

1. Call to Order – 1:04 pm

2. Attendance via TEAMS online meeting platform

Harry Fry (Chair)	Chris Guillemette
Alan Bottomley	Susan Wilson
Kimberley Gignac	Tracy Hanzlik
Barb Laverock	Melanie Gray
Candy St. Onge	Nichole King
Lisa Paradis	Laura Hansman
Louise Sargent	Karen Gratton-Miscio

Regrets: Albina Lavictoire

3. Approval of Agenda: As amended

February 18th, 2021

Moved – Chris Guillemette

Seconded – Barb Laverock

Carried. No Conflict of interest Spread the word campaign

4. Approval of Minutes:

January 21st, 2021

Moved – Al Bottomley

Seconded- Louise Sargent

As Amended

Moved – Louise Sargent

Seconded – Nichole King

Carried.

Presentation – Speech and Language Supports

- Kara Macie is our lead speech language pathologist and sits on the multi-disciplinary team.
- This work is in collaboration with the program department to help our beginning readers develop the skills they need.
- The team is at the very beginning stages of this work, doing collaborative inquiries with teachers, piloting new resources and PD opportunities.
- The focus is early literacy instruction and intervention. Understanding what successful practices are in place and which areas need to be investigated further.
- Our core instruction meets the needs of approximately 80% of our students.
- A smaller number of students (approx. 15%) should be successful with targeted intervention, than approx. 5% of students need intensive intervention.
- Based on sound reading research, 40% of students find reading a relatively easy skill to learn with regular classroom instruction.
- Learning to speak is a natural evolutionary skill; our brains are wired to pick up oral language. This is not the case for reading. This is a recent evolutionary skill and the brain has not evolved to the point that this is a natural skill.

- The best prevention of reading difficulties is using strategies that are known to work best with most students.
- Our main “must do’s” are to align classrooms with research and evidence-based practices based on the science of reading.
- Phonological and phonemic awareness are critical foundation pieces for early years.
- Reading and spelling are now being taught together.
- Identifying risk for early intervention. Targeted screening is taking place but ideally it will move to universal screening.
- The presentation will be shared out to the committee.

PAAC- SEAC members to review the results of the PAAC report

- It was suggested that orientation and training be provided continuously from the Board, to help understand the rules and responsibilities of SEAC.
- SEAC is a volunteer committee with limited resources for training.
- SEAC is comprised of four trustees who are accessible for questions and any follow up needed.
- Presentations help keep members involved with new programming.
- This topic will be further discussed. Any input, questions or concerns can be sent to Melanie Allard or Chair Fry for the next meeting.

COVID-19/ Ministry updates

- Octomester 5 ends on March 5th with Octomester 6 starting on March 8th.
- The March break has been moved to April 12th-16th.
- Sunset Park has received the green light to reopen on February 22nd.
- Inclement weather days – learning at home continues seamlessly.
- Orientation events are happening virtually.
- School teams are doing their best to support student transitions and graduations.
- The special education team and virtual school team has been involved in the provincial consultation process to identify best practices for students learning at home. Once consultations are complete, the provincial report will be released.
- Random rapid COVID-19 tests – two schools will be participating in this testing program, implemented by the Health Unit in the next few weeks.

Special Education Budget

- Superintendent of Business Liz Therrien is retiring at the end of February. The Board has hired an interim Superintendent of Business Wally Easton.
- A transition period will take place around the budgeting procedures. Further information will follow.

Board report

- The Ventin group was awarded the Parry Sound JK-12 build contract. They have experience building JK-12 schools that include daycares. Information and input will be gathered from all stakeholders.
- The build should be completed by September 2023.
- There is a Parry Sound build committee now in place that will be chaired by Trustee John Cochrane. Trustee Nichole King will sit on this committee.
- The committee discussed the Ministry budgeting of schools.
- Trustees are taking advantage of many PD opportunities that include information on Indigenous and special education topics.

Special Education Update

- Through the provincially negotiated contract, the Board is now able to recall laid off staff to areas where there is still current need. Through these dollars, permanent positions have now been posted.

New Business

- Community Living is participating in the Spread the Word campaign. The idea is that inclusion is a skill that we learn and practice together. March 3rd is Spread the Word day. Packages will be sent out to schools, community partners and employers. People can visit the Community Living Facebook page for information and to make a pledge.
- Terms of reference will be sent out with the minutes for the committee to review and make recommendations at the next meeting.
- The April meeting date will be revisited if needed.
- The committee agreed on the new March 18th meeting date.

Items for next Agenda

Budget Priorities Discussion

Motion re: Special Education Board Priorities

Ministry Communications/ PPM

Presentation – Special Education Support Roles/Resources

Standing Items:

1. Correspondence received requiring action.
2. Capital Plan and Accommodation Review
3. Special Education Plan
4. Special Education Budget
5. Question Period

Next meeting date: March 18th, 2021

Adjourned: 2: 37pm

Moved: Al Bottomley

Seconded: Chris Guillemette