

SEAC meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Via Microsoft Teams and North Bay Board Room

Present:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and Chair
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, Spec Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Kimberly Gignac, Special Ed Coordinator – North Region
Leigh Armstrong, Community Living Parry Sound

Regrets:

Ashley St. Pierre, Board Chair
Carol Couillard, Nipissing Secondary
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), CLNB
Tammy Adjoudj, Nipissing Down Syndrome Society
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Laura Hansman, OPVIC
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living

Land Acknowledgement presented by Kim Gignac

Called to Order at 1:02 pm

Agenda Approval

Quorum not present. Notes to be taken. Agenda consensus acquired.
Approval of the Minutes of the March 20, 2025 meeting. Deferred. No issues were identified.
Approval of the Notes of the April 17, 2025 meeting. Deferred. No issues were identified.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Budget Priorities' Discussion for 25/26 SEAC Special Education Budget Recommendations

- Quorum was not attained for this meeting, resulting in a motion not being able to be passed.
- Chair Phillips noted that it would be beneficial for SEAC members to review the ETFO resource recently published as it makes recommendations regarding the funding model. A current budget recommendation was edited to reflect the need for and support for professional assessments.
- A motion will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees. SEAC reached consensus on the budget recommendations for the 25/26 school year.

School Tour Options/Considerations (forthcoming in June)

- Principal Clarke noted that an overview presentation will be shared at June's meeting which will include details regarding special education classrooms across the NNDSB.
- A video from one school will also be shared and the classroom teacher and school principal will be invited to join our meeting.

Special Education Parent/Guardian Guide

- Chair Phillips noted there were no updates from last month and shared that this resource document would be a valuable resource to have available and ready for school start up in September for families who are new to our area.

Standing Items**Special Education Plan for 2025/26**

- Principal Clarke was able to indicate that there were very few changes and revisions required this year. The key changes to the plan reflect the restructuring of the Behavior Team and updated motions for the year.
- The IPRC statistics were discussed as we transitioned to software platforms mid-year, which impacted the timing of when IPRC's were conducted this school year.
- A motion will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees. SEAC reached consensus on the Special Education Plan for 2025/26.

Community Partner Updates

- None provided

Correspondence Received

- Letter dated January 21, 2025 from the Chair of Algoma District School Board SEAC re: concerns related to teacher training in special education facilities at faculties of education across Ontario.
- Nipissing University responded to Chair Phillips' information request about special education courses for pre-service teachers. This email will be shared with SEAC in next month's package so dialogue can occur during that meeting.
- Chair Phillips referred to the ETFO Report on Special Education and noted that it would be an important document for SEAC members to review in preparation for the June meeting.

Reports

Board Report (oral) – (Board Trustees)

Trustee Sargent - Trustee Sargent reported that the focus of the June Board meeting will be on budget and the transition process in Parry Sound.

Special Education Report- Alison Clarke

- Principal Clarke reported that on June 9th, newly onboarded educational assistants and administrators will be able to participate in full day BMS training at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School.
- Summer funding details are not available yet, and those will be shared once available.

SEAC Chair Report

- Chair Phillips noted interest in the new Education Minister and the province's direction in governance.

New Business

Next meeting: June 19, 2025.

Adjournment at 1:44 pm