

SEAC meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2025.
Via Zoom and North Bay Board Room

Present:

Krista Holmes, Executive Assistant
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education
Kim Pauli, Assistant Superintendent, Math Lead
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Tammy Adjoudj, Nipissing Down Syndrome Society
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Laura Hansman, OPVIC
Lisa Paradis, Spec Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Kimberly Gignac, Special Ed Coordinator – North Region
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living

Regrets:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Ashley St. Pierre, Board Chair
Carol Couillard, Nipissing Secondary
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), CLNB
Leigh Spinney, Community Living Parry Sound

Guests:

Kyla Kadlec, Principal of Alliance

Land Acknowledgement presented by Lisa Paradis.

Called to Order at 1:06pm.

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Laura Hansman, Seconded by Louise Sargent. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the January 23, 2025 meeting.

Motioned by Tamm Adjoudj, Seconded by Laura Hansman. *Carried*

Elections for Vice-Chair

6.1 Call for nominations: Call for nominations was conducted. No nominations came forward. Chair Phillips tabled elections for vice-chair to SEAC's March meeting to be held on March 20, 2025. Chair Phillips noted that currently absent committee members may be interested in this position.

Business Arising from the Minutes

RISE Presentation by LearnStyle

Kari Cooper joined us remotely for a presentation on RISE by LearnStyle. She noted that NNDSB and LearnStyle team have been working for 8+ months to bring RISE platform to the Near North District School Board. It is noted that we are still in the implementation phase of RISE. Kari Cooper noted that LearnStyle team is excited about our partnership. She shared preceding journey highlights and provided a RISE live demonstration of the software, noting its capabilities. RISE presentation slides are attached to the minutes for February.

Terms of Reference Final Review

- Principal Clarke shared the final draft of the revised Terms of Reference with the committee.
- Trustee Louise Sargent motioned to accept the revised Terms of Reference. Seconded by Candy St. Onge. *Carried.*

School Tour Options/Considerations (*forthcoming*)

- Principal Clarke indicated that she recently met with school-based principals of schools with special education classrooms in order to collaborate and discuss school tour alternatives to a SEAC spring in-person classroom visit.
- Principal Clarke will continue to provide updates on this work.
- A presentation focused on special education classrooms within NNDSB will take place during either the May or June 2025 SEAC meeting.
- Principal Clarke noted that information related to current special education classrooms and programming across NNDSB would be beneficial for SEAC members.

Special Education Parent Guide

- Chair Chantal Phillips noted that she has been collaborating with Principal Clarke to create a parent-friendly document to provide parents with relevant information if/when their child(ren) require additional support.
- Chair Phillips notes that the document might include special education programming options, definitions, etc.
- The committee discussed the target audience for such a reference guide and that it could contain links to websites, videos, etc.
- Chair Phillips committed to updating her current draft and sharing it during our March SEAC meeting.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

- None

Correspondence received

- Letter to the Ministry of Education in Ontario from SEAC Chair of Ottawa Catholic School Board (revised) dated January 27, 2025
- Letter to Chairs of Special Education Advisory Committees across Ontario from SEAC Vice Chair of Ottawa Catholic School Board dated January 30, 2025

The committee discussed that the January 27, 2025 letter was previously received and has been sent again in revised form. At this time, NNDSB SEAC maintains that the letter will be received, but no action will be taken to endorse or sign the letter. Trustee Sargent reiterated that we should acknowledge receipt of both letters, but would require more NNDSB-specific details before taking further action. The committee noted that it has received both letters from Ottawa Catholic DSB, dated January 27 and 30, 2025 and is going to acknowledge that the letter dated January 30, 2025 is an update/addendum to the January 27, 2025 letter.

- Letter to SEAC committees, dated January 21, 2025 from Algoma District School Board SEAC Chair re: Supporting Special Education Teacher Training

The committee noted that this letter echoes the Limestone District School Board's letter. Trustee Sargent mentioned that Nipissing University might have information to share on this topic and commented that, locally, it would be interesting to know more. Chair Phillips proposed that this item is discussed further at the next SEAC meeting.

Reports

Board Report (oral) – (Board Trustees)

Trustee Sargent – Trustee Sargent noted that they continue to work on things in process and that there are no new developments.

Trustee Phillips – Chair Phillips noted that the website is now up to date with SEAC meetings and minutes posted.

Special Education Report- Alison Clarke

- The special education leadership team continues to work alongside the leads at RISE to complete the final stages of configuration and begin implementation training sessions with respective staff groups. The RISE team alongside members of our central special education team engaged in staff training sessions on IEPs, student profiles, alternative report cards and behaviour management plans with DLRTs, special education classroom teachers and ECPP teachers. Training sessions specific to school-based administrators have also taken place. One more training session will occur next week (February 27, 2025) and will focus on meetings and referrals. Over the March break, the IEP composer will be inaccessible as the data transfer takes place. On March 19, 2025, the NNDSB system will go live with RISE. Educators will have a couple of weeks to familiarize themselves with RISE before the spring IPRC season gets underway.
- A temporary special education coordinator position has been created as a result of Ministry project funding. The individual who is successful in attaining this position will be responsible for various work, including some work focusing on school transitions for students with special education needs as well as organizing and facilitating in-services and professional development workshops, developing plans for sustainability of best practices and developing and revising publications, guides, and resources related to special education. Interviews have been conducted, and a successful applicant is in the process of being onboarded to begin the position imminently.

SEAC Chair Report

- Chair Phillips noted that the province of Ontario is in the middle of an election and noted that parent brochures and website content is needed and she's eager to engage in this work.

New Business

- Next meeting: March 20, 2025.

Adjournment Motioned by Caroline Labreque, Seconded by Candy St. Onge. *Carried*
2:40pm