

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	Laura Hansman
Lisa Paradis	Karen Gratton-Miscio
Louise Sargent	

Regrets: Nichole King, Barb Laverock

3. Approval of Agenda: As amended

May 20th, 2021

Moved – Chris Guillemette

Seconded – Louise Sargent

Carried. No Conflict of interest

4. Approval of Minutes:

April 29th, 2021

Moved – Harry Fry

Seconded- Chris Guillemette

Presentation – LEARNStyle

- SEA (Special Education Amount) equipment is provided to students accessing special education programs and services with a recommendation from a therapist for equipment or technology. A SEA claim is initiated by the school team.
- SEA claims-based funding is used for purchasing larger pieces of equipment such as change tables and swings.
- SEA per pupil funding can be used to purchase technology for students.
- This funding has been used in the past to release teachers to help support students with the use of this technology however these teachers were missed from their daily classrooms.
- This year NNDSB has partnered with LEARNStyle to provide this support. LEARNStyle is an organization with experience providing technology coaching support for school boards and families.
- This project was launched in NNDSB on September 25th. Five hours of training is provided to each student who has SEA technology from LEARNStyle coaches. Our initial focus targeted students in grades 7 and 8 but we have extended the project beyond this to include both junior students and secondary students.
- Rick Cunningham presented to the group from the LearnStyle organization. He reviewed the structure of the organization and the role/experiences of the coaches.
- He has seen through the eyes of students with learning disabilities and how it affects them as a person.
- LEARNStyle has been in business for the last 13 years and understands that assistive technology is essential for these groups of students with learning disabilities.

- Relationships are key, so the student will trust and follow the coach's lead.
- The discovery process is important to understand the student's greatest need and select the best strategies to benefit students.
- Areas of greatest need can be written expression, digital organization, comprehension, research, study/test taking skills and idea generation.
- Data is gathered from the student and teachers are asked to verify the information.
- The journey to independence is assessed and documented by gaging necessary levels of support (from requiring full guidance to full independence).
- The student management and tracking system was discussed. Communications automatically go out to schools and teachers. Reports are generated from this system. As this is a web-based product, teachers have access to this system for their classroom students and Principals have access to all students in their school.
- There has been great collaboration and support from staff and schools.
- NNDSB staff involvement has been the highest LEARNStyle has seen
- The group reviewed a few examples of a student's LearnStyle journey.
- Private tutoring is available through LEARNStyle for parents.

Motion: *The SEAC committee supports providing a presentation of the LEARNStyle project at the June 2021 Board meeting.*

Approver: Harry Fry
 Secunder: Alan Bottomley

MACSE collaboration template

- The template received was identical to the one the group had already completed and sent in February 2021.
- The information has been completed to the best of staff's ability at this current time. No additional summary results have been received back from the Ministry.
- The group can email Melanie Allard with any additions.

COVID-19/ Ministry updates

- A significant amount of education workers received their first vaccination shot.
- Students in special education classes continue to be offered face to face instruction and considerations are underway to include similar support for additional students who have similar needs to students in special education classes.
- Starting this week, these students will be offered in person instruction. School teams are working with approximately an additional 25 students and families across 15 schools to create transition plans.

Correspondence – Superior Greenstone DSB

- This is a letter in support of the Durham Board letter sent in 2019.
- At that time, the Ministry of Education mandated 4 online courses required for graduation. Durham was expressing concern that many special education students would struggle to complete online courses.
- Currently, the requirement is revised to 2 online courses with a remote learning course counted as one. There is now a process in place for exemptions that special education students can follow.
- The group agreed that a letter of support is not needed with these current updates. Should this issue resurface, it was confirmed that the group would voice their concern.
- This item will be revisited at the September meeting.

Correspondence - Renfrew Catholic DSB letter

- The letter is in support of Bill 172, however there have been no evidence of this Bill since February.
- The group reviewed the NNDSB draft letter of support that ensures all Boards are establishing FASD policies and guidelines that would include best practices.
- The group supported the draft letter and confirmed that just signatures from the Chair and Vice-Chair are needed.

OPSBA letter

- The group reviewed the letter written on behalf of the Northern School Boards.
- The NNDSB special education team responded to the areas of strengths and areas of needs.
- The group confirmed that the input provided was appropriate and sufficient in this letter.

Motion: The Near North DSB SEAC is in full support of Chair Aspin signing this letter and forwarding to the MPP.

Approver: Harry Fry

Secunder: Louise Sargent

Capital planning and accommodation updates

- The new JK-12 build timeline/details has been shared with families.
- Two sub-committees have been formed to support programming and the finer construction details.

Special Education Plan

- The group reviewed the changes/updates to the plan that was made available in the SEAC package.
- There are five sections that change annually: Data re IPRC's, Special Education Staffing, Professional Development activities provided over the current school year, Accessibility to school building projects and SEAC contact information and activities (including motions passed over the year).

Motion: *That the Special Education Plan 2020 - 2021 be approved as amended and forwarded to the Near North District School Board with recommendation for approval.*

Approver: Chris Guillemette

Secunder – Alan Bottomley

Special Education Budget

- Acting Superintendent of Business Wally Easton spoke to the group.
- There have not been a lot of overall changes in the grants for school boards.
- The Ministry has spent a lot of time and funding around COVID.
- Superintendent Easton discussed the special education breakdown and how some funding is now integrated into the GSN for this year.
- The GSN's and technical paper were released in early May.

Motion: To extend the timing of the SEAC meeting to 3:30pm.

Approver: Harry Fry

Secunder: Alan Bottomley

Board report

- The MYSP sessions have taken place and Trustee Sargent thanked all that participated. Further information will follow shortly.
- Parent Involvement sessions have also successfully taken place.
- Further discussions are needed around climate change. This will be an agenda item for June's meeting.

New Business

- Land acknowledgement will be added to June's meeting as a discussion item.

Items for next Agenda

Ministry Communications/PPM

Climate change

Land acknowledgement

SEAC annual agenda and goals for 2021-2022

Update – Special Education Supports

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: June 17th, 2021

Adjourned: 3:17 pm

Moved: Alan Bottomley

Seconded: Chris Guillemette