

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
October 20, 2023**

MEETING DATE:	October 20, 2023
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
NEXT MEETING:	Friday, November 17, 2023 –CEC Board Room & Microsoft Teams- Meeting 1:30 PM

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

1. Opening Prayer: Nicole Kurtz

2. Roll Call – Cathy McQuillan

3. Welcome Lina O'Conner as the new KACL representative and Leah Bailey as an alternate: Nicole Kurtz

4. Approval of September 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes: No Quorum: Move to November 17, 2023 Meeting

5. Board and Ministry Updates: Nicole Kurtz

- Nicole Kurtz shared with the Committee what will be happening on the October 27, 2023, Professional Development Day. [Click here](#) for further details.

- Nicole Kurtz is on a provincial committee called, 'SIP and SEA Review Special Education funding Committee'. Nicole reviewed some of the feedback provincially on SIP and SEA claims as well as sought further feedback from the SEAC committee that will be brought forward to the provincial committee.

Some of the feedback already given to the Ministry from School Boards across Ontario:

- Privacy concerns with students' personal information being transferred from the school board to the Ministry.
- Funding is not sufficient to support the student.
- The process to apply for SIP funding is very labour intensive.
- The SIP funding is not equitable to different classroom delivery models. So instead of being inclusive and having the student in the classroom with their classmates, the funding has to be put into a specific classroom where the special equipment is set up.
- The lack of qualified education assistants. Enrollment in college programs is down significantly.

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6. Professional Development:

Special Incident Portion (SIP) Funding - Andrea Batters

The claims are designed to support children who have very complex and extraordinarily high health and/or safety needs. This funding is eligible for students who require more than two full-time equivalent board-paid staff providing intensive support for the health and/or safety of the child, [other pupils, and/or staff]. Staff supporting learners with high special education needs assist students with all aspects of school life, throughout their day-to-day activities. They help the child attend class, ensure safety, and assist with complex medical needs.

To create a SIP claim, information needs to be gathered such as: medical documentation, clinical reports, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Safe and Successful Day Plans, and the student support level timetable, which documents the role of each professional working with the student at what time according to their needs. This information needs to be entered into a Ministry spreadsheet each fall and all documentation is sent to the boards Regional Ministry Office in December, on an annual basis. Boards submit their estimated funding for all SIP claims in their Revised [special funding] Estimates to the Education Finance Information System (EFIS). The Ministry reviews the information and if funding is granted, they notify boards of their final approved SIP funding amounts by the end of August each year. The maximum funding amount boards are eligible to receive for SIP funding is equivalent to a portion of the cost of the wage of *one* board-hired support staff employee.

Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Claims – Andrea Batters

The Special Equipment Amount has two channels of funding:

- Per pupil amount for educational technology for use by students with special education needs
- Special Equipment Amount, Individual Claims, non-technology for all other equipment required for the student to access their learning program and/or attend school safely.

7. Correspondence: Nil

8. New Business: Nil

9. Business arising from the last meeting: Nil

10. Agency Reports

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

Other Reports from Members-at-Large

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

11. Trustee Report – Marie Lundin – Reported on October 17, 2023 Board Meeting;

Click the link below to review the highlights:

[From the Boardroom for September/October 2023](#)

12. Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters - Attached

13. Next Meetings: 1:30 PM on Friday, November 17, 2023

FIREFLY report

KCDSB SEAC Meeting

Oct 20, 2023

- Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) Working Group started to review current processes in order to integrate an all-gender approach to services
- FIREFLY virtual conference – November 3 –will provide link
 - Regulation and Sensory Processing
 - Communication With Your Child/Teen
 - Fostering a Healthy Relationship With Food
 - Parenting a Child With a Mental Illness...Reflections From a Lived Experience
- Pediatric Clinic – Dr. Coombs – visits monthly – scope of practice includes:
 - Developmental delay in 2 or more areas
 - New behavioral concern of ADHD or anxiety
 - Complex motor delays
 - Concerns for Cerebral Palsy
 - Concern for Autism - Children 5 and under
 - Other consults to be considered based on demand/ community need
 - Referrals must come from a Physician or Nurse Practitioner



KACL Children's Services Report- SEAC October 20, 2023

- 1) We are working on our waitlists for our programs.
- 2) We are now implementing a 0–18-year-old caseload capacity as KACL Children's Consultants. Previously consultants stuck to one age range (either 0-6 or 6-18)
- 3) Offering a parenting program called Circle of Security Parenting (COSP) to adults in the Kenora area. Currently in the middle of an 8-week offering that ends at the end of November, when we offer more COSP sessions, we will more than happily reach out to SEAC and the schools.
<https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/circle-of-security-model/what-is-the-circle-of-security/>

Presented by Lina O'Connor



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

SUBJECT:	Special Education Coordinator's Report – October 2023
DATE:	Friday, October 20, 2023
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

During the past month, several Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs) have been able to participate in the **Empower Reading Program** training. The **Primary Empower Reading Decoding & Spelling program** is a series of evidence-based reading intervention programs geared to students who are suited to this daily withdrawal intervention support. This program was developed over years of research and studies by a team of researchers and educators at Sickkids. The program targets elementary learners with significant reading and spelling challenges and teaches them strategies which help them become independent and flexible learners. Trained LRTs work with groups of up to eight students for an hour a day to learn rigorous, evidence-based reading strategies.

Through a **regional PD partnership** led by Keewatin Patricia DSB and joined by the KCDSB and The Northwest Catholic DSB, Karen Smith (new LRT at St. Louis Living Arts School) and several participants from our area were able to complete the initial two-day **Primary Empower Reading Program training**, which was held in Dryden. Usually this PD takes place virtually, so it was a wonderful experience for Karen to be able to join the Empower Trainers and this professional learning community in person.

Additionally, in respect to the Empower Literacy program, the annual 'refresher' training was attended virtually by Shawna Lamme (SJS LRT), Anissa Fraser (SJPII LRT), and Kristy Smith (ESMB LRT).

Evidence-Based Literacy Intervention Program Updates

The Literacy Lead teachers and several of us system instructional leads/coordinators are continuing to assist classroom teachers in monitoring and delivering Tier 1 or Whole Class evidence-based literacy programs which employ the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) and differentiated instruction (DI), based on ongoing program data collected. Programs include: Foundations (K-3), Heggerty (phonemic awareness) and Lexia Core5 (Gr. 1-5) and PowerUp (Gr. 6+) Structured Literacy Programs.



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

Friday, **October 27** is a KCDSB system-wide **Professional Activity (PA) day**. The theme is Provincial Priorities in Literacy and Mathematics, and specific details can be found on our board [website](#).