

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, April 20, 2023, | 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting & North Bay Board Office

Present:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Krista Holmes, Executive Assistant
Kim Pauli, NNDSB staff
Laura Hansman, OPIC
Albina Lavictoire
Caroline Labrecque
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee
Jeanine Fuscaldo, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, NNDSB staff
Louise Maughan, NNDSB Lead Psychologist

Regrets:

Candy St. Onge
Chris Guillemette
Kimberly Gignac, NNDSB staff

Carol Couillard

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order @ 1:04pm

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Chantal Phillips, seconded by Caroline Labrecque. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the March 23rd, 2023 meeting.

Motioned by Louise Sargent, seconded by Chantal Phillips. *Carried*

Business Arising from the Minutes

Update re changes to the Autism identification criteria by Louise Maughan (Lead Psychologist, NNDSB)

- Within our Board we have recently implemented some minor changes to the criteria for identifying a student with Autism (Communication: Autism).
- It is not uncommon for a paediatrician to diagnose without specifying the level of severity and recommending an IPRC. Currently, our Board identification criteria would only support an IPRC for students with moderate to severe Autism.
- Most if not, all other schoolboards, including our neighbouring boards have criteria for identification at any level of severity for Autism.
- To eliminate this alignment, we have decided to align our policy to be inclusive of all levels of severity. Any diagnosis will be updated, and no longer references the levels. We believe this is more equitable and will remove the mixed messaging for parents. This will be a more supportive and consistent process for schools and families.

Terms of Reference Review

- We will resend our Terms of Reference to everyone, and Superintendent Graves is hoping that we can bring this up at the next meeting to see if there are any proposed changes.

Multi-Year Accessibility Committee Update/Survey (Kim Pauli)

- Our Board is updating the procedures and practices around accessibility to better align with Ministry requirements.
- In addition to accessibility of our buildings, professional development, HR processes, and communication are also considerations.
- A number of stake holders are on this committee too.
- We plan to send a survey around a wide range of challenges and is appreciated as we work through the document. This will be issued shortly.
- Will include IT specific (like website) questions/challenges too.

May School Visit/Tour: Details and Protocol – May 18th @ 11am at Chippewa.

- Meet at Chippewa and will tour some of the self-contained classes.
- RSVP to Krista about lunch by May 5th
- We have a schedule but will try to be unobtrusive.
- 12pm head to lunch at the Board office, and then 1pm, the regular board meeting.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

- Movie and baseball update from Candy at Community Living as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The Chair shared the 2 events, and posters with the group.
- Trustee Fuscaldo - Kara Macie – expression of gratitude – congrats to the NNDSB on everything that they've done with literacy

Correspondence received:

None

Ministry updates –SO Graves

- Started to receive B memos – they're funding memos.
- They outline overall provincial funds that are distributed.
- From the updates that we've received so far, we have the following to share:

~ Funding addresses the state of buildings, to transportation dollars, etc

~ Funds to support a large math project that the Board will engage on

~ Classroom math supports

~ Financial support is being provided for literacy screening tools; receive money to purchase screeners, and there will be a requirement to screen Students twice a year. Boards can't spend the money until they provide screeners list.

~ Funding will be provided for professional assessments – like psychoeducational assessments. ~ There are subsidies for educators to take AQ courses in Special Education.

~ We also know about summer learning funding and transition dollars, which will enable us to hire staff to work with the high needs Spec Ed students in August, for transitioning kids back into the program.

There is an update to SIP funding (as you remember that we submitted a letter to Minister Lecce) - good news is that the process is being reviewed. We have been told that this year's applications are not being considered, but a formula-based funding model will be used again this year and the Board will receive the same funds as 2022/2023 year.

Special Education Plan – no updates

Special Education Budget – no updates

Reports

Board report (oral) – (Board Trustee)

- From Trustee Sargent – update from the Naming Committee – old WJ Fricker site is going to be named Maple View Public School. Another meeting coming up for Chippewa; hoping to have a short list of names by the last week of April.
- From Trustee Phillips – MYSP survey is available online, as well as the This is Me survey. Chippewa renaming is definitely an important topic.
- Trustee Fuscaldo – we voted on a motion recently, so all of the meetings, agendas and links will be on websites, to log on, participate, etc. New Indigenous student representative should hopefully be named soon.
- Trustee St. Pierre – no update.

Special Education Report – Kim Pauli

- LearnSTYLE did a great presentation for our DLRTs. Excellent feedback received with demonstrations on the immersive reader functions, WordQ, and Microsoft Visio to better equip educator to support students with assistive technology in our schools.
- 180 students supported so far this year with new SEA devices and 798 coaching sessions so far this year.

- Dawn McMillian – North Region Behaviour – retiring. She has had a huge impact on our Board over the last 20 years as a support for students, schools, and families. Lisa Mason is taking over this position.
- We are very proud of Kara Macie on her award as a Literacy Leader at the International Dyslexia Association of Ontario's 13th Annual Literacy Learning Conference. Kara has committed a great deal of time and effort to support Literacy Learning and Speech Language Therapy in the NNDSB. She has recently announced her retirement.

SEAC chair

- 8 out of 10 analogy shared by the Chair: Only 2 more meetings to go out of 10 already completed!

New Business

- There will be a presentation in the future to provide more info on the BMS training and the work of our NNDSB Behaviour Team.

Next meeting

May 18, 2023 - All members are invited for a tour of the self-contained classes at Chippewa Secondary and Intermediate School from 11am to 12pm. Lunch will be served in the North Bay Board Office (Board Room) shortly after 12pm, followed by our regular SEAC meeting at 1pm. Please RSVP to Krista Holmes for the school visit/lunch by Friday, May 5th.

Adjournment Motioned by Trustee Phillips, seconded by Caroline Labrecque. Carried.