

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, June 15, 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
Lisa Paradis, NNDSB staff
Chris Guillemette
Kimberly Gignac, NNDSB staff
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee
Louise Maughan, NNDSB Lead Psychologist
Chris Walking, Principal of K-12 Student Achievement and Well-Being
Caroline Labrecque

Regrets:

Albina Lavictoire
Candy St. Onge
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee
Carol Couillard

Land Acknowledgement (Kim Pauli)

Call to Order @ 1:07.

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Louise Sargent, seconded by Jeanie Fuscaldo. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the May 18, 2023, meeting.

Motioned by Chantal Phillips, seconded by Jeanie Fuscaldo. *Carried*

Business Arising from the Minutes

Update regarding IPRC data and the Psych. Ed waitlist

Principal Pauli shared a Power Point presentation about the number of IPRCs in the NNDSB as a follow-up to a request from a SEAC member. There were 98 new referrals to IPRC this school year, with 1518 reviews (as of June 1st). This number fluctuates, particularly during the busy Spring IPRC season.

As an additional follow-up, numbers were shared around the “waitlist” for Psycho Educational Assessments. At this time, 272 students are waiting for Psych assessments. Approximately 175 assessments are completed by NNDSB each year. Louise Maughan (Lead Psychologist, NNDSB) attended the meeting to share further details, and answer committee questions. The biggest impact that Covid had on assessments was that there was over a year where they couldn't see students in order to do the in-person assessments. There is additional Ministry funding for 2023-24 to reduce the waitlist for assessments, which will be used this upcoming school year to address students on the waitlist.

Update regarding Dyscalculia and Math Supports for Special Education Students

Principal Pauli re-introduced Louise Maughan and Principal Walkling for details on these topics, which were brought forward from the May meeting.

Louise Maughan shared that there are 2 different types of diagnostic systems, and shared details on the PPM-8 and diagnosis details that the Ministry works with. Whenever diagnosis of a Learning Disability is made, there are more specific categories in which the learning disorder falls (such as number sense, math reasoning, calculations).

Principal Chris Walkling brought prospective from the Programming Dept/team. He shared a Power Point presentation around work the Math Team is doing to support the needs of all learners. Chris provided the context pre pandemic, to now, and a summary of various Ministry initiatives, like Fundamentals of Mathematics. Chris talked about the introduction of the Grade 9 destreamed Math course, and how that was introduced to remove systemic barriers. MathUP was just launched in collaboration with the Spec Ed Department. The Math Leadership team will include Spec Ed representation next year and we look forward to continuing this work.

Summer Special Education Supports

Principal Pauli shared a Power Point presentation with further details on Spec Ed programs and initiatives for this summer, including virtual learning camp options with a focus on Assistive Technology and Coding for ASD students. Trustee Sargent is looking forward to hearing how many students participate in these programs.

- 2 Secondary DLRTs have been hired to support Summer School
- 2 EAs have been hired to support Secondary Summer School
- 2 EAs have been hired to support the Elementary Summer Learning Programs

We are pleased that Ministry funding will once again support August Transition visits for students with high special education needs. Teachers and EAs will schedule visits to establish familiarity with the school setting following our summer break.

SEAC Annual Agenda and Goals 2023-24

Principal Pauli shared a slide with the agenda and goals that's proposed for our 2023-24 school year.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

Community Living – hosting a summer job program and working with the literacy program who is helping with the job path piece. Community Living appreciates the collaboration with Chippewa and Chris was pleased to tour their programs last month.

Correspondence received

There was a Ministry update related to Special Education received yesterday, and we can send it out, or put it on the agenda for September.

Ministry updates

SO Graves advised that there are no updates.

Reports

Board report – (Board Trustees)

Trustee Sargent – the budget was just passed the other night, and she is pleased with the Spec Ed budget, and that the current board will continue to offset the cost. Thanks to the committee and staff and she wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Trustee Fuscaldo – elementary and secondary graduations are coming up. Such great joyous celebration – please try to start your summer off right if you can!

Special Education Report

Principal Pauli is working on some hiring this month due to retirements. The Speech/Language Team Completed info session with teachers ELK educators yesterday.

SEAC chair report

The Co-chair Shared Albina's power point presentation, recognizing the individual strengths of each SEAC member.

Next meeting: Schedule TBD

Adjournment Motion Caroline Labrecque , seconded by Jeanie Fuscaldo. *Carried.*