



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 1st, 2024

Meeting called to order at: 4:00 pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Lois Ehman (Chair)
- Gillian Finlayson
- Teresa Viebrock
- Peter Beliveau
- Amanda Bugeaud
- Laranna Scott

AGENDA:

Land acknowledgement

Approval of February meeting minutes

Review Provision of Transportation Policy (#570)

Review Student Survey results

APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

- Ensured there were no omissions or corrections from the last meeting.
- Minutes were approved by the committee.

REVIEW PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION POLICY

- The committee discussed the different circumstances that could arise during bus transport among students with varying levels of support needs.
- There could be a variety of different considerations for a student with diverse needs as to whether they can ride the bus. The committee found the language within the policy around those considerations and how a decision could be made on bus accessibility for students with diverse needs vague.
- After reviewing section 2.2, the committee wondered what can be done to remove barriers to promote inclusive bus transportation for students with diverse needs.
- Questions arose as to whether parents could ride with students, whether a safety or intervention plan could be put in place to promote accessibility and provide continuity of support for students between school and home and what driver training is provided around neurodiversity, communication, and behaviour management.



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES REVIEW STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

- The student survey results were reviewed, and the committee noted common themes that arose in responses.
 - It seems many students like structure and report difficulty focusing due to students who do not take their learning seriously or exhibit behavioural issues.
 - It was discussed that students reported needing different types of environments to learn. We hypothesized having different rooms providing different learning environments that students could go to work rather than being confined to their classrooms with multiple students of different learning styles that may at times clash.
 - Many students reported noise being an issue. The committee discussed options for ear buds or noise dampening headphones. Not all students have funding options to provide these. Furthermore, not all students have IEPs. Are accommodations allowed for all students to manage their sensory environment?
 - It may be beneficial to offer training (for high school teachers in particular) to enhance sensory awareness and ways for students to manage self-regulation to increase ability to focus.
 - It was reported that writing is difficult for many students. The committee discussed how communication modalities are changing and what could be done to make this easier for those who struggle when it is such a big part of high school academics.
 - Many students reported they would appreciate some sort of room to access dim lighting, a swing and other sensory equipment.
 - Many students reported needing mental health support.
 - Educational staff may need training on diverse needs of students and mental health support. We need to look at all the ways students access help and support to address barriers to them accessing these services.
 - Relationship between students and adults is needed to build trust before students can access mental health supports.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- The Chair thanked the committee members for their contributions to the meetings and endeavors of the Accessibility Committee.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- TBD

Meeting adjourned at 5:40