

Special Education Advisory Meeting (SEAC)

Thursday, June 20, 2024 | 1:00pm
Zoom Online Meeting & North Bay Board Office

Present:

Krista Holmes, Executive Assistant
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), CLNB
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Laura Hansman, OPVIC
Lisa Paradis, Spec Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Kimberly Gignac, Special Ed Coordinator – North Region

Guest – Gail Degagne, Special Education Math Lead Teacher

Regrets:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Ashley St. Pierre, Board Chair
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee
Carol Couillard, Nipissing Secondary

Land Acknowledgement by Principal Alison Clarke.

Call to Order at 1:01pm.

Attendance

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Louise Sargent, Seconded by Chris Guillemette. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the May 23, 2024 meeting.

Motioned by Chris Guillemette Seconded by Laura Hansman. *Carried*

Business Arising from the Minutes

Update regarding Math Interventions and Programming for Special Education Students by Gail Degagne

- Gail Degagne provided details regarding her work throughout the 2023/24 school year as the Special Education Math Lead Teacher. The full presentation will be included in September's SEAC committee package.
- Gail highlighted successful strategies and actions and shared artifacts and data that demonstrate the effectiveness of her work with students and staff during the

2023/24 school year. For example, Gail detailed pre- and post-assessment measures.

- Gail was able to engage in related discussions, during her presentation, such as students with learning disabilities and their challenges to engage in EQAO Provincial Assessments.

Sharing of SEAC Tentative Annual Agenda and Goals 2024-25

- Principal Clarke reviewed the proposed 2024-2025 tentative SEAC schedule and noted that the committee will revisit it in the new school year to confirm agenda items.
- Principal Clarke noted the monthly dates for SEAC and called attention to the May date, noting that it is scheduled for May 20, 2024.
- Chair Phillips noted that she is interested in having a conversation about suspension rates for students with special education needs.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

- Candy with Almaquin Highlands Community Living – Noted that their organization raised over \$3000 for their children's program, which is also noted to be an inclusive community event.
- Candy also mentioned their first annual carnival and the ASES program at Land of Lakes Public School, who will receive some of the funds raised.
- Chris with North Bay Community Living – Noted an upcoming golf tournament that will be held on June 27th at Osprey Links Golf Course in Callendar. All funds raised will go to their Outcomes Fund.
- Chris also mentioned that Annual Safety Day occurred on June 10, 2024 and almost 700 people came out for it.

Correspondence received: Letter to the Minister Re: Guidelines for Children's Rehabilitation Services and Preschool Speech and Language Services from Conseil Scolaire Catholique Nouvelon.

- NNDSB is currently working collaboratively with OKP to determine a new working model since OKP has received the "Guidelines for Children's Rehabilitation Services and Preschool Speech and Language Services Guidelines." The Special Education Team will keep this committee updated on this collaboration and any upcoming changes to who provides support to which students/children and any changes to streamlining services, etc.

Letter of interest

- SO Graves will be submitting the letter of interest received from Community Living Parry Sound to the Board's agenda setting.

- The committee asked SO Graves to connect directly with Leigh Armstrong to tell her this will be brought forward in September.

Reports

Board Report – (Board Trustee)

Trustee Sargent

- Trustee Sargent noted that it is “busy times” as a result of graduation ceremonies taking place in June.
- Trustee Sargent acknowledged that various activities take place over the summer and wishes everyone a safe and healthy summer for a well-rested September return.

Trustee (Chair) Phillips

- Chair Phillips noted that a public meeting was held recently to review the Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and noted that it exists on the board’s website.

Special Education Report- Alison Clarke

- Principal Clarke was able to provide details related to Summer Learning for students with special education needs. For the summer of 2024, NNDSB is able to offer various summer virtual camps as well as DLRT and EA support for both elementary and secondary summer programming in addition to August Transition supports.
- Principal Clarke noted that the Special Education Department is working to fill a couple of staffing vacancies. Specifically we are working to fill the Behaviour Counsellor position in the north as well as the Blind/Low-Vision Teacher in the north.
- Principal Clarke also notes that SEA funding guidelines have recently been revised as “SEA Directives”, which will change the process for making technology and special equipment claims for students. The Special Education Dept. is currently working alongside The Finance Dept. to appropriately budget for the 24/25 school year, so that technology and specialized equipment can be provided to students in need for the upcoming school year.
- Principal Clarke noted some key funding changes to special education for the 2024/25 school year. Namely, professional assessment funding has moved to core education funds and there will be new funding for special education transition navigator positions. These positions will be to support students with special education needs to transition into post-secondary pathways, etc.
- Principal Clarke noted that her team is still working very diligently to configure RISE, the online web-based platform, towards implementation. It is expected that some data transfer will occur over the summer months, with the active

involvement of our IT department. The goal would be to use the program for fall referrals and semester 2 IEPs as initial steps towards full implementation.

SEAC Chair Report

- **None**

New Business

Next meeting: September 19, 2024.

Adjournment Motioned by Chris Guillemette, Seconded by Candy St. Onge. *Carried*