

1. Call to Order – 1:17 pm

2. Attendance via TEAMS online meeting platform

Harry Fry (Chair)	Chris Guillemette
Alan Bottomley	Susan Wilson
Kimberley Gignac	Tracy Hanzlik
Barb Laverock	Stephanie Zacharuk
Nichole King	Albina Lavictoire
Lisa Paradis	
Louise Sargent	

Regrets: Laura Hansman, Candy St. Onge, Melanie Gray

3. Approval of Agenda:

November 19th, 2020

Moved – Stephanie Zacharuk

Seconded – Albina Lavictoire

Carried. No Conflict of interest

4. Approval of Minutes:

October 15th, 2020

Moved – Louise Sargent

Seconded- Barb Laverock

Carried.

Ministry communications/PPM

- *Special Education in Ontario – K-Grade 12*, Policy and resource guide is still a main resource.
- Investment funding to support school reopening was received in August.
- Funding was received for additional resources for staff, assessment services and programs/interventions to address learning gaps.
- A proposal was completed and approved by Exec council. This includes professional assessment services, plexi-glass partitions and iPads for both the assessor and student. Also, an online assessment platform called Q-interactive has been purchased.
- It is important for many students to have a current Psych assessment to qualify for services (assessments no more than 3 years old).
- The Ministry has not confirmed if there will be a Christmas extension.

Annual agenda

- The committee has discussed LD support and the exciting new project LEARNstyle.
- Presentations moving forward in January/February/March and April were requested to be regarding: Behaviour Supports, Speech-Language Supports, Psych, and Multi-disciplinary team.

Financial Report

- Manager of Finance Wende Proulx discussed the special education year end financials as of August 31, 2020.
- The over expenditure is approximately \$435,593 which is comparable to the previous year. This over-expenditure does remain consistent from year to year.
- Accounts that were not spent in year must go back into deferred revenue.
- There were some overall savings on travel and supplies due to COVID-19.
- Staffing levels have remained consistent.
- Strike savings is recovered by the Ministry.
- The NNDSB prioritizes grant dollars for special education.
- Certain departments will have surpluses and others have deficits.
- Tours of the new/updated special education areas at Chippewa and West Ferris will be scheduled when possible.
- The 3-2 secondary school consolidation allowed for alignment with the two special education program streams. Chippewa houses the communication program and West Ferris the life skills program.
- This was an exceptional year with exceptional circumstances.

Special Education Support/ COVID update

- Reorganization is happening at the elementary level being very mindful of class cohorts. Parents had the opportunity to change the mode of delivery and the changes are expected to take place on Monday.
- At the secondary level the schools have moved into the third octomester.
- The students currently learning from home, coming back in person have spoken with principals and will be followed closely as they transition back.
- Plexi glass partitions for assessors and Speech/Language therapy are up and ready to go.
- Case conferences with agency support will be available both virtually and face to face with safety protocols in place.

Correspondence received requiring action

- A draft letter, supporting DDSB and their 5-year SIP funding proposal was completed, reviewed and signed by the Chair of the Board and Chair of SEAC.
- There has been a notification sent out with ways to reduce tasks and the SIP funding was a part of this. The claims are not needed however it does not explain the new funding process.
- Chair Fry reviewed the letter with the committee.
- SEAC is in support of sending the letter still as it suggests and supports using the new methodology of a five-year average.

Board report

- Trustees and the senior team have completed 4 ½ days of sessions on the multi-year strategic plan.
- All voices were heard, and points covered. As part of the values moving forward it includes the seven grandfather teachings.
- A draft will be made available for review and input.
- This will be brought back to the June Board meeting.
- The Parry Sound build is moving forward with the selection of an architect. Staff need to be mindful that there will be many student transitions when complete.
- WJ Fricker build is also moving forward.

Special Education Report

- The special education update is available in SEAC's meeting package and follows the four priority areas; supporting students with LD, enhancing skills in ABA, supporting students with challenging behaviour and supporting students with high needs.
- The focus for supporting students with an LD has been on the LEARNstyle project.
- The speech language and program department has been collaborating to better support literacy gaps.
- The ABA after school funds were not able to be used because of school shut down, so were used instead to hire two behaviour therapists, one temporary and one full time.
- The mobile team continues their work with 8-week placements.
- Network Advisory Council – quarterly meetings are taking place.
- PD sessions continue using the virtual and Edsby platforms.
- Just over 20 students have begun the training with LEARNstyle. The feedback from families is positive. They are using the TEAMS online platform and office 365.

New Business

- Community living North Bay – They have chosen Hope Kitchen and the Indigenous Friendship Centre food bank to support this year. Donations such as gift cards and snack type items are requested. Chris will send an email summary to Chair Fry for follow up.
- The Fire Fighters association has partnered with Community living. Proceeds from their calendar will be directed to the outcomes fund. Sponsors are welcome. These funds help people access services and items such as trips, wheelchairs and bikes. Ministry dollars are not able to fund these items. Further updates will follow.
- HANDS – today is Stephanie's last day as a member of SEAC. Dr. Karen Grattan-Miscio will be representing HANDS as Stephanie has moved to a different department.

Standing Items

Items for next Agenda

SEAC annual agenda for the year – finalize
Confirm which exceptionality IEP to review
Ministry Communications/ PPM
Update – Ministry Updates

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: December 17th, 2020

Adjourned: 2:08pm

Moved: Alan Bottomley
Seconded: Chris Guillemette