

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, December 21, 2023 | 1:00pm
Zoom Online Meeting & North Bay Board Office

Present:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee
Louise Sargent, Trustee

Kimberly Gignac, Special Education Coordinator – North Region
Lisa Paradis, Special Education Coordinator – East & West Regions
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living

Guests:

Gail Degagne, Special Education Math Lead

Land Acknowledgement by Principal Alison Clarke.

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm.

Agenda Approval:

Motioned by Trustee Sargent and seconded by Trustee Fuscaldo. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting:

Motioned by Trustee Fuscaldo and seconded by Candy St Onge. *Carried*.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

- This is a new role funded by the Ministry that supports both students and staff in the area of mathematics. Gail Degagne brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to facilitate this important learning with extensive experience in Special Education.
- A Math Achievement Action Plan was developed by the team and is guiding the work at various schools in the North region to date.
- The goals are: Strengthen educator content knowledge, improve educator confidence/develop abilities, increase parent engagement, and support professional learning.
- Gail noted that when they establish predictable math routines, there are benefits to student learning as it reduces classroom management issues, allows for differentiation with open tasks and allows for more effective use of class time.
- Summary chart of tools and resources available within the board was shared and can be found in the slide deck from the presentation.
- Gail is working with educators on knowing their students and knowing where they are at. Her role is to promote inclusion, close gaps and provide targeted intentional academic growth

opportunities. Plan, teach and assess in a responsive manner.

- Worksheet for planning school support that identifies what is working, next steps and opportunities for growth.
- Tier 3 supports and next steps will be informed by the learning this year.
- Working in the second school for this year and focusing on Tier 2 supports.
- This work digs deeper into IEPs, Behaviour Management Plans, One Page Profiles and considers each student's unique background and experience with learning mathematics. It is critical to plan, teach and assess in a culturally responsive and relevant way.
- Implementation is going well and is allowing for targeted intentional academic growth.

Standing Items

- Community Partner updates: No updates.
- Correspondence Received: Letter from Lambton Kent DSB, dated November 14, 2023, regarding retention and recruitment of Educational Assistant Staff. Letter discussed, no further action regarding this letter will be taken by SEAC.
- Ministry/MACSE updates: SO Graves; No updates this month.

Reports

- Board report (oral) – (Board Trustee): At the last Board meeting, the motion to re-name and rebrand Chippewa was rescinded.
- Special Education Report – Alison Clarke; To support staffing shortages we have been engaged in discussion with school teams. We have been working to address EA and staffing shortages in classrooms. We anticipate this will continue. We have been working with the itinerant team to consider redeployment as they are able. The process of hiring for vacancies is ongoing. We look for creative and unique opportunities to support schools on a case-by-case basis. Currently, we are working with Canadore SSW students by providing placements in schools in hopes that upon graduation, they will look to be employed as EAs with the NNDSB. The Behaviour Team continues to support students with challenging behaviours and to work alongside school teams. Funds for Teacher Additional Qualification courses have been made available, and 11 teachers will receive them. Funds to contract professional assessments have been provided by the Ministry and we are looking to procure contract staff for both Speech and Language and Psychoeducational assessments to reduce wait times for these assessments. Discussion took place around vacancies, recruitment, trends and needs as it relates to maintaining programming and keeping classrooms open.
- SEAC chair report (if applicable)

New Business

- Draft Letter Review Re: EQAO by Trustee Fuscaldo; input was sought from the SEAC committee. The letter will be shared with the SEAC committee for further review and input can be shared at the January meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 18 at 1pm.

Adjournment Motion Trustee Fuscaldo Second Trustee Sargent, Carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Official