

1. Call to Order – 1:02 pm

2. Attendance via TEAMS online meeting platform

Harry Fry (Chair)	Chris Guillemette
Alan Bottomley	Susan Wilson
Kimberley Gignac	Tracy Hanzlik
Albina Lavictoire	Melanie Gray
Candy St. Onge	Karen Gratton-Miscio
Lisa Paradis	
Louise Sargent	

Regrets: Barb Laverock, Nichole King, Laura Hansman

3. Approval of Agenda:

March 18th, 2021

Moved – Chris Guillemette

Seconded – Alan Bottomley

Carried. No Conflict of interest

4. Approval of Minutes:

February 18th, 2021

Moved – Chris Guillemette

Seconded- Louise Sargent

Presentation – Psych Supports

- Louise Maughan, the Board's lead psychologist presented to the group.
- Louise is also a part of the multi-disciplinary team.
- The psych team includes three psychoeducational consultants and Louise who is the lead registered psychologist. Louise reviews the psychoeducational assessments completed by her team and is responsible for diagnosing.
- Pre-referral meetings are held annually at each school and a member of the psych team attends with a speech language pathologist. Meetings are attended by the principal, resource, and classroom teacher. The teacher presents students about whom they have concerns and the speech language pathologists and psych team offer recommendations for appropriate strategies and targeted interventions.
- The benefits of these meetings include directing appropriate resources to students in need, tracking students and their response to interventions, providing the right type of assessment at the right time, tracking needs of the system and providing professional development opportunities for teachers.
- The psychoeducational assessment is one piece of the puzzle to determine why a student may be struggling. Schools do not have to wait for an assessment before providing resource interventions.
- Psychoeducational assessment provides the following functions:
 - Getting to know the student as a learner
 - Measuring how the student uses processing skills, executive functioning, achievement, and adaptive functioning skills
 - Gaining understanding of why a student is struggling

- If the areas of concern include attention, behaviour, Autism, social or mental health, a psychological assessment is required and is completed by Louise.
- The assessment outcomes can result in a diagnosis or identification. A Diagnosis is made by a Clinician and meets specific clinical criteria. An identification involves recommending a referral to the IPRC committee. This committee makes the decision of whether the student should be formally identified as exceptional in one or more of the categories of exceptionality defined by the Ministry of Education.
- A report is generated for both the parents and the school and a debrief meeting is held for psych staff to present the report to parents and appropriate school staff.
- Louise reviews many assessments completed by other Boards, agencies, and private practitioners. The parents sign a consent, the report is then sent to the psych department for review and a consultation report is completed. A recommendation based on the NNDSB criteria for identification and next steps are included in this report.
- The psych department provides PD for teachers, EA's, principals etc. on such topics as IPRC categories and definitions.
- The psych team also partners with One Kids Place developmental clinic to provide psychoeducational assessments for NNDSB students.
- As needed Louise sits in on other working groups and committees including the board's multidisciplinary team.
- Louise is a part of the association of Chief Psychologists of Ontario School Boards and they meet quarterly to discuss Ministry initiatives, best practices, and current issues.

PAAC- Review of annual SEAC agenda, Input regarding terms of reference

- There were no questions received from the March meeting and the PAAC conversation.
- SEAC is a legislated committee and must follow legal boundaries. The committee is required to meet regularly and can be heard at the Board level.
- The NNDSB SEAC has four trustees that are available to listen. Each participant is a representative of their association and not individual concerns. Ongoing PD (such as NNDSB presentations) occur for members to understand the scope and range of services the special education department offers to our students.
- Each member has one vote.
- Meetings are open to the public.
- Questions need to be received in writing to the Chair, prior to the meeting.
- A representative can not represent SEAC without permission from the Board.
- Members are not obligated to vote for something just because they made the motion. It opens the floor for discussion than a vote is held.
- Priorities for SEAC are budget recommendations.
- The annual agenda will be updated and circulated out with the recommendations from the PAAC.
- The May meeting includes a tour of a school, however in this environment we could fill this time slot with an update on the Learn Style program.

Motion: SEAC recommends their Terms of Reference for Board approval.

Moved: Alan Bottomley

Seconded: Albina Lavictoire.

COVID-19/ Ministry updates

- There were 1471 cases of COVID-19 in publicly funded schools in the last 14 days.
- 34 schools are currently closed, however no schools in the NNDSB.

- One student did test positive in North Bay but has not been in contact with the school (Chippewa) during the infectious period, so no action was needed.
- School Boards are participating in random testing. Near North is working with an outside vendor and will begin testing shortly.
- Schools will likely open in September with the same health and safety requirements.
- The special education team has completed and submitted reports that support provincial planning.

Correspondence – HPE DSB

- A copy of the letter is in the SEAC package as an information item.

Capital planning and accommodation updates

- Parry Sound K-12 build – the architects are on site meeting with the school Board team.

Special Education Budget

- The Ministry has announced that the GSN's will be released as per the usual timeline.
- The Board is currently preparing budgets for submission.
- Superintendent of Business Liz Therrien has retired with Interim Superintendent Wally Easton in place for now. The Board is working on securing a permanent replacement.
- The annual budget motion SEAC puts forward to the Board will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Board report

- Trustee's are participating in ongoing PD opportunities.
- Parry Sound & WJ Fricker builds are moving along well.

Special Education Update

- The update is available in the SEAC package.
- It outlines the ongoing projects and the four areas of focus.
- Provincial negotiations and the dollars provided has allowed the Board to hire or call back staff on layoff to help fill the areas of need.

New Business EON information

- Chris discussed how community living supports children and youth alongside Near North. She brings back information received from this SEAC group to share with their agency personnel.
- Early ON Child and family centre is a free educational pre-school service for parents and care givers.
- Virtual programs are offered at this time for children 0-6 years.
- It was discussed that a representative could present to SEAC with further details on their programs and resources.

Items for next Agenda

Financial Update and Budget Discussion
 Preliminary Budget Forecast for Special Education
 Ministry Communications/ PPM
 Review LDAO's report on Special Education Funding (if available)
 Presentation – Multi-disciplinary team

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: April 29th , 2021

Adjourned: 2: 37pm

Moved: Alan Bottomley
Seconded: Louise Sargent