

Special Education Advisory Meeting (SEAC)

Thursday, Nov 21, 2024 | 1:00pm
Zoom Online Meeting & North Bay Board Office

Present:

Krista Holmes, Executive Assistant
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education
Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Leigh Spinney, Community Living Parry Sound
Lisa Paradis, Spec Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Kimberly Gignac, Special Ed Coordinator – North Region
Tammy Adjouj, Nipissing Down Syndrome Society

Guests:

Kelly Hingley, Derek Lindeman and Melissa Grasser – Central Behaviour Team
Emily Samuel, Principal of Safe Schools, Early Years and Leadership Development

Regrets:

Ashley St. Pierre, Board Chair
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Carol Couillard, Nipissing Secondary
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), CLNB
Laura Hansman, OPVIC

Land Acknowledgement (Alison Clarke)

Call to Order ed at 1:01pm.

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Louise Sargent, Seconded by Candy St. Onge. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the October 17, 2024 meeting.

Motioned by Louise Sargent, Seconded by Leigh Armstrong. *Carried*

Business Arising from the Minutes

Central Behaviour Team presentation by Principal Clarke and Central Behaviour Team

- NNDSB's Behaviour Analyst, Kelly Hingley and Behaviour Consultants, Melissa Grasser and Derek Lindeman presented on behalf of the Behavioural Support Services Team.
- The presentation is attached to the SEAC November minutes.
- The presentation included description of team structure, details regarding tier 1, 2 and 3

strategies and supports.

- The team discussed the model, including referral, intake, service delivery and closure.
- Chair Phillips noted that the central behaviour team is well positioned to provide professional development regarding student behaviour and noted that educators would benefit from having more training in this area.
- The committee engaged in conversations regarding the work of the central behaviour team and how it relates to all three tiers of intervention, including building classroom educator capacity, sourcing appropriate learning resources and supporting school admin teams to be able to lead the work in the absence of the behavior team's involvement.

Safe and Accepting Schools Data presentation by Principal Samuel

- The presentation was made by Emily, and shared further context on suspension data.
- The presentation is attached to the SEAC November minutes.
- Principal Samuel was able to share details around previous board, regional and provincial suspension data as well as data related to students with special education needs for years leading up to the 2022-23 school year.
- Trustee Sargent would be really interested in seeing the results of this year's data for comparison, now that they're in grade 8 and grade 10, and whether the stats are as high.
- Principal Samuel will return when further statistics and data are available for review.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

None

Correspondence received

None

Reports

Board Report (oral) – (Board Trustees)

- Trustee Sargent - Chair and Vice-Chair were acclaimed, and happy to approve the Nipissing Down Syndrome representative at the Board's organizational meeting.

Special Education Report- Alison Clarke

- Principal Clarke reports that her team meets weekly with the RISE implementation team and the NNDSB IT department to continue to configure RISE to go live during term 2 of this school year. NNDSB is still in the process of uploading the referral forms of our central team and configuring the system to meet our needs and workflows for each respective department. The Special Education Coordinators recently went to the fall RISE conference and were provided with the latest updates to the RISE and SEAIT software programs offered by LearnStyle. Principal Clarke notes that RISE is the online student learning profile system that will process referrals and generate student's individual education plans within this school year. Additionally, SEAIT software is used to track, deployed student technology and high needs equipment and process claims for such items.
- Principal Clarke noted that during the October DLRT meeting, all DLRTs and

administrators were provided details on our specialized equipment allocation model. Special Education Coordinators are now processing both technology and high needs equipment claims.

- Principal Clarke highlighted the grade 7/8 sessions for students with learning disabilities (empowerment, self-advocacy, asset-based conversations) and noted that the project lead is NNDSB Lead Psychologist. The Psychology Team is in the process of setting up meetings with groups of students at respective schools. These events will continue to be scheduled and offered between November and January. Most schools have expressed interest in having students participate.
- Principal Clarke noted that a speech language pathologist new hire is in process for a short-term speech language pathologist position. Further details will be able to be shared with this committee soon.

SEAC Chair Report

- Trustee Phillips shared that she is a chapter leader – Parents for Children’s Mental Health meets once a month at CAS in North Bay, and this evening there is an open house. All supported through CMHO.
- Trustee Phillips noted FASD awareness as an important topic.

New Business

Special Education Classroom Tour Alternatives (Discussion)

- This topic was brought forward for discussion.
- The committee discussed several options, such as guest speakers, images and/or a video, etc. to be shared with the committee to replace a traditional special education classroom tour that would typically occur in June.
- The committee noted that daily staffing levels are an ongoing challenge and that a visit may be intrusive. The committee discussed the value for the students/classroom and the committee members.
- Trustee Sargent also suggested that we could do a session with community partners and their programs and Chair Phillips liked the idea of providing an opportunity for the community members to come.
- The central special education team will network with various NNDSB special education classroom educator teams and develop something to share at a future meeting.

New:

Elections will be reviewed next month, as well as the Terms of Reference.

Adjourned at 2:53pm.

Motioned by Candy St. Onge, Seconded by Tammy Adjouj. *Carried*

Next meeting: December 19, 2024.