



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Special Education Advisory Committee

January 12, 2021 @ 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:

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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>			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 3:08 by Vice-Chair, M. Mannisto (M.McIntyre computer having sound issues)
2.0	Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2020:	
		Motion to approve minutes made by P.Cormier

	Seconded by S.Zappitelli	
3.0	Additions to the Agenda:	
	None	
4.0	Business Arising from Minutes:	
	4.1 Spec ed document review: The Parents' Guide to Special Education	Annick Brewster
	<p>The document has been revised based on feedback, and into a document format until it is online. The info was pulled from pamphlet style and placed onto two pages to provide an overview of the IPRC/review process along with the appeal process.</p> <p>M.Mannisto noted that the format is easy to follow with flow-chart type, should be easier to follow for those using it.</p> <p>P.Cormier added that he would read in more detail and provide comments in next few days to Annick W.Goodman: this type of format is compliant with AODA in being accessible to everyone and that it can be viewed on multiple devices. It also includes our branding.</p>	
5.0	Agenda Items:	Host
	5.1 Return to school update	Annick Brewster
	<p>We pivoted on January 4 to remote learning, and provided 12 students with face-to-face learning, with some attending all week and being welcomed by the spec ed teachers and EA's. The continued learning path made this successful.</p> <p>W.Goodman added that the students who attended would otherwise not have been able to attend, with heavily modified programs.</p> <p>M.Mannisto: where the attendance varied, would this be typical? A.Brewster indicated that is often does vary, and plans were in place to adjust the schedule for family commitments. N.Morden-Cormier indicated that bus transportation was set up to assist, and absences were reasonably explained.</p>	
	5.2 After school programs	Melissa Bianco
	<p>For the 2020-21 school year most of our programs will be offered online, but to all students with ASD. We are partnering with indigenous portfolio, based out of GCHS (percussion & guitar) and will review and hope to continue if funds allow. For children with ASD, 'stronger together' program will be facilitated by a GJCC therapist & M.Bianco. This is very different from our community-based programs due to Covid-19 and we are hoping for a positive outcome for our kids who are on the spectrum.</p> <p>M.McIntyre: impressed with plans, and the positivity is to be applauded and added that she is thrilled that music is returning to the schools.</p> <p>M.Mannisto added that the logistics must be incredible, hats off to the team since this cannot be easy to do when most things are face-to-face; a different challenge. M.Bianco indicated that our pivot is based a lot on feedback from families and children with autism; with mental health being important.</p>	
	5.3 Spec ed document review: Parents' Guide to Special Education Appeals, Support Organizations and Contacts	Annick Brewster
	Pamphlet form, which will be changed to 'portrait' style, and any feedback is appreciated.	
	5.4 Multi-Disciplinary Team Update	W.Goodman for Sara Curtis
	<p>W.Goodman provided a MDT update on behalf of S.Curtis:</p> <p>We have struggled to recruit in some areas, and a lot of our spec ed facilitators needed to be reassigned to the classroom/virtual school. While these were difficult decisions, it was important to have qualified teachers in the classroom.</p> <p>We are excited for Amanda Gyori's return in March 1. We've had our break over the last few weeks, and with remote learning starting off the year, it has been busy, and we expect that this will continue.</p>	

	<p>N.Morden-Cormier added that we held off on reassigning our multi-disciplinary leaders back to the classroom because we know of the valuable work that those individuals are engaged in, and that Will would be providing a fuller report at the next board meeting.</p> <p>M.Mannisto asked if the lack of staff created this trickle-down effect? This was the case as confirmed by W.Goodman and N.Morden-Cormier, and that the staff shortages are more significant now.</p> <p>Others amongst the committee indicated the difficulties around shortages of staff in their organisations.</p> <p>M.McIntyre added ‘thank you’ for what’s being done for the kids.</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 16, 2021 at 3 pm – Virtual Meeting
10.0	Adjournment:	3:30 p.m.
	Motion to adjourn made by M.McIntyre	
	Motion to adjourn seconded by P.Cormier	