

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, March 23, 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
Chris Guillemette
Albina Lavictoire
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, NNDSB staff
Kimberly Gignac, NNDSB staff
Caroline Labrecque
Carol Couillard
Jeanine Fuscaldo, Trustee
Lana St. Louis, Mental Health Lead (Guest)

Regrets:

Ashley St. Pierre
Candy St. Onge
Laura Hansman

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order @ 1:04pm

Agenda Approval

Adding in the communication received, by Autism Ontario – as amended.

Motioned by Trustee Louise Sargent. Seconded by Trustee Chantal Phillips. Carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2023, meeting.

Motioned by Chris Guillemette. Seconded by Trustee Chantal Phillips. Carried.

Business Arriving from the Minutes

Chair's follow-up from last month's business from last SEAC meeting:

The Chair wanted to recognize and answer a question that was asked at the last meeting regarding how SEAC can make a difference and have a positive impact the system. Chair Lavictoire asked if Superintendent Graves could share the process for motions and recommendations to the board.

Superintendent Graves shared that an item of interest our concern can be discussed at SEAC. From there, our group could motion to make a recommendation to the Board. We can have an opportunity to make impact with the budget. Items of interest for discussion can be suggested by sending them to Krista Holmes to include in our agenda, which will be shared with the Chair.

For further context, we could consider how we move items or initiatives forward and ensure other employee groups are receiving important information and learning. A suggestion was made that during our presentations our group is made aware of who the information/PD has been shared with in the NNDSB. This would also help inform our group's future topic and give a better understanding of internal services for staff and their training. We will address this on future agendas and in presentations moving forward.

Presentation by Lana St. Louis, NNDSB Mental Health Lead: "NNDSB Mental Health Supports and Services"

This year, our Mental Health Department launched a new 3-year mental health strategic plan. Lana shared the details of this plan, along with the variety of Mental Health services offered in our district. The presentation is attached.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

Community Living North Bay

Chris Guillemette shared that on March 1st – over 600 signatures of people acknowledging the importance of using respectful language as part of the “Spread the Word Inclusion” campaign.

A link from Community Living Ontario was shared, with an educator toolkit to promote inclusive communities:

<https://www.spreadtheword.global/resources>

Correspondence received

Information from Autism Ontario was circulated to all SEAC chairs and shared with our group. “Celebrate the Spectrum” is the theme for World Autism Day 2023. Links were shared for students to register for the Giving Challenge, as well as links to the Autism Ontario newsletter.

Ministry updates –SO Graves

There are no significant Ministry updates, but we are waiting for funding announcements to happen soon. The Board is beginning the process to determine the budget for the 2023-24 school year. We eagerly await Priority and Partnerships funding, as well as GSN (Grants for Student Needs) details, and hope to have more updates next month.

Special Education Plan – no updates

Special Education Budget – no updates

Reports

Board report (oral) – (Board Trustee)

Trustee Sargent

There are presently 2 naming committee. One is for the WJ Fricker site, which just met last night. Next, consultation goes out tomorrow with the shortlist for people to vote on.

Chippewa is in the process of rebranding and renaming. First, there will be a consultation process. Next, the information will come back to the committee, and they will short list suggestions and then send it back out. It will likely be another month or so for a final decision. Then, these are submitted to the Board of Trustees to vote on.

Trustee Phillips

Trustee Phillips shared that she attended the incredible performance of “Sounding Thunder: The Song of Francis Pegahmagabow” presented by the Festival of the Sound in North Bay. She appreciated that it happened at multiple locations to allow many students to participate.

She is hearing lots of people talking about the secondary schools, with more police presence noticeable.

Special Education Report – Kim Pauli

Our department has been providing some training to various employee groups across the board. On March 29th there will be a meeting for all Resource Teachers across the district. Presenters include Louise Maughan (Lead Psychologist) and Kara Macie (Lead Speech Pathologist), along with Learnstyle, who will train our DLRTs on Assistive Technology applications to improve their capacity to support students with their devices.

We are currently getting ready for the Spring staffing, and looking at school enrollment and other factors to determine where staff will be allocated for the 2023-24 school year.

Our May SEAC meeting will include a school visit. We will tour the Self-Contained classes at Chippewa on May 18th. We will tour from 11-12pm, meet for lunch at the Board Office shortly after 12pm, and then conduct our regular SEAC meeting beginning at 1pm. More information will follow in our next agenda.

SEAC chair

Our Chair expressed that she is thankful for all of the talents on the SEAC committee. There are a range of strengths and interests: political people, financial people, etc.

Thanks to SEAC, the Chair has been able to implement so many wonderful things at her school and shared the examples of Lexia and World Autism Day

New Business

- None.

Next meeting – April 20, 2023 @ 1pm

- Although a budget update from our SO of Business was listed for our April agenda, May will be a better opportunity for the budget information to be presented to SEAC, given the status of budget announcements. Our April agenda will be adjusted accordingly.

Adjournment Motioned by Chris Guillemette seconded by Trustee Louise Sargent Carried.