

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Sept 22, 2022

Land Acknowledgement by SO Graves

1. Call to Order – 1:03 pm

2. Attendance via Zoom online meeting platform

Albina Lavictoire (Chair)

Candy St. Onge

Kim Pauli

Kimberley Gignac

Tim Graves

Louise Sargent

Carole Couillard

Laura Hansman

Alan Bottomley

Chris Guillemette

Regrets: Caroline Lebrecque

3. Approval of Agenda:

Chair Albina added introductions to today's agenda.

As Amended – adopted agenda as amended.

Sept 22, 2022

Moved – Louise Sargent Seconded – Chris Guillemette Carried. No Conflict of interest

4. Approval of Minutes:

June 16, 2022

Moved – Louise Sargent Seconded – Carole Couillard Carried.

Business Arriving from the Minutes

SEAC annual agenda/goals and schedule

- Agenda attached in the package; open to conversation.
- Feedback is appreciated about the annual agenda.
- Open to any exceptionalities that we'd like to focus on this year.
- Schedule for year reviewed and attached in the package.

Board's PD Day plans for the year

August 31st – Violence Prevention, Sept 1st – Setting Direction

October 24th: SEF/SIP Focus

Nov 18th - Parent Teacher Interviews

Feb 3 – Report Card Writing/Assessment

April 28: SEF/SIP Focus

June 12 – Report Card Writing/Assessment

EA's – participated in Aug 31st and Sept 1st PD

Oct 24, Feb 3 and Apr 28 – rotating topics throughout the Regions.

- Strategies for challenging behaviors
- Wellness and Health and Safety
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Equity

Nov 18 and June 12 – Self-Directed Learning Modules on topics such as Executive Functioning, LDAO Modules, and Centre for Child Protection modules.

MACSE Minutes

Not available at this time.

Membership review

- Final board meeting of current board in October, so November is the first meeting of new Board of Trustees.
- We would like members to continue on SEAC. In order to move forward for the next term
 please send a letter to Krista Holmes, addressed to Tim Graves from your organization by
 the middle of October requesting that you be nominated for another term on the SEAC
 committee.
- There is no "term" per say for representing SEAC; just that we need to get the reappointment every 4 years.

Update Special Education Staffing and Programs

• No major changes from the Staffing and Programs list contained in the Special Education Plan from last year, other than the hiring of a Temporary Behaviour Therapist.

Presentation: NNDSB Program Vision and Alignment to Multi-Year Plan (Principal of Program) and Special Education Program Goals (Kim Pauli)

- Principal Chris Walkling presented to the committee. See attached presentation.
- Principal Pauli shared the four main goals that the Special Education Department will focus on which include:
- 1. Supporting students with Learning Disabilities through Assistive Technology (Word Q, Lexia, LearnStyle, SEA-it)
- 2. Supporting Students with Challenging Behaviour (Wrap-Around support model, refinement of virtual referral process)
- 3. Consistent Use of a "Trauma Informed" Approach to supporting students
- 4. Refinement and review of goals and instruction in Self-Contained Specia Education programs
- Trustee Sargent asked about status of Psych assessments. Principal Pauli let the
 committee know that we had some Ministry Covid funds over the summer to catch up. We
 targeted some specific schools and we think alleviated some of those stressors of the
 schools with larger wait lists.
- SO Graves congratulated the Programming and Spec Ed dept who worked together since
 various assessments have been delayed. We are continuing to employ contract employees
 so that we're able to get ahead on some of the assessments and reduce wait times.

Standing Items

Community Partner updates

 Chris G – excited to tell everyone that Early ON programs are back into the schools as of Sept. National Disability Community Employment month – we spend the most promoting this. Part of a group that does in Ontario and Canada. Oct 20th we are hosting a battalion game.

Correspondence received:

• Upper Grand DSB letter re PPM81) – acknowledged and addressed in previous meetings.

Planning and Accommodation Updates - Trustees

Things are going well.

Ministry updates

 Oct 2022 – Spec Ed asking for successful practices, and feedback form, presented then at the next MACSE meeting.

Special Education Budget – no updates

SO Graves - Mental Health report is going to the Board for approval.

Reports

Board report

- Trustee Louise Sargent great to participate in our June graduations.
- Trustee Al Bottomley Covid wreaked havoc on him as a Trustee these past 2 years.
- Trustee Nichole King Acknowledged the advancements that had happened over the past 4 years. Working with fellow colleagues and staff regarding the PSHS act of vandalism was an example of this. Looks forward to seeing the work continue.
- Trustee John Cochrane thanks to Al Bottomley for everything over the years.

Special Education Report

- Updated Special Education Plan is now posted on our Board website.
- We are glad that Covid protocols have allowed a nice shift for things in our schools. Great to see school trips back in action, etc.
- 2 DLRTs have been assigned to the virtual school this year (0.5 elementary and 0.5 secondary)
- 175 licenses for Lexia PowerUP were purchased for use in Special Education classrooms.
 Lexia PowerUP is a personalized literacy program that addresses individual skill gaps and has demonstrated a positive impact on academic success.
- A Board wide WordQ license has been purchased for student use across the system.
 WordQ provides support with word prediction, writing skills, and is customizable for each user

SEAC chair

- Very encouraged by everything that she just heard in our first SEAC.
- Hopes that in person meetings will resume soon. Continuing virtual until the Board makes a
 decision of how they're going to proceed with the new Board of Trustees.

New Business

Presentation on NNDSB Program Vision and Alignment to Multi Year Plan AND Indigenous Education Initiatives (Sarah Spence)

Next meeting – October 20, 2022

Adjourned: 2:48pm

Motion - Chris Guillemette

Seconded - Carole Couillard seconded.

Motion carried.