

Special Education Advisory Notes (SEAC)

Thursday, February 15, 2024 | 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
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Kimberly Gignac, Special Ed Coordinator – North Region
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, Special Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living

Regrets:

Carol Couillard, Nbisiing Secondary
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), CLNB
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee
Laura Hansman, OPIC

Land Acknowledgement by Lisa Paradis.

Call to Order at 1:04pm. Quorum not attained. Approval of January 18, 2024 minutes deferred to next meeting.

Agenda Approved – Tabled Agenda Item 9 (New Business) until the next meeting, by consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Presentation on NNDSB Sensory Spaces by Special Education Team

Kim Gignac and Lisa Paradis provided a presentation to describe the sensory spaces within NNDSB schools, including visuals from various spaces across the various Regions. They were able to share general information about the purpose of and accessibility of sensory spaces within NNDSB.

Sharing of 2024/25 Budget Action Plan and Timelines

Budget document was shared and reviewed with the committee. SO Graves noted that the SEAC Committee can provide budget recommendations. Principal Clarke was tasked to bring previous year's recommendations to the next meeting so that SEAC committee can review them and discuss current recommendations.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

None at this time.

Correspondence Received: Letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board, dated January 15, 2024, regarding “Supporting Students with Special Education Needs.”

Committee noted that the letter contained valid funding considerations and noted to possibly revisiting this after the budget review.

Ministry/MACSE updates: SO Graves

Two announcements regarding curriculum:

1. Back to Basics – Kindergarten Program; looking at core literacy skills, and more fundamental math skills. Implementation in 2025.
2. Revisions to History Curriculum in Intermediate Grades. Classes will include mandatory learning with emphasis on elevating Black history as Canadian history, by highlighting the various black communities that emerged developed and contributed to the development of Canada. Target implementation for Sept 2025.

Reports

Board Report – (Board Trustee)

Chair Phillips – Chair noted that being part of the symposium, with other Trustees in Toronto, was beneficial. The Chair came away with a valuable education history as a result of attending. Chair noted, in particular, that other schools provide snacks and such before/during EQAO, and hopes that our Board will do more around food for the students to address the issues around food insecurities.

Special Education Report – Alison Clarke

- The Special Education Department engaged in the February 2nd EA PD Day. Members from both the special education and mental health teams lead various sessions for EAs across our board. At PSHS in the west, learning was presented by EGALE around an Affirming Adults Presentation related to 2SLGBTQI and the local Children’s Aid Society offered a Trauma Informed Practice workshop. At Sundridge Centennial School in the east, our mental health team lead by Lana St. Louis offered Life Promotion and Suicide Prevention and a couple of our mental health clinicians’ offered an Employee Wellness Session. At Chippewa in the north, our behaviour team offered Behaviour Management Systems Re-Certification Training alongside Behaviour Team Presentations. This allowed permanent and LTO EAs to acquire their re-certification training as well as network to build best practices around students who present with behavioural difficulties.
- In staffing news, the team has been able to fill a vacancy within our Behaviour Therapist group and are in the process of onboarding the successful candidate. This role is a central role and is mandated to support school teams, directly with and alongside students, who are struggling to engage in learning due to various struggles that present. The team is eager to have this individual join the central team.
- An IEP audit is being conducted. The spec ed team is in the beginning stages of looking at IEPs from across our board. They are specifically looking at language and mathematics programming and identifying alignment between a student’s program goals and the individualized programming provided through various accommodations and modifications. The team’s hope is to be able to identify what our educator teams are

doing well in terms of individualized program development and implementation, as well next steps for learning for our system, so that individualized programming for students can, overall, be valid (based on assessments) and precise to support growth/development and achievement. This is important work we are eager to continue with in the coming months.

- Next month, the team hopes to be able to share a presentation regarding assistive technology.

SEAC Chair Report

Chair Phillips was happy to report that One Kids Place offers support to EAs regarding FASD. As well, she is pleased that 90 people have signed up. Jeff Nobel of FASD success would like to do training in the North Bay area. It was noted that ideas of how to manage the time/large fee for coverage of the teachers so that they can attend would be important considerations.

New Business:

Draft Letter Review Re: EQAO by Trustee Fuscaldo was deferred to March meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 21 at 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.