

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

to be held in person and electronically via Google Meet
in the Library of Sudbury Secondary School
154 College Street, Sudbury
on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

**AGENDA
AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS**

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA *Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of May 16, 2023 be approved.

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST *Chair

C. PRESENTATIONS *Chair

Lighthouse – Superintendent Fisher

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD *Director

E. OLD BUSINESS *Chair

1. Previous Minutes *Chair

Motion:

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 be approved.

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals *Director

Motion:

That the Board award the contract for C. R. Judd Public School, ventilation upgrades, roof replacement and sitework-tender #2023-08 to

_____ for \$_____.00.

3. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** *Chair
Special Education Plan 2023-2024 *Director

Motion:

That the Special Education Plan 2023-2024 as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) be approved.

- F. **NEW BUSINESS** *Chair

1. **Requests for Leave of Absence** *Chair

Motion:

That _____ be granted a leave of absence from the May 16, 2023 Board meeting.

2. **Director's Remarks** *Director

3. **Other Items** *Chair
OPSBA Director
Student Trustee

4. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** *Chair
Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.

5. **Chairperson's Remarks** *Chair

- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** *Chair

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes April 5, 2023 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** *Chair

Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee May 18, 2023 4:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting June 5, 2023 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting June 6, 2023 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee June 7, 2023 12:00 pm
Board Meeting June 13, 2023 5:00 pm
Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee June 15, 2023 4:00 pm

- I. **ADJOURNMENT** *Chair

Motion:

That we do now adjourn at _____ p.m.

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

held in person and electronically via Google Meet
and livestreamed from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury
on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Trustees: B. Clement (Chair), L. Corbiere-Addison, L. Debassige (via Google Meet), D. Dewar, D. Farrow, A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, Student Trustee Kuntsi (via Google Meet), Student Trustee Trudeau (via Google Meet)

Absent: D. Morrison

Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board
A. Guilbault – Superintendent of Business
L. Fisher, J. Noble - Superintendents

Staff: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, D. Gagnon, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, D. Koziar, N. Mousseau, K. Nadeau, C. Norrie, D. Peristeridis, P. Potvin, C. Whitson

Others: Parents and Students (Science Fair)

Chair Clement advised that the meeting was being livestreamed and archived.

Chair Clement read a declaration of land acknowledgement aloud.

Director Bourget completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 23-R65, J.Hunda/D.Farrow

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of April 18, 2023 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

*Chair

1. Science Fair

Superintendent Lesley Fisher introduced Catherine Norrie, Elementary Science Fair Chair, who spoke about this year's events. At the board-wide event held in March, there were 47 high caliber projects on display with 28 of them moving on to the Sudbury Regional Science Fair held at Laurentian University's Alumni Hall on April 1 and 2, 2023.

From the regional fair, 2 Rainbow elementary projects and 1 Rainbow secondary project were selected for the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Edmonton from May 17 to 19, 2023.

Principal Pamela Potvin and Hailey Marshall, Lo Ellen Park Intermediate Science/STEM teacher, introduced the winners that will be attending the National Science Fair.

Lo Ellen Park Intermediate students, Ben Kawa, Arthur Queiroz and Thomas Mullaly gave brief overviews of their projects. Ben's project titled "Driver Wake Up" is a device using artificial intelligence that detects when drivers have fallen asleep behind the wheel. Arthur and Thomas spoke about their project "Can Worms be a Part of the Styrofoam Pollution Solution", which involved a 16 day study to see which type of worm consumed the most Styrofoam, to ultimately assist in the reduction of Styrofoam in landfills.

Aaryan Harshith, a grade 12 Lo Ellen Park student, shared his project "Light IR: An Intraoperative Probe to Enhance Tumor Resection", which is a handheld device that allows surgeons to differentiate between cancerous and healthy tissues in tumor removal surgeries.

Trustees and guests were given the opportunity to browse the projects and ask questions of the presenters.

Trustees wished the students well in Edmonton.

2. Math Intervention Tool

Superintendent Fisher welcomed Principal of Program Dan Koziar, Danielle Gagnon, Elementary Math Consultant, and Katrina Nadeau, Vice-Principal of Redwood Acres and former system math coach to speak about the MathUP program and the impact that it is having throughout the system and particularly at Redwood Acres Public School.

MathUp is a fully realized instructional resource, that addresses the entirety of the mathematics curriculum and scope of teacher practices. Developed by Dr. Marian Small, it supports student learning, but also provides opportunities and tools that support teacher professional learning and parent communication. MathUP includes tools and resources to support teachers in planning their year of math learning, planning for each math topic, and planning each specific lesson.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

3. School Year Update

Director Bourget provided an overview of new legislation introduced by the Minister of Education on April 17, 2023.

The Minister of Education announced that the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, if passed, is focused on improving student outcomes in important life-long skills like reading, writing and math.

Director Bourget shared RDSB initiatives within our six priority areas of our Strategic Directions.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD

Motion: 23-R66, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), Local 614 Educational Assistants and Communicative Disorder Assistants as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 23-R67, D.Farrow/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

a) Motion: 23-R68, D.Dewar/J.Hunda

That the Board award the contract for R. H. Murray Public School, renovations-tender #2023-05 to J.N. Construction Limited for \$ 1,244,900.00.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

b) Motion: 23-R69, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the Board award the contract for Confederation Secondary School, flex classroom renovations-tender #2023-07 to Northwall Contracting Company Limited for \$377,435.00.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

3. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees**

Motion: 23-R70, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the new elementary school on the Lasalle campus be named Lasalle Elementary School.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Ontario Public School Boards' Association Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 23-R71, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2023 OPSBA Annual General Meeting in Collingwood June 8-10, 2023. - *Trustee Corbiere-Addison, Trustee Farrow, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Hunda and Trustee Kosmerly*

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

2. **Ontario Student Trustees' Association – Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 23-R72, J.Hunda/L.Corbriere-Addison

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Kuntsi, Student Trustee Trudeau and the 2 incoming Student Trustees at the 2023 OSTA-AECO Annual General Meeting May 18-21, 2023 in Toronto.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

3. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 23-R73, D.Dewar/D.Farrow

That Trustee Morrison be granted a leave of absence from the April 18, 2023 Board meeting.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: Abstain
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

4. **Director's Remarks**

Thank all staff for their dedication and hard work. Certainly the collective work of our staff make the wonderful initiatives, events and accomplishments possible.

Retirement Dinner

The Board Retirement Dinner will be held on **Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 6 pm** at the Caruso Club Main Hall in Sudbury.

We hope you can join us to celebrate our incredible retirees on this memorable and special occasion.

Budget

We received the Grants for Student Needs and budget information yesterday from the Ministry of Education. In the days and weeks ahead we will unpack the information and continue with our planning for the 2023-24 school year. More information to come in future meetings.

Graduations

Graduations are not far away. We are thrilled to be hosting in-person graduations once again as we celebrate student success. Please check your calendars for availability and let us know which ones you can attend.

Administrative Transfers and Appointments

At an upcoming meeting I will provide details on upcoming administrative transfers and appointments for the 2023-2024 school year.

Staffing for next year has started. Principals are working to create schedules and staff their schools for the fall.

5. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly shared a couple items that arose from the OPSBA North Region Council meeting, OPSBA is looking to add an additional day to the October conference in Sault Ste Marie as well a reminder that elections for executive positions on the council will be held at the AGM in June and all trustees are welcome to put their names forward. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in Toronto on April 28/29, 2023. All trustees should have received OPSBA’s statement on Bill 98 “Better Schools and Outcomes Act”.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Trudeau shared that Espanola High School will be hosting a Powwow on May 19th honouring the MMIWG2S (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit peoples). Grand entry will be at 10:30 am. An invitation was offered to all trustees to attend. Student Trustee Kuntsi shared that Student Senate was finalizing details for the Stand Up Speak Out conference which will be held on May 3rd. This year’s theme is Leadership through Action with a variety of guest speakers. All high schools have the opportunity to send 10 students to the event.

6. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.

Trustee Kosmerly wanted to recognize 2 staff and a student for some recent accomplishments, Seth is a recent Project Search student who won a competition for a unionized job at Health Sciences North, the first student of the program to receive a full time job. As well, the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury held an awards banquet where 2 Rainbow staff received awards, Christina Kulyski, teacher at Northeastern Elementary School, won the Outstanding Educator award and Colleen McDonald, Principal of Special Education, won the award for Outstanding Leadership.

Trustee Hunda congratulated all staff and students on a great year. She also expressed the importance of trustee participation at the events happening in schools.

7. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

HUMAN RIGHTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Education is partnering with York University’s Osgoode Hall Law School to provide a new two-part human rights professional development program “Intensive Human Rights Program for School Board Leaders”. The program will provide two half-day online sessions for trustees, directors of education and board senior leadership. The first session “Disability Rights in Public Education” will be offered Saturday, May 13th and/or Tuesday, May 23rd. The second session “Hate Activity in School Boards” will provide a foundational understanding of manifestations of hate and discrimination relevant to Ontario’s publicly funded school boards. Dates for this session will be announced this fall. Registration is now open for these programs. To learn more or register, visit the Osgoode website.

BOARD SCIENCE FAIR

As we heard earlier this evening, four students from Rainbow Schools will move on to present three projects at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Edmonton next month. Huge congratulations to all participants for their hard work in developing projects. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend best wishes to the students as they compete against the best in the country.

ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

I would also like to commend both the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Manitoulin Secondary School Robotics teams competing at the World Robotics Championships in Houston, Texas - which kicks off today. Both teams garnered impressive results at the Ontario Provincial Championships earlier this month. Congratulations. We are rooting for you!

FIGHT AGAINST CANCER GALA

A friendly reminder that Sudbury Secondary School is hosting its third Fight Against Cancer Gala this Friday, April 21st. All proceeds will support the Northern Cancer Centre through Angels in Pink. To learn more, visit the board website at rainbowschools.ca.

JOAN MANTLE MUSIC TRUST CONCERT

We heard the Director talk about the wonderful entertainment being showcased for the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Concert on Saturday, April 29th. I invite everyone to attend as we celebrate the return to music in Rainbow Schools. There will be even more opportunities to enjoy student performances at the Music Monday concerts on May 1st.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

The final Parent Involvement Committee for the academic year will take place on Tuesday, May 9th at 7 pm. The committee will work together to plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

There will be a Professional Development Day on Friday, April 28th. There is no school for students.

BOARD AWARDS

Rainbow District School Board will honour its dedicated employees and community partners at the annual Board Awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:30 pm following the Regular Board Meeting. These awards represent a rich tradition of honouring excellence in Rainbow Schools. We look forward to celebrating with staff - in person.

This evening's quote comes from Robin Wall Kimmerer who will be joining us on May 4th for a special presentation. It comes from her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

The guidelines for the Honorable Harvest are not written down, or even consistently spoken of as a whole – they are reinforced in small acts of daily life.

But if you were to list them, they might look something like this - and I am only listing a few from the book -

Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them.

Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.

Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken.

Share.

Give thanks for what you have been given.

Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.

Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever. Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Parent Involvement Committee minutes February 28, 2023 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes March 1, 2023 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

April 3, 2023 letter to Premier Ford and Ministers Lecce, Jones and Parsa RE:
Co-ordinated system-wide mental health services for children and youth.

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee April 20, 2023 4:00 pm

Student Senate Meeting May 1, 2023 5:30 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting May 2, 2023 5:00 pm

Special Education Advisory Committee May 3, 2023 12:00 pm

Environmental Education Committee May 3, 2023 3:30 pm

Parent Involvement Committee May 9, 2023 7:00 pm

First Nations Advisory Committee May 15, 2023 10:00 am

Board Meeting May 16, 2023 5:00 pm (@ Sudbury Secondary Library)

Board Awards May 16, 2023 6:30 pm (@ Sheridan Auditorium)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 23-R74, D.Dewar/J.Kosmerly

That we do now adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Title:	Special Education Plan 2023-2024
Contact:	Kathy Wachnuk
Date Submitted:	May 16, 2023
Mandate	Under the <i>Education Act</i> , Regulation 306 requires the Board submit a Special Education Plan for the school year 2023/2024. As part of this process, a Special Education budget must be developed.
Background	<p>A review of special education programs and services is conducted on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Special Education Advisory Committee, principals, special education staff, and parents (93 responses) were invited to participate in the annual review. Their input is reflected in the Special Education Budget 2023-2024.</p> <p>In anticipation of the submission of the Special Education Plan by July 31, the Special Education Budget for 2023-2024 has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Education policy document <i>Standards for School Board Plans for Special Education</i>.</p> <p>The Special Education Budget 2023-2024 reflects programs and services for 1283 elementary and 1021 secondary exceptional students, excluding Section 23 students.</p> <p>The Special Education Budget 2023-2024 amendments (see following page) are reflected in the Special Education Plan 2023-2024 which is available on the board website.</p>
Recommendation	That the Special Education Plan 2023-2024 as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) be approved.

Rainbow District School Board
Special Education Budget 2023-2024
Report to the Board
May 2023

Amendments

A total of 209 (Full Time Equivalent) special education teachers have been allocated for 2023-2024. This includes 102 Resource Teachers, 84 Intensive Support Program Teachers (this includes Section 23 teachers), and 12 Itinerant Teachers.

The number of (Full Time Equivalent) Educational Assistants is 214. This number includes Educational Assistants in Section 23 Programs. The number of Communicative Disorder Assistants remains at 6.

Please note:

These allocations include section 23 teachers and educational assistants.

Further details to staffing for special education in elementary and secondary schools are included in the “Special Education Programs and Services”, Section 8 and 11 of the Special Education Plan (available on the board website).

**MINUTES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM

Virtual meeting via Google Meet Video Conferencing

Present:

SEAC Members:

Julie Contini

Lisa Corbiere-Addison

Crystal Corbiere

Natasha Delaney

Judy Kosmerly

Wendy Larouche

Stephanie Roussy

Jennifer Way

Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury

Trustee

N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre

Member at Large

Trustee

Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

Children's Community Network

March of Dimes Canada

Staff:

Carole Burke

Gillian Cacciotti

Leslie Hamill

Colleen McDonald

Kathy Wachnuk

Danielle Williamson

Special Education Coordinator

Special Education Coordinator

Special Education Coordinator

Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

Superintendent

Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

Other:

Regrets:

Sara Kitlar-Pothier

Robert Silvestri

Ontario Autism Coalition

Northern Ontario Assessment and Resource Centre

Absent:

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

W. Larouche welcomed SEAC members and guests to the April 5, 2023 meeting.

2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members

Quorum was established.

3.0 SEAC Mission Statement

S. Roussy read the mission statement aloud.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1:

Moved by: N. Delaney

Seconded by: J. Kosmerly

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of April 5, 2023 be approved.

Motion carried.

5.0 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion 2:

Moved by: S. Roussy

Seconded by: N. Delaney

That the amended minutes of the SEAC meeting of March 1, 2023 be approved.

Motion carried.

8.0 Business Arising

No business arising from the March 1, 2023 SEAC meeting.

9.0 New Business

Special Education Coordinators Carole Burke and Leslie Hamill provided a presentation on the alternative and provincial report cards.

The Alternative Report Card is used to report on student's progress who are working on Alternative learning expectations, such as Communication or Life Skills, expectations which are not part of the Ontario Curriculum. A sample IEP with Alternative learning expectations and sample Alternative Report Card was shared.

The Provincial Report Card is used to report on student's progress who are working on Ontario Curriculum Expectations. This includes students who have an accommodated or modified IEP. Sample elementary and secondary provincial report cards were shared.

Students working towards achieving both Ontario Curriculum and Alternative Curriculum expectations will receive a Provincial report card and an Alternative Report Card.

J. Contini requested that a copy of the alternative and provincial report card presentation be shared with SEAC members.

10.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence

R. Silvestri and S. Kitlar-Pothier requested a leave of absence from the April 5, 2023 SEAC meeting.

Moved by: J. Kosmerly

Seconded by: J. Contini

11.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wachnuk shared that staffing is underway for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be sharing a detailed staffing plan with SEAC at our May meeting, at which time SEAC members will be invited to vote on the approval of the plan. Superintendent Wachnuk expects the need to open additional Intensive Support Program classrooms for the upcoming school year because of the increase in incoming needs at the Kindergarten level. We continue to work with community agencies to run preschool transition meetings for incoming students

with high needs. At the same time, the Rainbow District School Board continues to work towards the Inclusion Model in Special Education.

Superintendent Wachnuk shared that after three days of negotiations a tentative deal has been reached with Educational Assistants. She will share more information once the deal has been ratified.

Superintendent Wachnuk provided information related to Project Search HSN. One of the Project Search HSN Interns has now been hired as an employee in the food services department at HSN.

Superintendent Wachnuk has scheduled a meeting with the Ontario Autism Program at the end of April 2023. The purpose of the meeting will be to ensure we are doing everything with OAP to maximize services for our students with Autism and their families.

Superintendent Wachnuk provided information regarding the upcoming PA Day on April 28, 2023. The PA Day will include presentations from several guest speakers as well as shorter, more specialized professional development sessions.

12.0 Special Education Staff Report

Principal McDonald shared that Board Special Education staff continue to work through preschool transition meetings to prepare incoming students for their transition to Kindergarten in September 2023. We will be hosting over 100 preschool transition meetings for incoming students this year.

Principal McDonald shared that Grade 8 to 9 spring IPRCs will begin soon. Board Special Education staff continue to support the transition of students with IEPs starting secondary school in September 2023.

Principal McDonald provided information for the upcoming April 28 PA Day. Board Special Education staff will be providing workshops in the areas of speech and language, IEP development and technology training.

Principal McDonald included a Project Search HSN update. One of the interns recently started a part-time job in the community and another intern has been hired permanently as an employee at HSN. March of Dimes continues to support Project Search interns in the program and in the community.

13.0 Board Report

Trustee Kosmerly shared that trustees are currently reviewing the board by-laws.

Trustee Kosmerley also shared information from the March 21st Board Meeting. Trustees voted to write a letter to the Premier, and to the Ministers of Education, Health and Children, and Community and Social Services to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations made by the Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health.

Aside from the Board Report, Trustee Kosmerly also shared that the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is offering an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) at their office on April 17 and 18. Anyone interested in the training can contact CMHA Sudbury-Manitoulin directly for more information.

14.0 Chairperson's Remarks

W. Larouche shared that Member of Parliament Heather McPherson tabled a bill in the House of Commons seeking national standards for supporting people with ADHD. The goal is to provide awareness training for medical and education staff, equitable access to medical and mental health professionals, and resource creation for ways to manage, recognize and understand the disorder. ADHD is not currently recognized as a category of exceptionality with the Ministry of Education but is recognized at post-secondary educational institutions.

W. Larouche thanked everyone for participating in today's SEAC meeting.

15.0 Association Reports

Wendy Larouche: Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

The LDAS Awards Dinner is happening April 5, 2023, which includes a Silent Auction that will run until April 11.

The 2023 LDAS RDSB Outstanding Teacher Award winner is Christina Kulyski. The 2023 LDAS Outstanding Leadership Award winner is Colleen McDonald.

Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury

The 2023 World Down Syndrome Day was a success. The Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury will be planning additional in-person events in the summer of 2023.

March of Dimes

March of Dimes is looking for ways to support Project Search in the community for the long-term.

March of Dimes is seeing an increase in referrals through schools to support youth with gaining employment opportunities. They continue to work collaboratively with school staff to arrange intake meetings for youth.

The March of Dimes will be running five “Skills for Work” groups over the next year. The first program begins later this month. Anyone under the age of 30, newly out of school or in an alternative program can participate in this paid transition to work program.

16.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC

There was no new correspondence addressed to SEAC to share with the committee.

17.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests

None

18.0 Next Meeting Date

The next SEAC meeting will be held virtually on May 3, 2023 at noon.

19.0 Adjournment

W. Larouche adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.