

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	Barb Laverock
Lisa Paradis	
Louise Sargent	

Regrets: Nichole King, Laura Hansman, Karen Gratton-Miscio

3. Approval of Agenda:

April 29th, 2021

Moved – Alan Bottomley

Seconded – Chris Guillemette

Carried. No Conflict of interest

4. Approval of Minutes:

March 18th, 2021

Moved – Albina Lavictoire

Seconded- Louise Sargent

Presentation – NNDSB Multidisciplinary team

- The process was formalized about three years ago and is made up of leads from the psych, speech-language, behaviour, mental health, spec ed and safe schools departments.
- A new addition to the team this year is the lead for safe schools.
- The team can examine cases presented from the perspective of each area of expertise.
- This is a much more efficient way to bounce ideas off each other and work on a “wrap around” approach of services for these students.
- A key goal is established for each case.
- The student can be monitored, and the case closed when goals are met, however cases can be re-opened at any time.
- Schools would contact their special education coordinator after all regular avenues of referral have taken place. These students may have high levels of attendance, behaviour, mental health, and spec ed concerns.
- There is some level of urgency with these cases.
- The team will provide schools with a consultation note which summarizes the services involved and those being recommended. The next steps are strategy driven and goal based.
- The group reviewed the MDT consultation note on the screen.
- One avenue of support available is Mobile Team support. There is a mobile teacher for the East/West and one for the North. They move from school to school helping support students, by observing, making recommendations and modelling strategies.

They work with a small pocket of students (generally early primary) who are experiencing significant challenges.

- School mental health supports were discussed such as the BRISC program.
- The group reviewed data collected last year (prior to the lockdown) that breaks down the student cases discussed, and the supports put in place following the MDT meeting.
- The goal is to provide the right supports for students at the right time.

COVID-19/ Ministry updates

- The Board has received Ministry funding (like last year) to support summer learning and transition programs for students with special education needs. The team is working on a plan.
- With the stay-at-home order in place, all students are in at home learning except for our special education students in self-contained classes.
- All staff in these classes are on the priority list for vaccinations.
- Other staff will be eligible shortly for vaccinations.
- The Board is awaiting an official announcement from the Ministry of Education on at home learning for students in the 2021-2022 school year. The Board is making plans under the assumption that at-home learning will be a choice for families.
- The Board is working alongside other Boards across the Province. The three recommendations made are: face to face learning, a full hybrid model and then a full virtual school.
- The virtual school presents challenges such as attendance issues, available courses and pathways and special education supports.
- The Board hopes to have a clear plan within the next 6 weeks.
- Families should start thinking about what school might look like for their children in September.

Correspondence – Superior Greenstone DSB & Renfrew County Catholic DSB

- Copies of the two letters are available in SEAC package.
- Superior Greenstone DSB letter – Chair Fry has discussed this letter with the Board's Chair Jay Aspin. If SEAC decides to write a letter of support, it could be brought to a Board meeting for trustee support and then signed by both Chair Aspin and SEAC Chair Fry. A fair investment is needed in technology so additional funding would support this. Superintendent Gray and the program/spec ed team will draft a support letter for the group to review and then present at the May Board meeting.
- Additional thoughts that could be included are internet connectivity in rural areas. Affordable, accessible internet service is needed for all.
- Renfrew County DSB letter – The group agreed to write a letter of support. Additional staff training is needed in addition to Boards developing policies and guidelines around FASD. Superintendent Gray and team will draft a letter for review.

Capital planning and accommodation updates

- The 3:2 school consolidation meetings continue.
- The new JK-12 build in Parry Sound continues with conversations around uses of space and space templates. A small part of the building will be removed over the summer as part of the construction plan.

Special Education Budget Prioritizing Activity

- The group discussed and reviewed the SEAC budget recommendations. Any additional thoughts can be sent through email.

The motion put forward to the Board's Budget Committee includes the following recommendations from SEAC:

1. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports maintaining to the best of our ability, staff and resource support aligned with the tiered model of support currently in place across all regions of the Board.
2. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports maintaining and growing a multi-disciplinary model to support internal collaboration and opportunities to collaborate with community agencies/partners.
3. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports having Differentiated Learning Resource Teachers in all schools in order to support school level needs.
4. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports the best possible allocation of central staff to support early intervention, testing and specialization (speech and language, hearing, sight, behaviour, ABA) with access across the regions.
5. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports the maintaining of Education Assistants across the Board to enable inclusionary practices for our highest need's students.
6. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports the continued use of the model of Flexible Education Assistants in all regions to best reflect the changing and evolving needs of students.
7. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports the professional development of all staff.
8. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports the prioritizing of professional development in the areas of early language development, Learning Disabilities (including LEARNStyle Coaching), a tiered approach to supporting students with challenging behaviours, One Page Profiles, and ABA strategies as aligned with innovative and evidence-based approaches to support Learning for All.
9. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports PD connected to Transition Planning as it connects to knowing and supporting our students according to strengths, needs, and student voice from K-12 and toward adulthood.
10. The SEAC for the NNDSB supports the continuation of the partnership with LEARNStyle to provide coaching opportunities for students for whom SEA equipment has been provided.

Mover – Alan Bottomley

Secunder – Candy St. Onge

SEAC chair

- Chair Fry discussed the MYSP sessions available to staff, families, and community partners.
- Chair Fry and his family are relocating to the Sudbury area in June. He will be stepping down from SEAC and Albina will be taking over as Chair with the support of Chair Fry and the special education team.

Board report

- Trustee Sargent discussed the MYSP public information sessions and encouraged all to join any of the available sessions. She also encouraged participants to complete the survey at the end of the session. The Board welcomes everyone's input and feedback.

New Business

- Community Living's monthly schedule was shared out to the group. Members were encouraged to circulate it out as it relays all the different activities taking place in May and recognizes community living's staff and people they support.
- The new Superintendent of Business, Seija Van Haesendonck will assume the role, July 19, 2021. An invite to attend a SEAC meeting will be sent to her for the September meeting.

Items for next Agenda

SEAC effectiveness & evaluation survey
Special Education Plan
Ministry Communications/PPM
Update on LEARNStyle Coaching

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: May 20th, 2021

Adjourned: 2: 35 pm

Moved: Alan Bottomley
Seconded: Chris Guillemette