

SEAC Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Via Teams and North Bay Boardroom

Present:

Tim Graves, Executive Superintendent
Alison Clarke, Principal of Special Education
Stephanie Norrie, Executive Assistant
Chair Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living
Vice-Chair Leigh Armstrong, Community Living Parry Sound
Tammy Adjoudj, Nipissing Down Syndrome Society
Chris Guillemette, Community Living North Bay
Kimberly Gignac, Special Education Coordinator – North Region
Laura Hansman, Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)
Lisa Paradis, Special Education Coordinator – East & West Regions

Guests

Michelle Albert, Teacher at Woodland Public School
Tanya Wardlaw, Vice-Principal of Woodland Public School
Kim Jenkins, Special Education Coordinator (Temporary)
Kyla Kadlec, Principal Alliance French Immersion

Regrets:

Jay MacJanet, Director
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Caroline Couillard, Nipissing Special Education

Land Acknowledgement presented by Kim Gignac

Called to Order at 1:02 pm

Roll Call

Committee members took this opportunity to introduce themselves and the organizations that they represent.

Agenda Approval

Motioned by Chris Guillemette, seconded by Leigh Armstrong. *Carried.*

Approval of the Minutes of the May 27th 2026, meeting.

Motioned by Chris Guillemette, seconded by Tammy Adjoudj. *Carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

2026-27 SEAC Annual Agenda and Meeting Dates

Discussion:

The SEAC reached a consensus to move forward with the annual agenda and proposed dates as presented.

Agenda items to note:

Several presentations have been added, the agenda has been rebalanced, and elections will take place in September.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Woodland Public School Skills for Early Learning Classroom Presentation by Michelle Albert (Classroom Teacher) and Tanya Wardlaw (Vice-Principal) of Woodland Public School

Please see the attached document to review the presentation that Vice-Principal Tanya Wardlaw and Classroom Teacher Michelle Albert delivered.

Discussion:

- Candy St. Onge asked which grades are included in the classroom.
 - Michelle said that the majority of students begin in the class for kindergarten and there is flexibility surrounding enrollment age.
- Chris Guillemette commented on the welcoming and accommodating nature of the classroom and asked how many students can attend.
 - Kim Gignac said the program's eligibility has fluctuated over the years and confirmed that the recommended class size is eight. She expects a full cohort of eight students again for next year.
- Chris Guillemette also asked if technology remains available to students when they transition out of the program.
 - Michelle Albert explained that if the student is eligible for and assigned a SEA device, then the device transitions with them and is available to them at each grade.
- Chair Candy St. Onge asked if the program is local and if there was a similar program in Almaguin.
 - Kim Gignac noted that the programs are local to North Bay and confirmed that it's a community program that supports local children who are eligible.

Special Education Plan Parent Guide

Principal Clarke began by thanking the committee for their time completing the survey, from which feedback is used to update and amend the Special Education Parent Guide.

Collected Written Feedback Shows:

- Feedback indicated that information on the last page of the document isn't correctly referenced.
- Feedback indicated a duplicate paragraph "What happens after the IPRC?"
- Feedback indicated that "Community Agencies" could be updated to include:
 - <http://www.paddnorth.ca/> (Parents with Adults with Developmental Disabilities)
 - Nipissing Down Syndrome Society
 - CNIB
 - Brain Injury Association of North Bay
- Feedback noted that "Commonly Used Terms," such as MCSS needs to be corrected to MCCSS (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services).
- Feedback identified that there is some repeated information, such as SEAC information.

Additional Feedback:

- Feedback was provided regarding the "Still Looking for Assistance" section.
- SO Graves also suggested including the Student and Parent Support Office information once details are confirmed.
- Chair Candy St. Onge suggested including the phrase "never too early or too late" to ask for support within the "Communicate Regularly with School Staff" section.

STANDING ITEMS

Community Partner Updates

- Community Living Parry Sound- no updates
- Community Living North Bay- Chris Guillemette shared that June 5th was their Annual Safety Day and over 500 people were in attendance. The CLNB AGM is coming up on June 15, 2026. A golf tournament is also scheduled for July 16th which will aim to raise money for the Outcomes Fund.

- Nipissing Down Syndrome Society – no updates
- OPVIC- no updates

Correspondence Received

Correspondence received - N/A

REPORTS

Special Education Report

- Principal Clarke began by providing an update on the LearnStyle Coaching Session Impact Survey. In reviewing the 2025–26 LearnStyle Assistive Technology Coaching Sessions, the Special Education Department collaborated with LearnStyle to develop an impact survey for both staff and students to assess the effectiveness of the learning sessions.
 - The survey focused on areas such as the quantity and quality of students' written work, their level of independence when using assistive technology, the application of newly developed skills, and the broader impact on learning skills including independence, collaboration, and organization.
 - Responses were received from 24 of 29 schools, with equal representation from elementary and secondary school teams. The data highlights significant growth in student independence during writing tasks, with 88% of students reaching or approaching independence with technology (Levels 3 and 4) after just five one-hour sessions, compared to only 3% during the first session.
 - Students also self-reported increased use of their devices, with 34% indicating they use them at least once daily and 35% reporting use more than once per day after five sessions; during the initial session, almost all students indicated they were not using their devices regularly.
 - In addition, students reported that the coaching sessions positively impacted both the quantity and, even more significantly, the quality of their written work.
 - Overall, the findings demonstrate measurable gains in student independence, confidence, classroom transfer of skills, and work output, while also providing valuable data to help guide future planning and support for student needs.
- The Ministry of Education recently announced funding changes for the 2026–27 school year, including revisions within Special Education programming. This includes the introduction of a new "Special Education and Disabilities Transitions" (SEDТ) component.

- This new allocation consolidates funding from three previous initiatives, including the Special Education Transition Navigator funding, into a single transition-focused stream. The intent of the funding is to support future preparedness, strengthen transitions, and improve pathways for students with special education needs and/or disabilities as they transition into school, between schools, and from secondary school to employment, community participation, or post-secondary education.
- In response to this announcement, work is currently underway to develop a proposal outlining a new position and associated responsibilities that will align with and support this provincial mandate. Additional information will be shared with the committee as details become available.
- **Summer Funding Details:**
 - Although summer learning funding has not yet been formally released to school boards, this funding has historically enabled the board to provide special education supports for students participating in summer learning programs, as well as August transition supports for students requiring school visits and re-entry activities prior to the start of the school year. It is anticipated that funding confirmation will occur soon, and that supports and programming, like those offered in recent years, will continue to be provided.

SEAC Chair Report

- Community Living Almaguin- Chair Candy St. Onge was pleased to share that there is a new co-op student at Mikisew Provincial Park for whom she has been providing job coaching. Job Path is underway and they recently hosted a successful golf tournament.
- Chair Candy St. Onge thanked the committee for their time and contributions throughout the year.

Closing Remarks

- Principal Clarke took the opportunity to thank the committee and shared her appreciation for the leadership and support of both Chair and Vice-Chair throughout the year, presenting them each with a token of gratitude on behalf of the SEAC.

Next meeting: September 23, 2026

Motion to Adjourn at 1:54 pm

Motioned by Chris Guillemette, seconded by Leigh Armstrong. *Carried.*