speech and Language Program (PSL)

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- Early identification of children with communication difficulties
- To provide assessment and range of clinical interventions
- To decrease wait times
- To provide transition to school services



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# Referrals

- Referrals may be made online through the OCEAN platform using the link [Northwestern Health Unit - Preschool Speech & Language Program](#). Referrals can also be made by clicking on the referral tab under the Preschool Speech program program via our website at [www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)
- We see children from birth until **school entry**
- Children must be referred by March 31 of the year they enter Junior Kindergarten
- Refer as early as possible!



**FIREFLY report**

KCDSB SEAC mtg

January 12, 2024

- Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program in Kenora piloting the use of the Second Harvest Food Rescue App to connect clients/families in need with donated food.
- FIREFLY has launched One Stop Talk program to support Children Mental Health clients on the waitlist
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry partnership with St. Joseph's Care Group.
- We are looking at ways to support Red Lake/Ear Falls for youth justice support with our youth mental health court worker and youth justice committee coordinator as there has been a gap identified
- Triple P.L.A.Y. has received \$20,000 towards giving all children a chance to participate in recreational sports after a successful Tim Hortons Cookie campaign.
- Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) group starting in March 2024 in Kenora: is a program with a screening process. Families are invited to refer themselves from CYMH services and when they speak with a counsellor, the counsellor can complete the screener specific to SNAP and provide strategies (regardless of if eligible for SNAP or not)
- Triple P is starting Feb 2024: information will be posted on our social media when we are opening groups so please encourage caregivers to follow us on Facebook and Instagram



**January 2024 Meeting  
KCDSB**

**Kenora Association for Community Living SEAC Update:**

-We welcomed our new Community Consultant to the Children's Services Program- Claire Waters. Once she has completed her orientation, she will receive a caseload.

-We will be running another Circle of Security Parenting (COSP) program at the end of February. Save the dates and information regarding sessions to be sent out via social media near the end of Jan/beginning of Feb. This COSP offering will be open to the entire community with preference given to people active with KACL Services.

Submitted by Lina O'Connor