

Special Education Advisory Minutes (SEAC)

Thursday, September 21, 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, Vice Chair
Laura Hansman, OPIC
Kimberly Gignac, NNDSB staff
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Safe Schools
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Jeanine Fuscaldo, Trustee
Caroline Labrecque
Carol Couillard
Lisa Paradis, NNDSB staff
Lana St. Louis, NNDSB Mental Health Lead
Emily Samuel, NNDSB Principal of Safe Schools, Early Years
Derek Lindeman, NNDSB Behaviour Team
Lisa Mason, NNDSB Behaviour Team
Kelly Hingley, NNDSB Behaviour Team

Regrets:

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

Land Acknowledgement by Superintendent Tim Graves.

Meeting called to order at 1:03pm.

Agenda Approval:

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

Approval of the Minutes of the June 15, 2023, meeting.

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

Business Arising from the Minutes

Presentation on NNDSB Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion Data by Emily Samuel (Safe Schools Principal)

The Safe Schools Team provided the committee with an overview of the Safe Schools framework and how it supports preventative measures and encourages positive student conduct. The team also shared information regarding exclusions and reviewed the use of exclusions within the NNDSB. The Team reiterated that exclusions are only issued for safety and not for staff shortages. The Safe Schools team provided an overview of suspensions, highlighting how student misconduct incidents decline from Grades 9 to 12.

Sharing of Information Re Gateway Community Hub – presented by Lana St. Louis, Mental Health Lead.

Lana St. Louis presented a power point presentation about details of some of these community partners.

Presentation by NND SB Behaviour Team: A Summary of the Behaviour Support Model

Lisa Mason North Region, Kelly Hingley BCA and Derek Lindeman, East and West Region

The team discussed the various staffing supports within the Board to support students with Behavioural needs. They also shared with us the details of the referral process. Behaviour support services data from the 2022-23 school year was shared.

Spec Ed Staffing and Programs

Principal Pauli indicated there were no changes to the staffing model presented in the Special Education Plan last June, with the exception of one additional teacher to be explained further in the Special Education update (below).

Standing Items

The SEAC meeting schedule was reviewed.

Community Partner updates

From Community Living North Bay

- October is Employment Disability Awareness front. Stay tuned to their socials for more info, etc.

Correspondence received (Letter from Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB regarding retention and recruitment of Educational Assistant Staff)

We recently had a request from the media about how many positions that we have, vacancies, etc. SO Graves sharing 190 EA positions inclusive of temporary and permanent. We continue to struggle finding replacement/supply EAs. We have about 7 available temporary EA postings up on the portal, and we continue to actively recruit.

Trustee Sargent requested more information, and that the budget presentation next month include specific information around funding for EAs.

***Depending on information and discussion in our October meeting, the group will decide whether they would like to follow up with a letter.**

Ministry/MACSE updates:

SO Graves reviewed the MACSEA updates

- The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act was passed June 8, 2023 and a number of details have been released to school boards since.
- PPM 151 – PA Day Transparency Regulation: we submit a professional development plan to the Ministry and a summary of the PD must be posted on the board's website.

- Updated Transitional Certificate Regulation: A teacher working on their certification can have an interim certificate to take on some of the duties after they have at least 30 credits and 40 practicum days completed
- Additional Qualifications in Holocaust Education and Countering Antisemitism to be created and made available in the future/
- PPM 168: Year 2 of kindergarten, and Grade 1 and 2 students must be screened for early reading skills. Protected time for Grades 1-3 for foundational reading instruction is also addressed.
- PPM 169 – school board and community partners will continue to work together for consistent mental health and well-being services across the province.
- PPM 124 – Community Involvement Graduation Requirement: Students can start collecting volunteer hours after they finish grade 8, and before they start grade 9. Organizations who are taking on volunteers of special needs students they have a requirements/training that they get that training through that organization. Clarifies ineligible and eligible activities.
- PPM 132 – PLAR: prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students: Amendments make it easier for individuals who have not graduated secondary school but have expertise acquired through other post-secondary training to gain a credential toward meaningful employment.

OTHER:

- We have 1 administrative guideline up on our website: Accounting for School Generated Funds. Please feel free to look at it and provide feedback on the form provided.

Reports

Board report (oral) – (Board Trustee)

Trustee Sargent

- Thanked staff for great work over the summer, etc.
- Very happy about the opening of the new school.
- This year the chair and vice chair elections will happen in Nov rather than December based on a new rule around elections.

Special Education Report- Kim Pauli

- At the end of August, our valued Speech and Language Pathologist passed away. We appreciate that Kara Macie has come back for a short time while we're able to hire and build capacity in a new staff member.
- Welcome to Gail Degagne, who is taking on the role of Special Education Math Lead Teacher. This is a Special Education funded position, with coordination alongside our Program Department. Gail will be supporting effective instruction in Math for students with learning difficulties.
- Our team is actively working on presentation for the PD Day on Sept 29th on IEP goal-setting and alignment with assessment.
- EAs are participating in regional PD - equity, trauma, behaviour management systems, strategies to support students with behavioural challenges, etc.

- Mark it Red month in October: Dyslexia Awareness Month. Details were shared with all staff. The Classroom Support Centre has created a list of resources and information to support student learning around Dyslexia.

SEAC chair report

- A letter from Albina was shared where she announced her resignation from SEAC.
- SO Graves proposed a discussion around replacement based on Terms of Reference at the next meeting. Chris will attend the next meeting and act as co-chair until then.
- We recognize and thank Albina for her work with SEAC as a leader and advocate for students. We will send her a gift and message of thanks.

9. New Business

10. Next meeting: Thursday, October 19th at 1pm

11. Motion to adjourn at 2:59 p.m. by Chantal Phillips, and seconded by Jeanine Fuscaldo. *Carried.*