

**Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes (SEAC)**

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 1:00PM

Zoom Online Meeting & North Bay Board Office

Committee Members Present

Albina Lavictoire, Chair  
Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education  
Louise Sargent, Trustee  
Chantal Phillips, Trustee  
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee  
Lisa Paradis, NNDSB Staff  
Kim Pauli, NNDSB Staff  
Kimberly Gignac, NNDSB Staff  
Candy St. Onge, Community Living  
Saxon Yanta, Acting Executive Assistant

Regrets

Chris Guillemette  
Louise Maughan, NNDSB Lead Psychologist  
Caroline Labrecque  
Carol Couillard  
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

Superintendent Graves presented the land acknowledgement.

**2. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:02PM.

**3. Attendance**

It was noted that the meeting has quorum.

**4. Agenda Approval**

*Moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Candy St. Onge, that the agenda be approved as presented. – CARRIED.*

**5. Approval of the Minutes of April 20, 2023 meeting.**

*Moved by Trustee Fuscaldo and seconded by Trustee Sargent, that the minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting be approved as presented. – CARRIED.*

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Dyscalculia Information Sharing: Trustee Fuscaldo

Trustee Fuscaldo shared information about dyscalculia with the members of SEAC. Many members of the SEAC committee shared personal experiences with their own challenges and solutions for mathematics. The discussion resulted in Trustees Fuscaldo and Trustee Phillips asking how dyscalculia can become an area of focus at the board level.

Superintendent Graves presented two options for consideration: 1. For staff to meet with colleagues and discuss dyscalculia and report back next month, or 2. The committee can make a motion to another committee, and that committee could make a recommendation to the board about dyscalculia. The Committee decided to have the Special Education Dept and Programming Dept discuss dyscalculia. The questions that will be asked are as follows:

- a) To what extent do classroom teachers understand dyscalculia?
- b) What is their strategy to support these students?
- c) What are the research-based ideas that we are trying to move forward in order to support these students in our math strategy.

The results of this discussion will be brought forward to the next SEAC meeting.

#### Special Education Budget Conversation led by SO Graves

Superintendent Graves noted that Superintendent Van Haesendonck will be providing a presentation to the committee about the special education budget later in the agenda.

SEAC is given the opportunity to make recommendations about the budget for special education. Superintendent Graves noted that every year more money is spent on special education than what is received. Funds are taken from other budgets to make up the difference and the Board has always supported that. Trustee Sargent shared her positive history with SEAC over the years, and the Board's support of special education.

The budget recommendations to be presented by Kim Pauli were put forward last year and developed over a number of years. Superintendent Graves noted that the recommendations do not need to be accepted as is today; however, if there is a desire to change the recommendations, another SEAC meeting would have to be booked to do that. The recommendations will be brought forward to the Finance Committee upon SEAC acceptance.

#### SEAC Budget Recommendations

Kim Pauli presented the SEAC budget recommendations. See attached.

Following Kim's presentation, Trustee Phillips asked about professional development opportunities for staff regarding the importance of early access to assessments, testing and interventions. Her question arose as a result of seeing this as an ongoing challenge with students who are excluded or expelled. Kim Gignac noted the challenges of early interventions for students who do not come to school, and commented that staff have to work harder with attendance counsellors in these cases. Superintendent Graves explained

how professional development opportunities are scheduled for staff, and the resulting budget implications of targeted training.

Trustee Fuscaldo asked how many students are waiting to be assessed for psych eds; Kim Pauli responded that she could access this information and share it with the committee at the next meeting. Trustee Fuscaldo raised concerns about students not having current psych eds on file and this being a barrier to their ability to pursue post-secondary education. After some discussion, members of the committee decided to bring this item forward for discussion at the next meeting due to time constraints on today's agenda.

*Moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Fuscaldo, that the SEAC Budget Recommendations are approved and forwarded to the Near North District School Board for approval. – CARRIED.*

#### Terms of Reference Updates

The Terms of Reference were included for review. Superintendent Graves made a recommendation to change the review of the Terms of Reference from a bi-annual occurrence to an annual occurrence. No other changes to the TOR were proposed.

*Moved by Trustee Sargent and seconded by Trustee Fuscaldo, that the SEAC Terms of Reference are approved as amended. – CARRIED.*

### **7. Standing Items**

#### Community Partner updates

Candy St. Onge from Community Living shared information about an upcoming golf tournament which raises funds for inclusive activities in the community. Previously the money has gone to help some families who need hospital beds or equipment not covered by anyone else. They are looking for more teams to join the event on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM in Sundridge. The cost is \$80/person which includes prizes and a steak dinner.

#### Correspondence received: Letter from KPRDSB SEAC Chair re SIP

Correspondence was noted as received. A response has already been sent.

#### Ministry updates – SO Graves

Superintendent Graves noted that the Ministry updates were around budgeting process which were discussed at today's meeting.

#### Special Education Plan

Kim Pauli spoke about the special education plan which must be updated on a yearly basis. The document provided highlighted the proposed changes in red. Superintendent Graves noted that these revisions reflect the past year's updates or changes. He commented that if a motion was made to change the special education plan, budget changes would need to be added due to the timing of the budget approval procedure. Chair Lavictoire commented on a job well done.

*Moved by Louise and seconded by Chantal that the Special Education Plan 2022-23 be approved as amended and forwarded to the Near North District School Board with recommendation for approval. – CARRIED.*

#### Budget Presentation – SO Van Haesendonck

Superintendent Van Haesendonck presented the 2022-2023 revised estimates special education budget and the 2023-2024 preliminary special education budget information to SEAC. Some discussion highlights from her presentation that were of particular interest to the committee include:

- The vast majority of the special education budget goes towards people (salaries and benefits);
- Staff professional development (PD) through the special education envelope is a very small portion of the budget. Staff can receive PD through other funding envelopes;
- Boards have flexibility in their use of special education funding.
- A discussion about the new allocation of a Safe and Clean Schools Supplement;
- \$109,000 of Early Math Intervention for Students with Special Education Needs Funding;
- \$120,000 to address the waitlist for professional assessments;
- No allocations have been cut from special education funding this year

Trustee Fuscaldo asked if the early math intervention funding can be used on Professional Development. Superintendent Van Haesendonck responded that she could look this up and provide the information to the special education team.

Trustee Sargent asked if reserve funds can be used when special education is running a deficit. Superintendent Van Haesendonck explained that the Board has an accumulated surplus. The only way the board can use the surplus is to run an overall deficit. If the deficit is only in special education and not as a whole board, the surplus cannot be drawn down. However, the board does have deferred revenue. The special education allocation never runs a deferred revenue as the whole grant is always spent. There is a deferred revenue in SEA funding. It can be challenging to spend those dollars and the funding is very specific. So there may be a small deferred revenue there where funds can be drawn down. Superintendent Van Haesendonck will ensure the special education department is aware of where the deferred revenue is. With regards to using deferred revenue, it is always important to consider if it is a one-time request, or if it is ongoing as sustainability of funding needs to be considered.

Chair Lavictoire thanked Superintendent Van Haesendonck for her presentation.

## **8. Reports**

#### Board Report (oral – Board Trustee)

Trustee Sargent spoke about the building committee's tour of the new Maplevue Public School. Of particular note were the rooms near the Principal's office that are a dedicated space for testing and assessments.

Trustee Phillips attended the diversity and inclusion event at Alliance with Trustee Sargent. She spent time speaking with a settlement worker from Multicultural Centre at the event. North Bay now qualifies for LINK, so they are seeing the numbers increase.

Trustee Fuscaldo attended a webinar last Friday with NNDSB's Kara Macie and Christopher Walkling for dyslexia Canada. The presentation focused on struggles, successes, and goals for the future. If other boards are interested in watching the webinar, Trustee Fuscaldo has the link to the recording.

#### Special Education Report and request for input for 2023-24 SEAC Annual Agenda, Goals, and Priorities – Kim Pauli

Kim Pauli noted that registration is being finalized for summer learning. There will be programs on assistive technology strategies for grades 3-8 and registration will take place from June 5 – 16. These will be advertised and sent out to the school team.

National Accessibility week is next week. Resources and information are going to all staff and red shirt day is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The SEAC calendar is being planned for next year. Please send any topics of interest or ideas to Krista Holmes.

#### SEAC Chair Report

Chair Lavictoire thanked Kim Pauli, Kim Gignac and Lisa Paradis for everything they do. The Chair reminded the committee to rest in 4 directions, in accordance with the Indigenous medicine wheel. North: mind, East: heart, emotional, South: soul, spiritual and West: body, physical.

### **9. New Business**

#### **10. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be called on June 15, 2023 at 1:00PM.

#### **11. Adjournment**

With no further business to note, Committee Chair Lavictoire tabled the following motion:

Moved by Candy St. Onge and seconded by Trustee Phillips that the SEAC meeting adjourn at 3:09PM. -CARRIED.

Minutes: AL/TG/sy.