



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

December 8, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

Videoconference Sites:

Due to Covid-19, SGDSB will conduct their SEAC meetings virtually until further notice. Videoconference sites will be unavailable. Please contact the board office to receive the electronic invitation/link to the meeting.

Connect via Microsoft Teams:

Join on your computer or mobile app: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
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 Phone Conference ID: 935 705 804#
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Minutes

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		
MOORE, Jennifer <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> <i>Left meeting at 3:20</i>			X		
GOODMAN, Will: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>			X		
COUTURE, Erin: <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		
BREWSTER, Annick: <i>Principal, SGDSB Virtual Secondary School & Continuing Education</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 3:07 by Chair, M. McIntyre
2.0	Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2020:	
		Motion to approve minutes made by Paul Cormier.
		Seconded by Erin Couture.

3.0	Additions to the Agenda:	
	None	
4.0	Business Arising from Minutes:	
	None	
5.0	Agenda Items:	Host
	5.1 Northern Collaborative Advisory Committee	Melissa Bianco
	<p>In response to governments changes to autism program with special attention to remote and rural communities. Funding of \$820 000, \$150 000 for each district and funding for regional opportunities. M. Bianco and Adrianna Atkins represent SGDSB. In 2021 goas will be released. Goals are: access, Regional opportunities, sub-group committees (led by AFN) 2. Increased opportunities to offer curriculum to train/retrain professionals and attract new professionals 3. Access to service providers for families. 4. Pre-post diagnosis support. 5. With regional and provincial providers to support 12-18 yr old youth to access specialty clinics. 6. Increase of trained professionals in the region.</p> <p>Helps to support our students and families. This is in response to changes the government made to the autism programming. Any questions can be directed to Melissa Bianco.</p> <p>Questions/comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M. McIntyre asked about indigenous community representation and if there will be some? Yes, led by AAFN representation will have a pilot from a community. 2. M. McIntyre asked about Pre-post assistance plan? Confusion from parents on options and services once there is a diagnosis. A case manager can help guide families to ensure support. 3. Excellent idea to provide help and assistance for parents. 4. P. Cormier added we may have different circumstances than NAN (which represent fly-in reserves etc), whereas we have road access. NAN has unique situations, is the group compensating for those that have different situations. How many students are affected: 1/3 of students of first nation students are on spectrum. Parents were vocal to express the needs of our district, and we continue to advocate – M. Bianco indicated that she would like to take this information & concern back to the committee. 	
	5.2 Spec ed document review process and the 'Parents' Guide to Special Education'	Annick Brewster
	<p>Please review the documentation and provide feedback to Annick. Goal: provide on website, up-to-date, and meet accessibility components (e.g. pamphlet form, need pdf, viewable online, but printable).</p> <p>M. McIntyre acknowledged that the documents have changed, they are visually easier to navigate (cleaner) and asked how often should they be reviewed/updated? W. Goodman indicated that this should be done at least every two years unless there are substantial changes legislatively.</p> <p>P. Cormier noted that within the process of engagement, is this document provided to parents? Or, it is just on the web, that some could struggle with the content? W. Goodman indicated of that these documents are a component of the yearly spec ed plan and suggested that we can get tangled in the language/too wordy sometimes and we should look at how to make it user-friendly, reduce legal language.</p> <p>S. Curtis gave an indication of how the document is used: primarily used to support conversations where staff can highlight the info/key words or important information that can then be taken away. P. Cormier indicated that the process can be daunting, so using these as guides are helpful.</p> <p>M. McIntyre noted that while reading one of the first pamphlets, it's a lot of information in a small package, and the larger package is more daunting; difficult to cut out some information though. Good to hear that some information is highlighted for parents.</p>	
	5.3 MILO	Melissa Bianco
	<p>MILO is currently being used at Marjorie Mills PS and being used with a student being used on the spectrum. They trained the staff member and have been using it for a few weeks with the students. The</p>	

	<p>spec ed teacher noted that the student is engaging with MILO which couldn't be done with staff. They are formulating plans and monitoring goals and engaging in further training with robokind for online programming and using avatars so that if we have to 'pivot' the student can still get online with MILO.</p> <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <p>M. McIntyre asked if we can anticipate other MILO's to be used within the board? M. Bianco and W. Goodman both noted that we need to do some measuring before we decide as MILO is a significant cost, and while it's difficult to move between schools, the benefits are being seen in the early stages of data collection.</p>	
5.4	Multi-Disciplinary Team Update	Sara Curtis
	<p>Our last few SEAC meetings have brought a lot of updates: we are continuing the work that has previously been presented, with a focus shift to support spec ed teachers in being prepared to pivot. A lot of work from the MDT to focus learning sessions with the SET's, and to support students on IEP's.</p> <p>M. McIntyre thanked Sara for her presentation, acknowledging the organization and thoroughness of the MDT updates.</p>	
6.0	Correspondence:	Host
	None	
7.0	New Business:	Host
	None	
8.0	Information Items:	Host
	<p>P. Cormier noted that as the OPSBA (Ontario Public School Board Association) rep for the board and would like to strengthen the connection with OPSBA and our board. Can bring issues and the challenges are good to know about.</p> <p>M. McIntyre asked Paul to provide a brief outline and what they do. P. Cormier, summarized with saying that OPSBA advocates for all boards provincially and works closely at the ministerial level with a northern board and southern board to recognize unique challenges of the north. OPSBA can bring issues that need political pressure to and, look to address on a larger degree. Both P. Cormier and N. Morden-Cormier are part of this, and they can discuss with trustees the communication flow and how to best to get information forwarded while respecting lines of communication. Paul is accessible, please keep this link in mind and connect via email.</p>	
9.0	Agenda Items: Next meeting Date/Time/Venue:	January 12, 2021 at 3 pm – Virtual Meeting
	Please forward any agenda items to Janice Nicol Vella asap by Monday, January 4, 2021 at 9 am.	
	M. McIntyre also thanked J Nicol Vella for her work supporting SEAC and for her diligence in keeping everything organized.	
10.0	Adjournment:	3:40 p.m.
	Motion to adjourn made by Paul Cormier.	
	Motion to adjourn seconded by Candace Davies.	