



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

May 5, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

Videoconference Sites:

Videoconference sites are unavailable due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting Ministry mandated school closures

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Agenda

Voting Members (4/7)	OS	TC	VC	A	R
MCINTYRE, Margaret: <i>Trustee (Chair)</i>			X		
MANNISTO, Mark: <i>Trustee (Vice-Chair)</i>			X		
CORMIER, Paul: <i>First Nation Trustee</i>					X
GAGNON, Carmen: <i>Municipality of Greenstone – Community Services (Alternate)</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		
MARCHAND, Dawn: <i>Dilico (Alternate)</i>				X	
GROENEVELD, Sharon: <i>Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living (Alternate)</i>				X	
ZAPPITELLI, Sheila: <i>Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living (Alternate)</i>		X			
NESBITT, Jason: <i>Trustee (Alternate)</i>				X	
MAJOR, Christine: <i>Trustee (Alternate)</i>				X	
PELLETIER, Allison: <i>Trustee (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		
CURTIS, Sara: <i>Principal Terrace Bay and Schreiber Public School</i>			X		
NICOL VELLA, Janice: <i>Secretary</i>			X		
BREWSTER, Annick: <i>Observing</i>			X		

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

1.0	Call to Order:	at 3:15 by Vice-Chair, Mark Mannisto
2.0	Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2020:	
	Motion to approve minutes made by: Margaret McIntyre	
	Seconded by: Jessica Audia	
3.0	Additions to the Agenda:	

	None	
4.0	Business Arising from Minutes:	
	None	
5.0	Agenda Items:	Host
5.1	SGDSB Spec Ed Data	Will Goodman
	<p>The spec ed information presented previously indicated provincial numbers, SGDSB's numbers in comparison reflect our small, norther, rural communities where many needs are double that of the province. W. Goodman provided insight into reasons for this with these highlights:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IPRC's (formal process of exceptionality diagnosis): 59% of SGDSB's exceptionalities have gone through this process; where SGDSB balances student needs and in the middle when looking at the number of IPRC's that are done (some boards don't do any, whereas others are 100%). 2. Changes between elementary and secondary: secondary students come to us from a variety of streams (other regions, boards, rural schools), we are trying to understanding these numbers more and adjust (re: staffing) 3. Trends: In the past, 50-60% of students had learning disabilities and this number has decreased as the board understands and has provided supports to enable students to learn differently. By meeting needs in the classroom, and not doing IPRC's means something positive to look at over time. <p>M.McIntyre asked how far in past were our numbers higher, and what is the success attributed to? W. Goodman indicated that our numbers were higher in the last 2 years, trending down and that there is a combination for our success: 'knowing the learner' with the multi-disciplinary team and a module from York Regional Waterfall Document has helped with capacity building, along with assistive technology improvements: we have gone from using CD's to read/write technology, available from any computer (more accessible).</p>	
5.2	SGDSB Spec Ed Plan	Will Goodman
	<p>W. Goodman provided an update on the boards spec ed plan, advising that feedback has been received from IEAC and schools, and the information is being put together for review by SEAC. We expect that is can be reviewed at the June 9th SEAC meeting, then sent for board approval on June 22nd. And, while the ministry has said timelines are flexible due to Covid-19, SGDSB's plan has minimal revisions and we should be on track to deliver this by the July 19th ministry deadline.</p> <p>M. McIntyre asked if changes can be highlighted in the document for easier review, and when SEAC could expect to receive a copy to review, with W. Goodman indicating that revisions will reflect changes with strike-out/new wording high-lighted and that the committee should expect the plan no later than Monday.</p>	
5.3	SGDSB Continuity of Learning Plan	Will Goodman
	<p>SGDSB created the continuity of learning plan to return to learning after a few weeks closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was created with input and feedback from all staff, with a team to gather and capture the voices based on the connections and relationships with families and students. The approach was that this is not 'business as usual', where the goal was to be respectful, to not increase stress and to decide how little or how much to engage students/families. The board chose a distance learning-type approach, where other models used did not seem appropriate (e.g. e-learning); distance-learning definition seemed distinguishable and different from other models and was the best match.</p> <p>Laptops, internet hotspots (cell phones with only internet) were distributed in a phased approach to create access for students, and the Director of Education has worked on agreements with companies to get our students 'connected'. So far, 400 devices have been distributed and this work continues. SGDSB's approach to learning has been what's best for students and ensuring their needs are met first, is not curriculum based and where normalcy, routine and safety factors are considered.</p> <p>With regards to spec ed, the ministry is giving support and next steps will be outlined in the MDT update. Otherwise, it has been an 'all hands on deck' approach, with our EA's connecting almost daily with students (reading to non-verbal students for example); SEA funds to purchase laptops, chairs, bikes etc for use at home are still arriving and the equipment going to families that need it. IEP's are being updated and worked on, even in this difficult environment, with adjustments and modifications being made as we see fit. IPRC's/Transitions are being done in the spring with chances to review</p>	

	<p>continuing, with questions such as 'are we in the right program', 'what needs to change' being asked even though our connections are different now (virtual, phone, etc) and challenging. Transitions plans are still being revamped with considerations if school does not start again until September. Where students would normally meet teachers in person, other methods are being looked at to reduce anxiety in the next stage of these students' education and that we are all learning in a different way.</p> <p>M. McIntyre acknowledged the impressive work that our team is doing, 'leaving no stone unturned'. W. Goodman replied that our work has been purposeful in our staffing to support students, with N. Morden Cormier adding that we continue to reach families and we are being responsive to their needs. We are using our shared resources and managing our relationships to keep a constant flow of information and allow us to refine and revisit our plan to see that we are reaching everyone.</p>		
	5.4	Multi-Disciplinary Team Update	Sara Curtis
	<p>S. Curtis updated the committee on the MDT structure through a PowerPoint presentation, noting that more defined portfolios would be provided at a later time. Regarding the impact of Covid-19 on SEA, school access allowed SET's to gather essential items for student needs and many deadlines have been adjusted to September due to school closures. M. Bianco continues to work with facilitators around ASD for programming.</p> <p>While there were no questions, M. Mannisto acknowledged that the work we hear of here is the 'tip of the iceberg' and the work being done for the kids is appreciated.</p>		
6.0	Correspondence:		Host
	6.1	Avon Maitland District School Board	Will Goodman
	<p>W. Goodman advised that SGDSB has met the requirements and has received funds for the programs AMDSB is questioning whereas other boards are seeking permission to run programs during the school day. W. Goodman advises that the ministry direction on this funding is clear (not for use during school day), and that SGDSB would not be in favour of the proposed changes as our program is working well as we have received funding from the start.</p> <p>M. McIntyre agreed that we are lucky to have what we have and asked how long our program expects to be funded for? W. Goodman advised that our first payment was for multiple years and that we may have funding for the next couple of years (though usually TPA's run year to year) and that by receiving multiple years' funding we can plan better.</p>		
	6.2	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	Will Goodman
	<p>This correspondence was part of a multi-tiered response to class size etc and related to negotiations. Now with tentative agreements in place, we look to support the agreements once they are ratified.</p>		
7.0	New Business:		Host
	None		
8.0	Information Items:		Host
	None		
9.0	Agenda Items: Next meeting Date/Time/Venue:		June 9, 2020 at 3 pm
	Please forward any agenda items to Janice Nicol Vella.		
	<p>N. Morden Cormier expressed thanks to everyone on the call today for the truly extraordinary effort to make today's meeting work...the voices are important, and SGDSB sends its gratitude for the precious time that has been given to us.</p>		
10.0	Adjournment:	4:06 p.m.	
	Motion to adjourn made by Jessica Audia		
	Motion to adjourn seconded by Brandy Brake Weldon		