



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Special Education Advisory Committee

January 14, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

Videoconference Sites:

Board Office, Marathon | Geraldton Composite High School, Geraldton | SGDSB Learning Centre, Red Rock
Lake Superior High School, Terrace Bay | Manitowadge High School, Manitowadge

Call-In Information:

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Toll number: +1 (807) 701-5980, 772044682# (Dial-in Number) English (United States)

-or-

Join by phone via toll number: +1 (807) 701-5980, (Dial-in Number), Conference ID 772044682

Agenda

Voting Members (4/7)	OS	TC	VC	A	R
MCINTYRE, Margaret: <i>Trustee (Chair)</i>	X				
MANNISTO, Mark: <i>Trustee</i>		X			
CORMIER, Paul: <i>First Nation Trustee</i>	X				
NELSON, Theresa: <i>Greenstone Social Services</i>					X
BEAULIEU, Nicole: <i>North of Superior Counseling Programs (NOSP)</i>		X			
BRAKE-WELDON, Brandy: <i>Dilico</i>		X			
AUDIA, Jessica: <i>Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living</i>				X	
DAVIES, Candace: <i>North of Superior Programs (NOSP-Alternate)</i>			X		
GROENEVELD, Sharon: <i>Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living (Alternate)</i>				X	
MARCHAND, Dawn: <i>Dilico (Alternate)</i>					
NESBITT, Jason: <i>Trustee (Alternate)</i>					
MAJOR, Christine: <i>Trustee (Alternate)</i>					
PELLETIER, Allison: <i>Trustee (Alternate)</i>					
GAGNON, Carmen: <i>Municipality of Greenstone - Community Services (Alternate for T. Nelson)</i>		X			
ZAPPITELLI, Sheila (<i>Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living-Alternate</i>)		X			

Resource Members	OS	TC	VC	A	R
McRAE, Pinky: <i>Board Chair (Ex-Officio)</i>					X
MORDEN-CORMIER, Nicole: <i>Director of Education</i>	X				
GOODMAN, Will: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	X				
RATHWELL, Stephanie: <i>Student Trustee</i>				X	
SCHWANTZ, Sydney: <i>Student Trustee</i>				X	
RENAUD, Deana: <i>Mental Health Manager</i>	X				
BIANCO, Melissa: <i>Positive Behaviour Support Consultant</i>	X				
GYORI, Amanda: <i>Vice-Principal Dorion Public School</i>					X
CURTIS, Sara: <i>Principal Terrace Bay and Schreiber Public School</i>			X		
NICOL VELLA, Janice: <i>Secretary</i>		X			

Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)

1.0	Call to Order:	at 3:01 by Nicole Morden Cormier
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		N. Morden Cormier assumed the role of Chair until nominations for Chair and Vice Chair occur. She welcomed Dr. Paul Cormier and Sheila Zappitelli to SEAC.
2.0	Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2019:	
	Motion to approve minutes made by: Candace Davies	
	Seconded by: Margaret McIntyre	
3.0	Additions to the Agenda:	
	None	
4.0	Business Arising from Minutes:	
	4.1 SEAC Chair Survey Letter – Questions/Issues	Will Goodman
	<p>Will Goodman provided a summary of the survey received in November, allowing our group to review the survey and bring back any questions. The survey is open until the end of January, 2020.</p> <p>M. McIntyre advised that the survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete and it covers a lot of ground and felt that SGDSB has things covered.</p> <p>N. Morden Cormier reminded members to reach out for help to complete the survey.</p>	
5.0	Agenda Items:	Host
	5.1 Chair and Vice-Chair Elections	Will Goodman
	<p>N. Morden Cormier recognized and acknowledged the busy schedules of our members and provided a brief synopsis of the role of Chair and Vice-Chair before M. McIntyre encouraged others to take the role of chair for the experience.</p> <p>A question was asked about whether the chair must come from voting members and it was confirmed that yes, they must. Without further questions, N. Morden Cormier then called for nominations.</p> <p>First call for nominations of Chair: M. McIntyre nominated J. Audia, who was absent from this meeting and unable to accept.</p> <p>Second call for nominations of Chair: M. Mannisto nominated M. McIntyre, who accepted.</p> <p>Third call for nominations of Chair: Hearing none, N. Morden Cormier congratulated M. McIntyre.</p> <p>First call for nominations of Vice-Chair: M. McIntyre nominated M. Mannisto, who accepted.</p> <p>Second call for nominations of Vice-Chair: Nil</p> <p>Third call for nominations of Vice-Chair: Hearing none, N. Morden Cormier welcomed M. Mannisto into the role as Vice-Chair.</p>	
	5.2 Positive Behaviour Support – After School Program	Melissa Bianco
	<p>M. Bianco provided an update on the five after school programs being run by SGDSB until the end of June in Nipigon, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon and Manitouwadge. She noted that no applications to run the program in the Greenstone area were received. The program has changed this year and requires that the program expands to reach all children with ASD and provide focused, individual targeted skill development.</p> <p>The characteristics and foundation of the Elementary program includes parent/guardian involvement with a facilitator, setting individual goals, using naturalistic ABA strategies and teach in multiple settings (into the community and not just the schools) which has been well received. They continue to work with co-regulation strategies and do presentation and workshops in the district. Secondary students who may need community hours are looking to be engaged. Facilitators will present later, with 15 families registered/engaged and they hope to hire in Greenstone area.</p> <p>They will be assessing a program for secondary and may offer it later this year or in September.</p> <p>M. McIntyre asked for confirmation on the number of programs running this year and where the shortage was. M. Bianco confirmed there are 5 programs running, with the shortage in Greenstone. M. Mannisto asked about the qualifications/reason for receiving no applications, and M. Bianco advised that while they tried outreach with no applications and that the qualifications require some ABA/Child/Youth qualifications. N. Morden Cormier added that the hours may be a hang-up as they are</p>	

	1 hr/week and 1 hr/planning and revisions. W. Goodman noted that it is challenging to hire for all casual work in the area and that recruitment strategies are being looked at. S. Zappitelli added that they struggle to recruit in the area and recommended 'More Than Words' (employment agency in Greenstone).	
5.3	Self-Regulation	Hillary Freeburn
	<p>H. Freeburn provided a general overview of key conversations with Secretaries as they can help up/down regulate. Stuart Shankar's book <i>Self-Reg</i> explains the science and how well we manage self-regulation, what happens with our brains when in a stress state (energy which should be used for other activities) and how to come into a place of calm.</p> <p>SGDSB hosted a virtual study of Shankar's book, with 25 families interested and 10 continuing with in person sessions and plans to continue/expand in January. Communication goes out through the SGDSB Facebook page.</p> <p>H. Freeburn's presentation (included with minutes) covered topics such as stress inventory, interlocked stressors, misbehavior/stress behaviour, parental stress (to enable us to handle kids in a stressed state better), the domains of self-reg, stress-cycles, growth mindset and self-regulation) with a final reflection on 'what brings you calm?' and 'how do you remain calm so you can lend your calm?'</p> <p>P. Cormier asked if Shankar's approach addresses pressure for performance (e.g. EQAO, preparation and the compounding effects)? H. Freeburn indicated that the solutions for difficulties/brain stress are grounded in relationships, with our small schools being great places for having conversations, social interactions and making personal connections and that Shankar's ideas are helping us understand how we can support students with different stressors and in all schools.</p> <p>It was requested by B. Brake Weldon to have Shankar's website included in the minutes: https://self-reg.ca/</p> <p>And, final comments from M. McIntyre appreciating the idea to help secretaries (who help kids).</p>	
5.4	Developmental Trauma	Deana Renaud
	<p>D. Renaud provided insight into the development of the specific areas of the brain and the effects of constant stress on that development, where repeated exposure means toxic stress, leading to trauma, then profound changes in the brain/body and eventually chronic health conditions which is a significant health issue with impacts on education (where kids cannot engage in thinking).</p> <p>She stressed appropriate interventions at the right time, and that consistent, caring relationships with a caring adult is beneficial; any teacher can be that! Also important is sleep, nutrition and exercise (our lunch, and breakfast programs for example help with this), and other board programs get kids involved. Mindfulness, and our relationships with community organizations (NOSP, Dilico, for example) are key.</p> <p>M. McIntyre commented that this is very interesting work, and P. Cormier noted that it may be beneficial to have this talk with the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC). N. Morden Cormier will follow up with N. O'Donnell (SGDSB Indigenous Education Lead) for D. Renaud to meet with that group. P. Cormier also noted that trauma transfers generationally (i.e. effects of residential schools) and that we need to be cognizant of different effects on different kids.</p>	
5.5	Multi-Disciplinary Team Update	Sara Curtis
	<p>S. Curtis updated the committee on the ongoing work from September, where they have received positive feedback for the 'The Doctor Is In' sessions and that multidisciplinary team members are in schools and on school teams to support the students as best they can.</p> <p>M. McIntyre asked if the teams were still meeting monthly, S. Curtis advised that they hope this can continue but may not due to ongoing labour disruptions though the Hot Topic sessions are scheduled to June, and they hope to resume.</p>	
6.0	Correspondence:	Host
	None	

7.0	New Business:	Host
	None	
8.0	Information Items:	Host
	None	
9.0	Agenda Items: Next meeting Date/Time/Venue:	February 11, 2020 at 3 pm
	Please forward any agenda items to Janice Nicol Vella.	
10.0	Adjournment:	4:20 p.m.
	Motion to adjourn made by M. Mannisto	
	Motion to adjourn seconded by S. Zappitelli	