

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, December 15, 2022 | 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Present:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Krista Holmes, Executive Assistant
Kim Pauli, NNDSB staff
Albina Lavictoire
Chris Guillemette
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Jeanine Fuscaldo, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, NNDSB staff
Kara Macie, NNDSB special guest
Kimberly Gignac, NNDSB staff
Laura Hansman
Carol Couillard
Caroline Labrecque
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business

Regrets:

Ashley St. Pierre
Candy St. Onge

Land acknowledgement – Trustee Phillips

Trustee Phillips attended a Land Acknowledgement session recently and was happy to deliver.

Called to Order @ 1:04 (attendance)

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Trustee Sargent
Seconded Chris Guillemette, Carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting.

Motioned Trustee Phillips
Second Trustee Fuscaldo, Motion Carried.

Business Arriving from the Minutes

Financial Report (pending Audit Committee approval, Seija Van Haesendonck, SO of Business)

- Completed audited financial statement, and passed by Board of Trustees on Tues night.
- Deficit almost \$780,000 for Spec Ed. This is extremely common across the province.
- SBO VanHaesendonck made a presentation on the 2022-2023 Spec Ed Budget
- First-year that we had this funding through a GSN, which is great news – more permanent funding. As well, we can defer any unused funding.
- The presentation will be shared with the next SEAC package/agenda.
- Trustee Fuscaldo requested to have more details on how much we have spent on Lexia for grade 7-12 students. SBO Van Haesendonck and Principal Pauli will be looking into this and will provide more of an update for the next meeting.

- Program Department has a budget for Lexia purchases and Spec Ed has also made some purchases of licenses. Trustee Fuscaldo also asked if any students are using Core 5. Principal Pauli will share this information at the next meeting

OHRC Right to Read and the NNDSB Response (Kara Macie, SLP)

- Part 2 of Kara's presentation
- Lexia PowerUp – we are expanding into Core 5.
- Quick Acadience introduction.
- Kara answered questions from the Committee members.
- SO Graves asked Kara to take back Chris G.'s comments to the Programming Team so that through their partnership they can continue to work together, and get resources, etc.
- Kara's presentation will be forwarding the presentation for the SEAC package.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

→ Together We're Better Contest, Community Living update)

→ Community Living Almaguin Santa event shared and updated us about their respite applications for next year (52 applicants).

Correspondence received

Durham District School Board SIP Funding letter

- NNDSB update from our Spec Ed leads. The Claim system is very cumbersome for SIP applications.
- Would like a motion to write a letter of support to the Ministry, knowing that the letter would need to get to the Ministry ASAP, and be sent out by the next meeting.

Motioned by Trustee Phillips that we would like the Board draft and seconded by Trustee Fuscaldo. Carried (board meeting is Jan 10th, and next SEAC committee is on the 19th)

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Ontario Plan to Catch Up

- Principal Pauli shared that in the NNDSB, 61 students – aged 19, 38 students – aged 20 that have IEPs.
- *Motion that the NNDSB would like to encourage students to be able to stay beyond the age of 19 in our schools*
- We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Ministry updates – SO Graves

- Memo received upcoming curriculum revision for 2023-2024.

Special Education Plan – no updates

Special Education Budget – no updates

Other

- Selection of the exceptionality for the IEP example to be presented at January's meeting
- FASD is one of our priorities for our EAs through their PD opportunities. And Principal Pauli would love to hear more about Trustee Phillips's local resource. We will put this as a topic in a future SEAC meeting.

Reports

Board report – (Board Trustees)

- Trustee Sargent wants to ensure that we revisit the 2nd communication letter next time.
- Trustee Phillips – really impressed by our Indigenous student representative, and everything going into the Parry Sound area.
- Trustee Fuscaldo is excited to be on the PRO grant committee and super excited with a lot of great ideas.

Special Education Report – Kim Pauli

- Louise Maughan, our lead Psychologist shared an Executive Functioning workshop that was very well-received by Secondary Teachers in our Board at the PD Day on November 18th.
- Kim attended the Council for Exceptional Children's 66th Annual Conference in Toronto. The keynote address focused on "Mattering" and was a very inspiring conversation about how we can promote a sense of "mattering" to our students and how it can impact their success at school and beyond.
- Lynn Ziraldo shared an informative presentation as the chair of K-12 Standards and Education committee. Her committee has made 200 recommendations to the Ministry for improving accessibility in our schools. Themes include: attitudes, awareness, digital learning, etc.
- Lynn's key message was that geography should NOT be a barrier to services...that was a big take away for Kim in terms of supporting students in Northern Ontario.
- LEARN Style – 178 sessions were offered within our board, over 400 total sessions in our board so far this year. These sessions support the use of SEA technology for students in Grades 7-12.
- The Spec Ed Department is beginning an IEP review process. We are currently reviewing the criteria and best practices/guidelines.

- **Kim is working on an AQ subsidy application process for NINDSB Teachers. The Ministry has funded specific Special Education AQ courses; 3 years of funding and there are many interested teachers from our board.**
- **Spec Ed Math-Based funding has been provided by the Ministry. Our focus will be on intermediate students, as they transition to grade 9 Destreamed math program.**
- **Spec Ed and Program Departments are working together to create a model that will fit the goals of both Departments and most effectively utilize the funding to impact student success.**

SEAC chair

- **Albina appreciated how wonderfully and smoothly our meeting went.**

Other updates/notes:

SO Graves

- **A reminder that if there's anyone interested as a provincial organization that feels that they're not at the SEAC table, to have them get in touch with Krista Holmes.**

Trustee Fuscaldo

- **Inquired about sign language for board meetings, etc and wanted to remind us about the AODA standards which are coming up with a deadline of 2025 for Ontario.**

Trustee Phillips

- **There is a difference with IEPs in Ontario, and they do not include Smart Goals, and which was really important for her (coming from another province)**
- **Wants us to look at the average literacy level of a Canadian adult, and ESL, and simplify our Parent Guide to Special Education.**

New Business

- **Revisit the communication letter, and the plan to catch-up!**

Next meeting – January 19, 2023

Adjournment

Motioned by Trustee Fuscaldo, Seconded Trustee Phillips. Carried.