



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Wednesday, December 7, 2016
Commencing at: 12:00 noon

MINUTES of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held at the Schumacher Board Office, with teleconference and video conferencing sites, with the following in attendance:

Committee Members:

Kathy Farrell	Vice Chair, Community Living Timmins	
Peter Osterberg	Trustee	
Bruce Cutten	Trustee	
Saunders Porter	Alternate Trustee	
Gale Wiseman	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins branch	
Christine Heavens	parent representative	
Bruce Hayter	parent representative	(teleconference Hearst)
Melanie Hebert	parent representative	(Kapusksing)
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE	(v/c NLBO)

Staff Present:

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Schools responsible for Special Education
Joanne Marsh-Peters	Acting District Special Education Administrator
Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Addiction Lead
Patricia Chertow	Principal

Committee Members Absent:

Dennis Draves	Trustee
Arline Chasle	Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation
Gary Dowe	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre

Staff Regrets:

Alison Fantin	Principal
Vanessa Harmanmaa	Acting Autism Support Officer

Recording Secretary:

Dianne Gaudreau	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
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Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 12:07pm by Kathy Farrell, Vice Chair, round table introductions, teleconference and video conferencing sites were made.

Adoption of Agenda:

MOVED by Saunders Porter **SECONDED** by Bruce Cutten **THAT** the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Election of SEAC Chair:

Kathy Farrell assumed the Chair’s roll to oversee the election of the Chair position. Christine Heavens was nominated as Chair of SEAC.

MOVED by Peter Osterberg **SECONDED** by Bruce Cutten **THAT** the Christine Heavens be nominated as Chair.

CARRIED

Kathy Farrell assumed the role as Acting Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

MOVED by Peter Osterberg, **SECONDED** by Bruce Cutten **THAT** the minutes of the November 2, 2016 meeting be approved as written.

CARRIED

Business Arising:

1. **PAaC Modules:**

The PAaC handbook website www.paac-seac.ca, was previously emailed, discussion ensued, and new members will be encouraged to review the modules.

2. **SEAC Member Nomination/Update:**

The recommendation to accept Gale Wiseman as a member of SEAC was accepted at the November 15, 2016 board meeting.

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk provided an update that Cynthia Barty (CNIB) remains interested in sitting on SEAC, but is unable to commit at present time due to work commitments. She will review again with S. Pladzyk in January.

3. **School Council and PIC letters**

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk will send the letters to Christine Heavens, Chair to review and sign off.

Correspondence:

Near North DSB – letter to lobby for a northern Ontario representative to site at the MACSE table (the Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education) was received and it was recommended that Superintendent Pladzyk obtain clarification on the letter and forward the specifics to the Board at their January 10th, 2017 meeting.

MOVED by Peter Osterberg **SECONDED** by Christine Heavens **THAT** SEAC defer this request of support until it has been received and reviewed by the Board.

CARRIED

New Business:

1. **Trustee Report:**

Trustee Cutten stated that Joanne Marsh-Peters gave an overview of the Special Education department’s principles and organization following the guiding beliefs that Special Education is a shared responsibility and that, when working with identified students, the focus must be on what they can do and not what they cannot do. Charts of exceptionalities of students over the past several years and a review of the self-contained programs were presented, followed by a summary of the role of the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) and their 3 main goals: implementation of strategies to supports students with learning disabilities; full implementation of transition planning strategies; and supporting with school visits by the District SERTS.

Trustee Osterberg reported that Doug Shearer, Chair and Bob Brush, Vice Chair were acclaimed at the December 6, 2016 Board meeting.

Trustee Osterberg reported that Doug Shearer, Chair of the Board spent a few days as a tour guide to Laurie French, President of OPSBA to give her a better understanding of the Board's geography, and challenges faced in Northern Ontario.

2. **Agency Report:**

Kathy Farrell, Community Living shared the successful Santa program which is in its 3rd year where students and families enjoyed a visit with Santa.

Gale Wiseman, LDAO of Timmins provided the following updates:

- Reached out to 13 parents in the last 6 weeks from TH&VS, R Ross Beattie and RMSS.
- Started an 8 month *"We Are Not Alone Parent Group"*
- Completed *Session #1* on IEP's and IPRC's
- *Session #2* on Assistive Technology will take place on December 15th at 6:30pm at Northern College's theater, and will be setting up links with Chapleau and Kirkland Lake for this group
- Attended an IPRC meeting
- Presented a Motivation and Success presentation to parents
- Unfortunately, have not had much success connecting with the Catholic Board but will keep trying
- Hoping that Angie Demarco from Sudbury will present Emotions and their Impact on Learning with employees from District School Board Ontario North East on the February 27th Professional Development for SERTS
- Superintendent Pladzyk has asked about some support strategies for students' presentation (not basic concepts) and about their Assistive technologist connecting with District school Board Ontario North East for iPad's, which Gale will pass this request onto her Executive Director in Sudbury

Special Education Team Updates:

Psycho-educational assessments Business Plan

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk recommended that the proposed psycho-educational assessments Business Plan be emailed to SEAC members prior to the holidays, have an electronic motion for it to be added to the January 11 Board Agenda.

Special Education audit

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk will provide an update at the January meeting on where we are with the Special Education audit and recommendations.

PAaC conference

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk reported that the PAaC conference that the Ministry of Education held in May 2015 is offered every four years to coincide with the election of trustees and new SEAC members.

Speech Language Alignment Committee

Superintendent Steve Pladzyk reported that there is a sub-committee comprised of interested parents being created for feedback.

Mental Health Updates:

Denise Plante-Dupuis reported on the following:

- Team attended CMHO conference in Toronto on November 20– 22, 2016
- Keynotes and workshops addressed merging neuroscience evidence that early experiences affect neurological pathways than then impact a lifetime of learning and health
- This has a profound implication in developing effective programs, policies and services that support academic success and well-being
- Many references were made to the importance of building trauma informed schools and strategies to support students exposed to trauma
- In November, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) launched ReportON.
- The service offers a telephone line and email address to report actual or suspected abuse or neglect of adults with a developmental disability
- You can contact ReportON 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Phone: 1-800-575-2222 Email: reportONdisability@ontario.ca

Future Agenda Items

January: Financial Report – Pearl Fong West

Adjournment:

MOVED by Peter Osterberg

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:58pm

NEXT MEETING: January 11, 2017 – 12:00 noon, Schumacher Board Office.

(v/c sites: NLBO, Kapuskasing & Kirkland Lake)

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Kathy Farrell, **Vice Chair**
Special Education Advisory Committee