

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, January 18, 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
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), Community Living North Bay
Kimberly Gignac, Special Ed Coordinator – North Region
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, Special Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living
Laura Hansman, OPIC

Regrets:

Carol Couillard, Nipissing Secondary
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation

Guests:

Michelle Irvine, Interim FASD Program Manager with Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat

Land Acknowledgement by Kimberly Gignac.

Meeting called to order at 1:02pm.

Agenda Approval

Motion Jeanie Fuscaldo Seconded by Chris Guillemette. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the December 18, 2023 meeting.

Motion Chris Guillemette Seconded by Louise Sargent. *Carried*

Business Arising from the Minutes

Presentation made by Michelle Irvine, on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

- Presentation attached to these minutes.
- Supplementary materials package attached to these minutes.
- Chair Phillips thanked Michelle for her presentation.
- September is FASD Awareness Month and September 9th is International FASD Day.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

- Community Living doing presentations on Truth on Institutionalization. Chair Phillips would like to receive this documentation for this committee.
- Trustee Fuscaldo shared that the PDSSAB has their multi-year strategic planning survey up, and thinks that we, as a committee, should be entering our comments/feedback on this.

Correspondence Received: Letter from Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, dated December 6, 2023, regarding funding of Special Incidence Portion (SIP) to school boards.

- It was noted that our funding has remained status quo, generally, over the last several years.
- Kim Gignac and Lisa Paradis spoke about their involvement with the SIP process.
- Committee discussed that if (Spec Ed/SEAC) respond, there would be a need to have relevant NNDSB data to support position within any correspondence.
- Spec Ed team at an upcoming meeting will discuss what most recent SIP funding process has entailed in relation to what the Hastings and Prince Edward DSB has detailed in their letter and continue to consider the current SIP funding process in relation to NNDSB student needs.
- Trustee Sargent indicated that it would be helpful to know more about the current Ministry funding model and noted that once our special education central team has gone through the application process for the 24/25 school year that is completed at the end of the 23/24 school year, we will be better positioned to determine if we support the process or would have feedback to the Ministry.

Ministry/MACSE updates: SO Graves

- No updates

Reports

Board report (oral) – (Board Trustee)

Trustee Sargent – looking forward to the upcoming Trustee training session

Trustee Fuscaldo – reminder of the public release of the This is Me survey results are up/available

Special Education Report – Alison Clarke

- PD sessions are being finalized for the upcoming PD day on Feb 2nd.
- Each region is engaged in various professional development, including Behaviour Management Systems recertification and Employee Wellness.
- Update on new members to the Spec Ed team, including 1.5 Permanent Speech Language Pathologists.
- Close to being able to start of Psych and Speech Language clinician contracts to alleviate student waitlists.

SEAC chair report

- Supports best practices such as finding ways to engage with teachers (mentoring, community practice strategies, etc).

New Business:

Draft Letter Review Re: EQAO by Trustee Fuscaldo

- The committee discussed the contents of Trustee Fuscaldo's draft letter.
- Suggestions from Chris G. - update language about the EQAO terms, and that we know for a fact (insert data that we have)
- Trustee Fuscaldo indicated that she would provide the committee members with sample EQAO letters for reference to view in relation to her draft letter.
- Chair Phillips would like to have a Zoom with Trustee Fuscaldo, and work on draft #2, and then share it with the committee. Committee would get the copies of the sample letters, from other boards, to work with.
- SO Graves noted that the committee should consider its position on EQAO as a SEAC committee.
- Trustee Sargent noted that the committee should consider all aspects of advocating to get rid of EQAO.
- Chair Phillips noted that she would be open to feedback about this draft letter and on the topic of EQAO, in general.
- Chair Phillips and Trustee Fuscaldo have committed to discussing the draft letter and reference other EQAO letter from other boards within this process.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 15 at 1pm.

Adjournment Motioned by Chris Guillemette, Seconded by Trustee Fuscaldo. *Carried*

Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.