

**SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Special Education Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, October 24, 2006 @ 6:30 p.m.

Face to Face
Lake Superior HS Library (Terrace Bay)

Electronic
Videoconference
Teleconference

MINUTES

Voting Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Souckey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathie Notwell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stanley Voogt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darlene Keenan	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Audia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Mannisto	

Resource Members		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colleen Kappel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Patterson	
<input type="checkbox"/> John Robart	<input type="checkbox"/> Patti Pella	

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

The meeting commenced with introductions of all of our members with a special welcome to Janet Reynolds (new member), and Jessica Audia who was joining Stanley Voogt (Superior-Greenstone Association for Community Living).

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Moved By: Stanley Voogt **Seconded By:** Darlene Keenan
That, the SEAC Minutes of May 30, 2006 be approved as presented.

3.0 Additions to the Agenda

Correspondence – Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Colleen shared this correspondence with the SEAC membership and it was distributed through e-mail on October 25th by Corinne Hooper.

[Assessment Capacity Building Plan – see attached.](#) Our board received \$25,000 and we will be putting in an application. We have normally used an outside agency –Pryor, Linder and Associates. We will investigate options.

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 George O'Neill Retrofit Update:
Colleen was able to provide the group with a brief up-date that the project is progressing and that if there are further details we will invite Wayne Chiupka (Manager of Plant Services/Transportation Manager) to the next meeting.

4.2 EA Staffing Update:
Heidi shared with the group that we have seen a reduction in Educational Assistants this year due to budget constraints. She also indicated that there were some issues that needed to be resolved with INAC funding for our Native students. Due to these issues a final tally of EAs for this year will be shared at the next meeting. Stan asked a question about our process for supporting students. We put in place the supports that a student needs as they emerge. In some cases assessment wait times can be over a year and we can't wait to put supports in place.

4.3 Funding Information – Draft a letter to Minister of Education:
Heidi read a letter from the group that was written by Ruth Tisdale, SEAC Chair, Thames Valley District School Board – [see attached](#). There was discussion. Colleen noted that we are in a difficult position and that the Funding Model has been changed to reflect a per pupil amount. Mark shared that it was the opinion of the Ministry that until reserves are used up they have indicated not to be asking for additional supports. Mark is a member of OPSBA (Ontario Public School Board Association). Darlene did indicate that the message is not for all reserves to be depleted, but just some of the envelopes. It was decided that a letter would be drafted and sent out to the members so that Mark can take this to the OPSBA meeting on November 23rd and 24th.

5.0 Correspondence

5.1 VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
This letter nominated Leslie Souckey to represent VOICES on SEAC.

5.2 Special Education Transformation Initiatives
We also received a letter of Intent from Janet Reynolds to support her membership for SEAC.

6.0 New Business

6.1 New Membership – Heidi talked about our continued search for new membership for the committee. Colleen suggested an information piece that could be shared with the schools for additional information.

6.2 Role of SEAC – Heidi discussed this briefly.

6.3 Stanley Voogt – Superior-Greenstone Association for Community Living(SGACL):
Stan did a presentation about the services provided. He is the Director of Services for SGACL. He has been actively involved with SGACL for the past 4 years and employed with them for the past 1 ½ years. His presentation included the following points:

- 2.6 Million dollar budget
- Serve a catchment of 82,000 km
- SGACL offers 9 different programs
- 80 staff members
- Services 120 clients (youth and adults)
- Support can only be provided for clients who have an IQ lower than 70. These individuals can be extremely low functioning; non-verbal; limited mobility; and might require 24 hour staffing; but may be supported through independent learning
- Their respite program is their only program that supports school age children.
- In Geraldton there are 7 group homes (maximum 4 clients). These may be staffed for 24 hours/ and they may have to be double staffed depending on the needs of the clients
- Over 50% of the clients are Native and 40% are Francophone
- There is a group home in Nipigon (7 clients)

- Vocational - Day Program
- They are going to start to take Alzheimer patients
- 4 respite programs
- Community Outreach program
- Summer Camp
- Case Management Program

Challenges – They are in a deficit of \$250,000. The Ministry funds the program on an annual basis and many of the programs need to be re-applied for specific clients.

They are looking at setting up a group home on the highway 17 corridor. Stan stated that it is important for SGACL to have a vision and believe in what you are doing to improve the quality of life for the clients. His motivation is “purely” to provide a better quality of life for his clients.

Jessica commented that she visits with families who are using the respite program. They make application depending on need and the resources. The Host families are located by the parents. SGACL will do some initial investigation to see who is available.

Janet commented how crucial that SGACL is in a remote community; funding access; searching out a respite family. She has been able to find support for her son. Camp: She acknowledged that her son had a wonderful time at Camp Auger.

Cathy asked if they provide services for fee for service – They are going to be looking in to this option.

His home base is Nipigon in an effort in developing the North shore. He provided an example of an older family in Marathon who has three children and the Mom is dieing of Cancer. They are able to provide supports for this family.

7.0 Information Items

8.0 Agenda Items: Next Meeting Date/Time/Venue

The next two meetings were set for November 21st and December 19th. Heidi explained that a request for agenda items will be sent out on or before December 9th. Please note that Corinne Hooper will be helping this year with SEAC. chooper@sgdsb.on.ca

8.0 Adjournment

Moved By: Mark Mannisto **Seconded By:** Darlene Keenan
That, the SEAC Meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

3.0 Assessment Capacity Building Plan
Double-click on icon to open file



Assessment Capacity
Building Plan

4.3 Thames Valley District School Board



Thames Valley DSB