

Special Education Advisory Notes (SEAC)

Thursday, March 21, 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
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, Special Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions

Regrets:

Carol Couillard, Nbisiing Secondary
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), CLNB
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee
Laura Hansman, OPVIC

Guest:

Kelly Rudderham, Learnstyle Presenter

Land Acknowledgement by Chair Phillips.

Call to Order at 1:03pm. *Quorum not attained.* Approval of January 18, 2024 minutes, deferred to next meeting.

February 15, 2024 notes were accepted as written.

Agenda Approved by consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Presentation on Assistive Technology by LearnStyle - Kelly Rudderham of LearnStyle who is a regional coaching manager provided a presentation to describe various assistive technologies and related features that can be used by students with technology devices. Kelly also shared some student technology resources, celebrated student success stories and provided an overview of various accessibility tools.

Budget Priorities (review May 2023 budget recommendations and discuss)

- Principal Clarke shared the document that contained the May 2023 SEAC budget recommendations.
- The committee reviewed the recommendations put forward last year and engaged in a discussion regarding considerations for the 2024/25 school year.
- The committee agreed that the top 3 recommendations on the graphic as well as

the recommendation on the far right and middle of the graphic should continue to be included in 2024/25 budget recommendations that are put forward.

- The committee noted that the recommendation related to “allocation of central staff to support early intervention, testing, etc.” should consider being explicit about providing intervention at all levels. For this recommendation, the Spec Ed team will suggest more precise wording to bring forward for further discussion and consideration.
- The committee noted that an additional (11th recommendation) should be included to recognize that the NNDSB supports students who may have experienced pandemic learning loss, while maintaining additional resources for our secondary students.
- The committee noted that the recommendation related to “supports the maintaining of educational assistants” could be re-worded but continue to include wording in recognition of our highest needs students. It was suggested that wording related to recruitment and retention may be appropriate.
- The committee noted that the recommendation related to “continued use of the model of Flexible Education Assistants in all regions” should continue.
- The committee noted that the recommendation on the bottom left of the graphic and the recommendation related to “professional development” could be combined.
- The committee noted that the principal of special education and the coordinators could review the May 2023 budget recommendations and suggest potential priorities for budget recommendations for committee consideration.
- The committee noted that the recommendations related to “PD connected to transition planning” and “the continuation of the partnership with Learn Style” should be revisited at the next SEAC committee meeting.

Community Partner updates

Chair Phillips noted that a virtual meeting for Parents for Children’s Mental Health (PCMH) is occurring this evening.

Correspondence Received

None received.

Ministry/MACSE updates: SO Graves

None at this time.

Reports

Board report (oral) – (Board Trustees)

Chair Phillips noted that the NNDSB Math Action Plan was passed during Tuesday’s board meeting.

Special Education Report – Alison Clarke

- Principal Clarke was able to detail the special project work that is ongoing within the special education department and provide the current status of each project, including

the Additional Qualification project, Sonderly Courses offered by a Branch of the Geneva Institute, the Contract Assessments, The Removing Barriers project and the Cooperative Education Project.

- Principal Clarke notes that the Additional Qualifications subsidies are well underway, and applicants are working on courses and will be reimbursed by the end of August 2024. 11 teachers were offered subsidies and can be reimbursed for approved courses taken during this school year.
- With regard to Sonderly, 74 educators were able to be approved for courses and those courses are currently being engaged in.
- Contract assessments for psychological services are underway with 3 clinicians doing the work within schools to support students and reduce student waitlists. For speech and language, the spec ed department is currently working to secure clinicians to do this work.
- The Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities project is also underway. Central messaging has gone out to elementary and secondary admin teams and school teams are currently expressing interest in formally engaging in this project. All schools and school teams will receive Katie Novak resources related to universal design for learning and equity principles.
- The Co-op Education Project is also currently underway. The special education department is working alongside the HR department to hire an educational assistant that would work directly with school teams and students enrolled in cooperative education courses and co-op placements in the community. This EA role is noted to be a dynamic role that we hope is of interest to prospective candidates and hope to be interviewing candidates soon.
- Principal Clarke also noted that a Spring DLRT Meeting will be taking place on March 28, 2024. At the meeting, school DLRTs will be provided with updates from the Psych team, the Speech and Language team and the Behaviour team. Information and housekeeping items will be on the agenda as well as a presentation on Word Q.

SEAC chair report

None at this time.

New Business:

Draft Letter Review Re: EQAO by Trustee Fuscaldo (forthcoming)

- SO Graves noted that he will extend an invite to Principal Chris Walking to attend April's SEAC Committee meeting to present regarding EQAO.

Notes: May Meeting Date Change and School Tour Options/Considerations

The committee noted that May's SEAC meeting will occur on May 23rd.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 18 at 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm.

Official