

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

February 18, 2022
Make Up Meeting 1C
December 16, 2021

MEETING DATE:	Friday, February 18, 2022 – 1C -Makeup Meeting December 16, 2021
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM –3:31 PM
NEXT MEETING:	February 18, 2022

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Norine Schram	Voting Member - Member at Large, 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"/>	Tom Fawcett	Voting Member - Member at Large
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	KACL to Appoint Member	Voting Member - KACL Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	Voting Member - FIREFLY Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Voting Member- Trustee Representative
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Director of Education
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Superintendent of Instructional Services
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. Open Meeting #1A – Meeting Held November 19, 2021

- Approval of October 15th Meeting Minutes
- Minutes Approved by Tom Fawcett
- Minutes Seconded by Diane VanderZande
- Close Meeting – Norine Schram

2. Open Meeting # 1B – Meeting Held December 17, 2021

- Approval of November 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Minutes Approved by Diane VanderZande
- Minutes Seconded by Tom Fawcette
- Close Meeting – Norine Schram

3. Open Meeting # 1C – Meeting Held January 21, 2022

- Approval of December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Minutes Approved by Anne Sweeney
- Minutes Seconded by Tom Fawcett
- Close Meeting – Norine Schram

4. Next Meeting: Friday, February 18, 2022 Microsoft Teams

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
Information Meeting
December 16, 2021

MEETING DATE:	Thursday, December 16, 2021
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	2:30 PM –3:32 PM
NEXT MEETING:	1:30 PM Friday, January 21, 2022

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aimee Foucher	KACL Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	FIREFLY Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Director of Education
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Superintendent of Instructional Services
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair, Board of Trustees
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Trustee Representative
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. Opening Prayer – Nicole Kurtz

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes

- We did not have Quorum at the November 19, 2021, meeting.
The committee agreed because we were having Michael Jacque present at the December 16, 2021, meeting that we would hold two meetings on January 21, 2022 to make up our meeting.

4. Correspondence: Letter from Waterloo Region District School Board SEAC Re: Online Learning Supports, Resources and Platforms – Norine Schram

- File as read and reviewed by SEAC. - Attached

5. New Business: Nil

6. Professional Development: Michael Jaques' Presentation – Information Attached

7. Business Arising from Last Meeting: Nil

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021

8. Agency Reports

- **FIREFLY – Joel Willett - Attached**
- **KACL – Aimee Foucher**
 - We've have had staffing struggles over the past year.
 - We have had a family sitting on a vacancy lists in our child and youth programs since April 2021.
 - We did just hire new staff that will start January 3rd. We are working to get them on boarded and trained in January and hopefully supporting families as early as February.
 - Our infant child development programs have also been short staffed. It has been a struggle supporting families.
- **Other Reports from Members-at-Large**
 - **Tom Fawcett – Nothing to Report**
 - **Dianne Griffiths – Nothing to Report**
 - **Diane VanderZande – Nothing to Report**
 - **Norine Schram - Nothing to Report**

9. Trustee Report – Anne Sweeney – Report on the Regular Board Meeting on November 16, 2021

- 2021 Count Me In - Student Census – (Marianne Martineau)
- Student Mental Health Program and Advisors - (Sue Devlin, and Molly Hendy)
- Student Trustee Report (Student Trustees)
- New Logo and Name for Pope John Paul II School (Tammy Bush, Travis Batters, and the Student Executive)
- Watch the November 16, 2021, Regular Board Meeting here: <https://youtu.be/XeVK6Cwkt9w>

10. Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters - Attached

11. Next Meeting: 1:30 PM on Friday, January 21, 2022 - Microsoft Teams

October 19, 2021

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1L2

Honourable Stephen Lecce,

We, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), are writing to share our common concerns expressed by the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) SEAC and the Durham District School Board (DDSB) SEAC in regard to Online Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning in provincial online learning resources and the platforms used to access these resources.

While we are privileged to live in the WRDSB and our students have convenient access to wireless connections, Chromebooks, and a well-supported online learning environment, we are deeply concerned about the students in the areas that do not have the same access and resources. As such, it is our request that you commit to ensuring that all online and/or learning courses must be consistently maintained with enabled links and resources that meet accessibility standards (such as closed captioning, etc.).

While schools are opening back up to in-school learning and virtual learning needs are diminishing the student population as a majority, we acknowledge that online learning is still the best choice for some students and that their learning experience is as worthy of proper resources that adhere to universal design for learning as their in-school peers. The pandemic has shown gaps in our province's online learning resources and an opportunity to invest in our students' educational access.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this request for action.

Sincerely,



Sara Penny
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc. Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



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FIREFLY
KCDSB SEAC update
December 16, 2021

- Staffing vacancies:
 - 4 Counsellor vacancies in Kenora (2) and SLKT (2)– working to recruit and fill.
 - SLP vacancies- 4
 - OT vacancies – 2
 - PT vacancies – 1
- Significant increase in mental health referrals as predicted
- Entry to School is ready to launch in January 2022!
 - Entry to School is for children ages 3-6 with ASD, registered with OAP entering school for the first time. Caregivers will receive an invite by email or mail to contact the provider agency in their region: FIREFLY.
 - Service provision will begin in March 2022
 - Program will offer an intensive 15 hour/week program supported by OT, SLP and BCBA for first 6 months, followed by 6 months of transition support to the receiving school
 - Success of this program will depend on a strong partnership between community- based OAP service providers and their local school boards
- Complex seating needs being met by FIREFLY so referrals no longer go to Thunder Bay



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

SUBJECT:	Special Education Coordinator's Report – November 2021
DATE:	Thursday, November 16, 2021
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

Regional Special Education Committee

The **Fall Regional Special Education Committee (RSEC)** meeting took place virtually on Wednesday, November 24. Nicole and I took part in this meeting along with other board level special education leaders from our northwestern Ontario area. Topics discussed during this virtual session included:

- A **Ministry Special Education & Mental Health Update Presentation** by Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education / Success for All Branch;
- A **Northern Supports Initiative* (NSI) Presentation & Discussion** by Rick Boisvert & Sylvia Parker; and
- A **Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) Presentation** by Martin Smit, Educational Consultant from LD@school.ca.

*The Northern Supports Initiative (NSI) funding has been renamed as the **Northern Adjustment** and the funding allocated to the Kenora Catholic DSB for various project areas is attached, here. The next RSEC meeting is set for Tuesday, January 25.

Literacy Programs

We've problem-solved some technical challenges with the new **Lexia Core5** and **PowerUp Literacy Software** and look forward to broadening this classroom program uptake in the new year.

Transition Back from Christmas Break

School and board teams are preparing to **help students where their needs are when they return to school in January.**

Wishing everyone a **safe and happy Christmas Holiday! Take care and see you in 2022.**