

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

Thursday, November 5, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.

Video/Teleconference:
Lake Superior High School
Geraldton Composite High School
Manitouwadge High School
Nipigon-Red Rock District High School
Board Office, Marathon

INFORMATIONAL MINUTES

<u>Voting Members</u>	<i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>										
	OS	TC	VC	A	R		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Audia, Jessica					X	Notwell, Kathie		X			
Brown, Cindy	X					Nelson, Theresa		X			
Dupere, Cheryl				X		Tyance, Shirley				X	
Keenan, Darlene		X									

<u>Resource Members</u>	<i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Pella, Patti: <i>Director of Education</i>					X
Newton, Valerie: <i>Superintendent of Student Success</i>	X				
Hamill, Sherry: <i>Special Education Board Lead</i>		X			
Parsons, Don: <i>Student Support Leader</i>		X			

1.0 Call to Order

Due to the absence of a SEAC Chair, Trustee Cindy Brown, served as chair. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. and roll call taken by Trustee Cindy Brown.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

As quorum had not been reached the minutes of May 14, 2009 could not be approved. This item has been deferred to the December meeting.

Due to lack of quorum this meeting is for informational purposes only.

3.0 Additions to the Agenda

3.1 No additions

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 No new business.

5.0 Correspondence

5.1 Leslie Souckey

Val Newton presented a letter from Leslie who has tendered her resignation as SEAC chair and as a member of the SEAC Committee, with regrets.

5.2 Rainy River District School Board

Val Newton presented a letter from the RRDSB to the Minister of Education responding in support to the points raised in a letter written by the Durham District School Board SEAC to John Wilhelm, Vice Chair of the Ministry's Advisory Council on Special Education.

5.3 Durham District School Board

Val Newton presented a letter from the DDSB SEAC written to John Wilhelm, Vice Chair of the Ministry's Advisory Council on Special Education, which addressed three points of concern:

- a) Funding for Psychological/Speech and Language Assessments: The Ontario Psychological Association Assessment Funding Project (OPA) ends in 2009/2010. It is anticipated that wait times, which are already lengthy, for assessment will increase significantly with the withdrawal of this funding.
- b) Bill 29 – Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act (Harassment and Violence), 2007
- c) Proposed Standards for Accessible Information and Communication

A decision upon writing a letter of support to the Ministry based on the Durham District School Board's SEAC letter is being deferred to the next meeting in order to gain additional information for the impact on the schools and students within our board, as well as to ensure we have quorum. Sherry Hamill will poll our schools individually to determine wait times for assessments.

Meanwhile, assessment funding was discussed. A question surrounding ISA funding was answered that this funding was discontinued four to five years ago. Current funding in place is:

SEPPA (Special Education per Pupil Amount) is allocated to boards on the basis of total enrolment. SEPPA recognizes the cost of providing additional assistance to the majority of students with special education needs.

Although not discussed at the meeting, for general information the SEPPA amounts for 2009-10 are:

- \$755.47 per student in JK to Grade 3
- \$581.57 per student in Grade 4 to 8
- \$383.80 per student in Grade 9 to 12

The High Needs Amount addresses the cost of providing the intensive staff support required by the small number of pupils with very high needs.

The Special Equipment Amount covers the cost of an individual student's equipment needs in excess of \$800 in the year of purchase. Eligibility criteria are outlined in the Special Education Funding Guidelines: Special Equipment Amount (SEA), 2009-10.

The Special Incidence Portion (SIP) supports pupils with exceptionally high needs who require more than two full-time staff to address health and safety needs. Eligibility criteria for SIP are outlined in the document entitled Special Education Funding Guidelines: Special Incidence Portion (SIP), 2009-10. We do not have any such students in the Board.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Accessible Schools Leading the Way

In 2005 the Accessibility Act was passed. Its main purpose was to ensure accessibility to all people in both the private and public sector.

The next steps are to comply with Customer Service Standards. The government is starting with District School Boards first. The implementation process will be lengthy, with final implementation being scheduled for 2025; however, boards must be able to show that they are working towards concrete accessibilities by January 2010.

Areas to be examined include, but are not limited to:

- Drafting policies and procedures
- Staff training (A training package, which is being made available on-line. Val will check to see if it is available yet, and if so, email the link to SEAC members)
- Stakeholder feedback, regarding what is working within the board and what is not
- Our facilities
- Our approaches and attitudes

Additional information regarding Customer Service Standards may be found on the OPSBA website at:

http://www.opsba.org/index.php?q=advocacy_and_action/accessible_schools_customer_service_guide

6.2 Dr. Ross Greene One-Day Workshop and Model on Collaborative Problem Solving

Don Parsons reviewed the upcoming one-day workshop with Dr. Greene on November 13, 2009, which focuses on collaborative supports for the social/behavioural needs of students. He will appear live at Nipigon-Red Rock District High School, with videoconference connections at Geraldton Composite High School, Lake Superior High School, Manitowadge High School and Marathon High School. To date, 265 people have registered for the workshop.

Dr. Greene has agreed to be videotaped at the NRHS site so a copy may be retained by the board only (one copy). For members unable to attend the workshop the board resource members are confident that they will be permitted to view the videotape once it is available.

Don reviewed the FCBC Caregiver Handout, and also mentioned the new non-profit website recently launched by Dr. Greene: <http://www.livesinthebalance.org>

6.3 Funding Initiatives and System Update

Sherry Hamill reviewed the current funding initiatives available to the board:

Learning for All K to 12: The Ministry roll-out of this document will occur the week of November 9, 2009, which builds on the current document Education for All. The board has been allocated \$10,000 for use in this area.

Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA): The board has received two "pots" of initiative funds. The first amount is \$4,491 which has been allocated to training (release time) for teachers to work with experts from Child Care Resources. Four schools are participating: B.A. Parker Public School, George O'Neill Public School, Manitowadge Public School and Margaret Twomey Public School. Question from Cindy Brown: Are parents called in and included in these sessions? Answer: Yes.

The next "pot" of money under this area, with some carry over from last year, is approximately \$41,000 which will focus on developing expertise and developing appropriate programs within the board.

Sherry gave an overview of other initiatives, although no dollar amounts are attached, that may have impact on the board:

**Phase III of the IEP Review
Assessing Student Achievement of Students in Alternative Programs (for High Needs Students)**

6.4 New Members for SEAC

We need new members for the committee. Therefore, members are asked to spread the word where they can. Val will also speak to Patti regarding newspaper advertisements. Other types of advertising included school newsletters, the board web site, and a 'mailing invitation' to agencies. This item will be discussed further at the next SEAC meeting.

7.0 Information Items

7.1 2009/2010 SEAC Contact List

This item was brought forward for information. If you require any changes to be made to your contact information, please email Corinne (chooper@sgdsb.on.ca) with the required changes.

8.0 Next Meeting Date/Time

Thursday, December 10, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.