



# DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Wednesday, February 15, 2017  
Commencing at: 12:00 noon

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

**Committee Members:**

Christine Heavens	Chair, parent representative	
Kathy Farrell	Vice Chair, Community Living Timmins	
Bruce Cutten	Trustee	
Dennis Draves	Trustee	
Gary Dowe	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre	
Gale Wiseman	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins branch	
Bruce Hayter	parent representative	(v/c Hearst)
Arline Chasle	Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation	(v/c NLBO)

**Staff Present:**

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Schools responsible for Special Education
Joanne Marsh-Peters	Acting District Special Education Administrator
Patricia Chertow	Principal

**Guest:**

Pearl Fong West	Superintendent of Business/Finance and Treasurer
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**Committee Members Absent:**

Melanie Hebert	parent representative
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE
Peter Osterberg	Trustee

**Staff Regrets:**

Alison Fantin	Principal
Vanessa Harmanmaa	Acting Autism Support Officer
Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Addiction Lead

**Recording Secretary:**

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

Meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by Christine Heavens, Chair, round table, teleconference and video conferencing sites introductions were made.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

**MOVED** by Dennis Draves **SECONDED** by Bruce Cutten

**THAT** the agenda be adopted to add under New Business who replaced Jody Pecore as SERT and an update on the future of Schumacher PS.

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOVED** by Kathy Farrell, **SECONDED** by Arlene Chasle **THAT** the minutes of the December 7, 2016 meeting be approved as written.

**CARRIED**

**Presentation – Special Education Funding Report**

Pearl Fong-West, Superintendent of Business/Finance and Treasurer presented the Special Education Funding which highlighted the:

- 2016/17 Grant Allocations (projections)
- Special Education Grant (SEG) – 6 components
- High Needs Amount (HNA)
- High Needs Amount Measures of Variability (MOV) Approach
- 2016/17 Special Education Statistical Prediction Model
- Measures of Variability
- Estimated Special Education Grants Summary for 2016/17 based on 2016/17 Revised Estimates
- Special Education Estimated Expenditures for 2016/17 based on 2016/17 Revised Estimates
- Appendix A – 2016/17 Measures of Variability

A brief discussion ensued which included:

- Lack of specialized services, which results in long waiting lists
- The Special Education budget is based on the needs of our students
- Approved funding does not necessarily follow the individual student, however it does ensure the student's needs are met
- How EA support is determined:
  - Pearl Fong West stated that EA support within the budget is made in consultation with the Special Education team. The Special Education Team reviews each school's needs and the number of students who are identified.
- Pearl Fong West stated that the Board meets every Fall with the Ministry and there is always discussion regarding the shortfall of Special Education funding
- The transitional EA process, how it works and that they continue to monitor to ensure the needs of students are met
- How the Aboriginal Special Education funds are allocated through the tuition fee agreements.

On behalf of SEAC, Christine Heavens thanked Pearl for her time and presentation.

**Business Arising:**

**1. Near North DSB Correspondence:**

Steve Pladzyk stated the letter to lobby for a northern Ontario representative to site at the MACSE table would be drafted in consultation with the Director, and forwarded to members to review.

*Action: Steve to email members.*

## 2. **Special Education Audit Report**

The Response to Recommendations from the Special Education Audit Report was emailed to members, and were encouraged to review the report, email any questions or comments for the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Action: members to review the Response to Recommendations and email Steve and Dianne any questions or comments.*

### **Correspondence:**

**Bluewater District School Board** – letter received to acknowledge support to Limestone DSB's SEAC regarding concerns to the Honorable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, in the reduction in the Special Education Funding under the new funding allocation model for the Special Education Needs Amount (formerly High Needs Amount).

Correspondence duly noted as received and filed.

### **New Business:**

1. **Steve Pladzyk**, reported that Sean Robertson has replaced Jody Pecore as SERT for the Central Region.

### **Special Education Team Updates deferred to the March 8, 2017 meeting**

#### **Future Agenda Items**

**Steve Pladzyk** stated the Board received an invitation from the Ministry to attend the session that is being held in Sudbury on February 27 to review the alternate K-12 framework document. Members interested in attending the session were encouraged to email Steve and Dianne.

*Action: email members the Ministry memo and members are to email Steve and Dianne if interested in attending.*

### **Adjournment:**

**MOVED** by Gary Dowe

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 1:24pm

Christine Heavens is unable to Chair the next meeting, therefore Kathy Farrell will act as Vice Chair.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 8, 2017 – 12:00 noon, Schumacher Board Office.**

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

### **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

- April 5, 2017
- May 3, 2017
- June 7, 2017

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
Christine Heavens, **Chair**  
Special Education Advisory Committee