

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, February 16, 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
Candy St. Onge
Albina Lavictoire
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Jeanine Fuscaldo, Trustee
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, NNDSB staff
Kimberly Gignac, NNDSB staff
Laura Hansman
Caroline Labrecque
Michelle Irvine, FASD Program Coordinator (guest)

Regrets:

Ashley St. Pierre

Chris Guillemette
Carol Couillard

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order @ 1:04pm

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Chantal Phillips, Seconded by Candy St. Onge. Carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the January, 19, 2023 meeting.

Motioned by Louise Sargent. Seconded by Jeanie Fuscaldo. Carried.

Business Arriving from the Minutes

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Presentation by Michelle Irvine, FASD Program Coordinator for Anishnabek Nation

- A Power Point presentation was delivered by Michelle.
- This presentation is only a snapshot of what Michelle can provide. There will be handouts in the follow up package.
- It is all about training, and the research is always changing. It is important for us to be proactive, rather than reactive.
- The closest FASD Clinic for assessment is in Sudbury. There is a new clinic specifically for Indigenous students, also in Sudbury opening soon.

Update regarding May meeting: Face to Face Meeting and School Tour (North Bay Area) is planned. More information to follow.

- Principal Pauli, Kim and Lisa are working on plans for the school tour. More info shared when it is available.

Closed Captioning:

- The NNDSB does not currently have the necessary Zoom license for closed captioning, as we are a Microsoft Office organization. MS Teams does have this capability and we are already paying the full suite of services through Microsoft. The Spec Ed department will have further conversations with IT, as this is an issue that may extend beyond SEAC. SEAC could make a recommendation to the board regarding this.
- ReachDeck Accessibility Tool bar – recommendation by Trustee Fuscaldo. When using this application, the user can essentially just press play and the program reads the content of webpages/screens.
- Accessibility issues need to be taken very seriously but we want to follow the protocol for following these accessibility accommodations.

- Trustee Sargent wants SEAC to have the discussion and ensure that when we have all of the information ahead of time. That will ensure that if we are in the situation where someone requires accessible options, we are able to address it in a timely manner.
- SEAC members agree that we will do some research and bring this item back up next month.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

- Candy St. Onge: We will have more updates soon as we are soon coming up on our 50th year of service with Almaguin Highlands Community Living.
- Kim Pauli shared information from Chris Guillemette about Community Living's Spread the Word Inclusion Campaign. The community toolkit will be provided to members. On March 1st there is a "Soup Event" being hosted at the Home Style Café. All members are encouraged to click on the link to the pledge (inside the toolkit) to support inclusive and welcoming communities.
- Trustee Fuscaldo shared that IDA Ontario is hosting a webinar on March 8th from 7:30-9 called The Truth as Lived by our Students.

Correspondence received

- Nothing received.

SIP Letter

- Our letter was signed by our NNDSB Board Chair Lougheed, and then the updated letter was signed by our SEAC chair. Krista Holmes will be providing this to the other SEAC committees.

Ministry updates –SO Graves

- Ministry updates as shared in your SEAC package.
- Trustee Fuscaldo shared that there are several vacancies in the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE). Trustee Fuscaldo encouraged members to consider applying.
 - Special Education Plan – no updates
 - Special Education Budget – no updates

Reports

Board report (oral) – (Board Trustee)

- Trustee Sargent – lots of work happening.
- Trustee Fuscaldo – lots going on, but nothing specific to share.
- Trustee Phillips – nothing to report at this time.

Special Education Report – Kim Pauli

- Feb 3rd PD Day was very well-received. Topics included FASD, Personal Wellness, Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) and more.
- Our SEAC Chair and 2 other SEAC members attended the NNDSB Equity Circle on February 8th. Presenters from a variety of outside agencies shared their key projects and initiatives. The Equity Team is working to update their Equity Action Plan and we were invited to give our feedback.
- Our department is currently planning our Spring Resource Teacher meeting.
- There were 82 coaching sessions in the month of January by LearnStyle, and a total of 602 coaching sessions have been provided in NNDSB schools so far this year to support students in using their SEA technology.
- March presentation at our SEAC meeting will focus on Mental Health, and our Mental Health Lead Lana St. Louis will be in attendance.

SEAC chair

- Our Chair attended Equity Circle meeting this past month and is grateful for all of the agencies who support our schools and the work being done to support our students.
- The Chair appreciates all of Principal Pauli's work, especially with getting quality guest speakers to come and present at our meetings.

New Business

- Trustee Phillips expressed her interest in Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) and believes there is more that we should do with these techniques and strategies in our schools. She shared that her own son struggles due to the lack of understanding that school staff has for his needs. She feels that the school does not understand his behaviours and how to address them appropriately. He gets punished for behaviours and staff do not understand the underlying issues, with just one or two staff who know what works for him. The educators don't seem to have any CPS training. What more can be offered so all school staff will start to use strategies like CPS? Trustee Phillips has seen SMART Goals used in her son's IEP at a previous school board and this was helpful to her as a parent in understanding his IEP. The NNDSB does not require Smart Goals in their IEPs and this is some work that needs to be done with staff. Trustee Phillips is wondering what her impact as a Trustee can be over the 4 years in her role on issues like these.
- Principal Pauli – There is always more that we can do to support staff training and learning. Our Special Education Department endeavours to share as much as information and professional learning as we can with our staff and administrators to align with School Improvement Plans and any other emerging PD needs at the school level.
- SO Graves noted that it is well within SEAC's purview to make recommendations. The items that we have typically made recommendations on might be related to our Special Education action plan, budget related, etc. As a department, we have made a commitment to the Director for the MYSP and specific goals and plans to support student achievement and well-being.
- SO Graves noted that the Special Education planning and goals are operational in nature, and as such are approved through the Exec Council, and aligned with the MYSP.
- The Chair noted that she will consider next steps and will get back to the committee to better support this conversation.

Next meeting

March 23, 2023 @ 1pm

Adjournment Motioned by Trustee Jeanie Fuscaldo seconded by Trustee Chantal Phillips. Carried.