Special Education Advisory Committee  
Friday, June 19th, 2015 @ 1:30 p.m.  
Catholic Education Centre Training Room

Present: Norine Schram, Mary Cunningham, Teresa Gallik, Tom Fawcett, Diane VanderZande, Chris Moorley, Christine Wayne (recording secretary)

Regrets: Phyllis Eikre

Minutes

1. Prayer - Norine Schram opened the meeting with a meaningful prayer, bringing everyone into the presence of the Lord.

2. Minutes from May 19th, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.
   
   Moved by: Teresa Gallik  
   Seconded: Tom Fawcett

3. Correspondence:
   - Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board  
     The committee received a copy of a letter dated March 24, 2015 from Lisa Stockmans, Chair, SEAC, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB sent to The Honourable Liz Sanders, Minister of Education. The letter is in support of other SEACs across Ontario regarding the unintended consequences of Regulation 274 and its impact on students, and specifically students with special education needs. The method of hiring teachers heavily weighted by seniority is not always in the best interests of the students we serve. In-year staffing changes identify real challenges in ensuring appropriate staff are secured in a timely manner when subject to hiring under Regulation 274.
New Business:

- **Long Range Plans – 2015-2016**

  Committee discussed goals for 2015-2016 school year.

  Mary Cunningham provided copies of the document *KCDSB Strategic Direction 2014-2019* and suggested that the goals be aligned with the Four Strategic Priorities: (1) *Increasing Student Achievement and Well-Being*, (2) *Fostering a Catholic Environment of Respect, Acceptance and Accountability*, (3) *Using Our Resources Wisely* and (4) *Discovering and Celebrating Joy in the Education Journey*.

  1) SEAC members would like to be invited to attend system school parent events, i.e. open house, Welcome to Kindergarten to use the opportunities to attend and present or display information and increase awareness and presence of SEAC and make it known that parents are welcome. (2)(3)(4)
     a. This will require an update the KCDSB SEAC brochure, a display board and/or presentation in other format.
  2) SEAC would like to develop clear guidelines/expectations for potential association representatives which may help with recruiting. (2)
  3) Invite Finance Manager Alison Smith to attend SEAC meetings in September to provide a presentation on the proposed Special Education Budget, in addition to attending in May to provide a year-end report as to how budget was spent. (1)(2)

- **Membership at Large Update** re: Dianne Griffiths

  Norine Schram advised the committee the Board of Trustees approved at the June 16th Board meeting the appointment of Dianne Griffiths as member-at-large to the Special Education Advisory Committee effective until November 30, 2018.

4. **Business arising from last meeting**

   - Norine Schram and Chris Moorley attended the June 16th Board meeting and spoke to SEAC activities this year.
     The Board approved the 2015 amendments to the Special Education Plan/Manual and will forward the amendments to the Ministry of Education.

5. **Agency Reports**

   - **KACL - Norine Schram**
     Norine reported KACL will be focusing on employment with students they support and is looking work with St. Thomas Aquinas H.S. Co-op Program in September 2015.
   - **Other (reports from members at Large) - Tom Fawcett/Diane VanderZande**
     Diane reported St. John Ambulance is a possible work site for STA co-op student beginning 2015-2016 school year.
6. **Special Needs Strategy** – Norine Schram

The Coordinated Service Planning Proposal has been submitted for review for coordinated services between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Child and Youth Services, and Ministry of Community and Social Services for our region. Kenora Agencies Involved include: Firefly, Kenora Association for Community Living, Northwestern Ontario school boards, Northwest Community Care Access Centre, and the George Jeffrey Children’s Centre in Thunder Bay.

The main goal of this initiative is to have a family centered approach. This would include allowing more interaction and sharing of information between all service providers, focusing on a single plan of care and eliminating duplication of services. In addition, the rehabilitation plans would be tied into student Individual Education Plans.

Throughout the process, Kenora Catholic District School Board has been very well represented demonstrating a commitment to the process.

Upon Ministry approval, the next step is implementation. The goal is to begin implementing a coordination of services in November 2015.

7. **Trustee Report**: Teresa Gallik

- Teresa Gallik thanked the SEAC members for their contribution to the committee.
- A “From the Board Room” Report highlighting the monthly Board of Trustees meeting, will be emailed to entire KCDSB system. This report will be emailed on a monthly basis.

8. **Coordinator’s Report**: Chris Moorley

See attached report.

- SEAC requested that the students will be invited to present at the Fall SEAC meeting. It was suggested students attend the Leadership Camp every two years.
- Diane VanderZande and Tom Fawcett are invited to continue as members of the Accessibility Committee.
- Chris Moorley, Sue Devlin and Sarah Pyzer and Stacey Goodrich attended the presentation “Healing Trauma through a First Nation Lens”.
- Chris Moorley thanked the committee members for their contributions to SEAC this year and presented each member with a fruit basket.

9. **Adjournment**: 2:40 PM

10. **Next Meeting**: Friday, September 25, 2015 @ 1:30 pm – CEC