

## Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, November 16, 2023 | 1:00pm  
Zoom Online Meeting & North Bay Board Office

### **Present:**

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education  
Krista Holmes, Executive Assistant  
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education  
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation  
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), Community Living North Bay  
Kimberly Gignac, Special Education Coordinator – North Region  
Louise Sargent, Trustee  
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair  
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee  
Lisa Paradis, Special Education Coordinator – East & West Regions  
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living

### **Regrets:**

Laura Hansman, OPIC  
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee  
Carol Couillard, Nipissing Secondary

### **Guests:**

Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business  
Stephen Krause, Regional SAWB Principal  
Lisa Rogers, School Based Literacy Facilitator

### **Land Acknowledgement by Trustee Phillips.**

Meeting called to order at 1:02pm.

### **Agenda Approval:**

Motioned by Chantal Phillips, seconded by Jeanie Fuscaldo. *Carried*

### **Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2023, meeting:**

Motioned by Louise Sargent, seconded by Chantal Phillips. *Carried.*

### **Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair**

#### **Election of Chair**

- Acknowledgement of voting members and call for nominations
- One member was nominated, and accepted the position of Chair, negating the need to vote.

#### **Announcement of the Chair**

- Motion that Chantal Phillips be acclaimed as Chair of SEAC for a one-year term, effective immediately and ending in November 2024. Motioned by Trustee Sargent, and seconded by Chris Guillemette. *Carried.*
- Trustee Phillips, assumed the role of Chair for the duration of the meeting.

### **Election of Vice-Chair**

- One member was nominated, and accepted the position of Vice-Chair, negating the need to vote.

### **Announcement of the Vice-Chair**

- Motion that Chris Guillemette be acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of SEAC for one-year term, effective immediately and ending in November 2024. Motioned by Candy St. Onge, seconded by Trustee Fuscaldo. *Carried.*

### **Destruction of Ballots**

- Not required due to both positions being acclaimed.
- SO Graves thanked Principal Clarke, Krista Holmes, and Justin Hawn for their work on developing an online voting form.

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### **Budget Presentation by SBO Van Haesendonck**

- SBO Van Haesendonck shared budget information for the 2023-2024 school year, specifically information related to deficit status, total expenditures and revenues, projected enrollment increase, staffing increases, and early math intervention amount.
- SBO Van Haesendonck presented Special Education operating expenses, by category and funding envelopes
- Information related to projected Special Education staffing was also shared.
- Trustee Sargent commented on the status of the deficit and noted that it was lower than what she has typically experienced within Special Education.
- SBO Van Haesendonck noted that the finance committee meets quarterly should SEAC have the need to bring any budget considerations to the Finance Committee. Further, it was noted that GSN's might have been received, and discussed at the March meeting.
- SBO Van Haesendonck is expected to return in February to share revised estimates and finalized financial information and will return again in April to share the GSN funding information.
- Trustee Fuscaldo mentioned writing a letter to the Ministry to advocate for more Special Education funding and appealed to the committee to assist her with this.

#### **Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) for Reading Success Presentation** by SAWB Principal Krause and Team

- Principal Krause and L. Rogers were able to provide context for this work and noted that SEAC has a special interest in multi-tiered systems of support.
- Power Point presentation began with noting key collaborations and sources of learning that have influenced the work around MTSS.
- The team was able to define MTSS, discuss challenges and successes of current literacy work, highlight key components of Atomic MTSS and NNDSB entry points, as well as note next steps.
- MTSS is a proactive and preventative framework that integrates data, and instruction to maximize student achievement and support student's social, emotional and behavioural needs from a strength-based perspective.

- Principal Krause shared some data regarding screening, diagnostic and progress monitoring of literacy assessments.
- Under a month in, we have assessed 75.2% of all of our SK – grade 8 students with Acadience. We are a leader in the province in this area and it was noted that we're well positioned to continue this work.
- Principal Krause noted that improving core classroom instruction, within this work, needs to be the primary focus.
- Principal Krause suggested a growing awareness among staff of the relationship between screening, diagnostic and progress monitoring. And noted that information being obtained from classroom's implementing de-streamed curriculum are informing this work.
- L Rogers and Principal Krause noted current successes and on-going challenges in terms of literacy intervention work.
- The program team feels confident to engage further in this literacy work.
- Members of the SEAC committee acknowledged the importance of considering benchmark data from year to year, as students move to the next grade level.
- In conclusion, it was noted that through collaboration with program team and special education dept, work focussed on MTSS will continue.
- Motion that SEAC committee endorses the work of both The Special Education Dept and The Program Dept with regard to multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) in literacy and invites the program team back to SEAC when more data is available to share. Motioned by Jeanie Fuscaldo, and seconded by Louise Sargent. *Carried*

## **Standing Items**

### **Community Partner Updates**

No updates.

### **Correspondence Received** (if applicable)

None received.

### **Ministry Updates:** SO Graves

No updates.

## **Reports**

### **Board Report** (oral) – (Board Trustees)

No updates this month.

## **Special Education Report-** Principal Clarke

- Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> is a professional activity day. Elementary Teachers and Early Childhood Educators are engaged in Parent/Teacher Interviews, while secondary teachers are engaging in professional learning activities, including how to meaningfully utilize Indigenous resources within secondary classrooms, critical thinking and student engagement in grade 9 de-streamed contexts, a mining and mineral resources tour, facilitated by the Canadian Ecology Centre, Ontario Mining Association, Mining Matters and Redpath Mining Inc., as well as a session on school trip planning and preparedness. Secondary teachers will have various options for valuable learning at the end of next week.

- On the November 24<sup>th</sup> professional activity day, NNDSB EAs will be engaging in self-directed learning at their school-based locations, including health and safety training modules, Right to Read resources and International Dyslexia Association resources, Mental Health Ontario learning modules, Autism Supports and Strategies, Dr. Ross Green's Collaborative Proactive Solutions, Executive Functioning and ADHD links, etc. As well, EAs in the elementary panel may be contributing to and supporting parent/teacher interviews prior to this day and, additionally, EAs in the secondary panel, will be welcome to sit alongside secondary teaching staff to explore and learn how to infuse Indigenous contributions and resources across the secondary curriculum.
- Students who have a completed SEA (special education amount) Technology claim continue to benefit from 5 hours of one-on-one coaching sessions provided by LEARNstyle. 374 training sessions have been completed as of November 13th, 2023. The focus of these sessions is to familiarize the students with the accessibility features built into their device and the software available to them. During these sessions, the trainers support the students by customizing their settings to match their learning needs while teaching them learning strategies that align with their classroom learning and assignments. Feedback from students, staff and parents continues to be positive and our students are improving their ability to utilize their device in a meaningful way that supports improved academic outcomes.
- Looking ahead to December's SEAC meeting scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup>, we are hoping to have Assistant Superintendent, Kim Pauli, and her team share some of their ongoing work related to math interventions and program supports for students with special education needs.

#### **SEAC Chair Report**

No comments.

#### **New Business**

Next meeting: Thursday, December 21 at 1pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:05

Motioned by Louise Sargent, seconded by Caroline Labrecque. *Carried*