



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

June 8, 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.

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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	
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
<i>Member vacancy</i>					
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		
GYORI, Amanda: <i>Vice-Principal, Dorion Public School</i>			X		
NICOL VELLA, Janice: <i>Secretary</i>			X		

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

Land Acknowledgement:	The committee chair offered her thanks through a land acknowledgement
1.0 Call to Order:	at 3:05 p.m. by Chair, M. McIntyre
2.0 Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2021:	

	Motion to approve minutes made by J. Audia	
	Seconded by B. Brake Weldon	
3.0	Additions to the Agenda:	
	None	
4.0	Business Arising from Minutes:	
4.1	Letter of support: Renfrew County Catholic District School Board – Bill 172 / FASD	Will Goodman
	Our letter of support was completed and set out.	
5.0	Agenda Items:	Host
5.1	Supporting Phonemic Awareness in the Early Years	Hillary Freeburn
	<p>H. Freeburn started by explaining that we are deepening our understanding of how to teach kids to read. While we are learning remotely we are committed to teaching reading especially in the early years (Gr. 1-3). She explained why phonemic awareness is important and how face shields and masks are affecting students' ability to fully understand language development (face shields and masks inhibit this), and that we need to find a way to teach phonemic awareness with these restrictions in place. Phonemic awareness comes before phonics and the goal is to bring accessible learning to those who require structured literacy approach to the classroom. Heggerty phonemic awareness was chosen to bring a targeted approach with videos of 8-12 minutes per day, that are being embedded into the teachers' routine. The tool is also accessible to families. An example video was shown of a Heggerty lesson. These tools are in our schools, and the rollout has gone well with parents using them at home; there hasn't been a disruption within the classroom learning. We will be looking at phonics books to line up with Heggerty, jolly phonics and writing and review the impact down the road and we are excited about where this is going.</p> <p>C. Davies noted that she is pleased with how this is being rolled out, a great initiative on how these children are beginning to learn.</p> <p>M. McIntyre asked about statistics to help show the benefits of the program. H. Freeburn talked of diagnostics (5-10 min) in Sept, mid-year, then June and that we currently see growth and areas of need. EDI's (Early Developmental Instrument) will help track these diagnostics and how the program impacts the students. She also mentioned that a student could pick up 'lost' learning because the sessions are not geared or identified by grades and can be used in any stage, even high school since it is foundational to reading and writing.</p> <p>N. Morden Cormier added that we will see a renewed focus on reading and writing with all students, with the desire for the narrative, the numbers, and our readers to be confident.</p>	
5.2	Special Education Funding	Alex Marton
	<p>A. Marton provided the committee with a reflective budget overview, with a focus on the sources of special education funding, noting that there are lot of funding rules. The slides provide an overview of the specific portions to be received for special education next year and he noted that overall, we are anticipating an increase in funding and should be able to deliver a high level of learning to students as in previous years.</p> <p>M. Mannisto asked about an overspending amount, and without the info at hand A. Marton could confirm the amount later.</p> <p>N. Morden Cormier asked W. Goodman to provide an overview of how we have managed to increase funding received for special education. He explained that claims for funding are being completed, giving the example that some situations the requirements for spec ed works out to minutes over the regular work hours to provide health, safety and medical needs to a student (e.g. lunch, recess, with multiple people required to provide support over an entire day). Applications are time consuming to prepare but we started receiving funds a few years ago. The MDT (multi-disciplinary team) has become experts at writing the claims and this ensures funds from other systems are unaffected. He added that the government is looking at changing the application process (should become more efficient), ending that this is a perfect example of where a little funding has allowed us to go a lot further.</p> <p>M. McIntyre thanked everyone for the overview and the information.</p>	
5.3	MILO Update	Melissa Bianco

	<p>L. Koski (spec ed teacher) and B. Vachon (principal) shared their experience implementing MILO at their school (soft-launch of a three-year implementation) and the successes and challenges. L. Koski's presentation provided an overview of how the student became excellent fit and independent with MILO (engaged and required very little prompting). Initially, the EA joined in the session and learning took place. Behavioural/calm-down strategies were utilized in the classroom (student was previously not in a classroom). The EA supported the curriculum and MILO delivered it. The student's social skills have changed (verbal greetings, practiced/learned with MILO). There is an avatar available, improved reporting and provided parent newsletters, along with plenty of other modules and updates for next year. Some data is available from the year.</p> <p>S. Wallwin (guest) asked how other students interacted with MILO, and would it be a goal to bring MILO into a classroom? L. Koski explained there was a small group working with them, with students interested in MILO but MILO was not brought in. M. Bianco noted that it would be interesting to bring MILO in and see the social/emotional learning that could take place with other students.</p> <p>M. McIntyre was impressed to see the progress/promise and hopes for expansion, requesting the same update to be presented to the board of directors.</p>	
5.4	Virtual SEAC Meetings	N. Morden-Cormier
	<p>This committee previously raised the issue of virtual meetings and that they are working well for our community groups (travel, ability to attend) and while we were tasked to write a letter to continue virtual meetings, on May 4, a memo was received providing recommendations for electronic meeting attendance to continue until November 2022. There is a hope for future amendments. With time to advocate there is no need to write a letter right now, but closer to November 2022, this committee we prepare a formal letter. It was requested that our trustees continue with their advocacy for this.</p>	
5.5	Multi-Disciplinary Team Update	Amanda Gyori
	<p>The 'hot topics' session in May was well attended (discussed supporting student advocacy in special education), the final session on June 17 will focus on special education teams in school and their preparation for September. IEP audits were conducted this year, with feedback sessions to be held in the next few weeks. The Monitoring of Student Success series wrapped up with a session focused on the importance of collecting data from a variety of sources and including students and families in this process. The summer learning program will continue to support the needs of our spec ed students, and tiny-eye will continue, learn-style tech camps (assistive technology) and there will be a two-week back to school transition program.</p>	
6.0	Correspondence:	Host
6.1	SASB / Response to our March 18, 2021 letter	Will Goodman
	<p>We received a letter, feedback was appreciated and will be taken into consideration.</p>	
6.2	BHNCDSB Letter of Support for Bill 172	Will Goodman
	<p>It was recommended that the committee will only respond and bring new items to the agenda.</p>	
7.0	New Business:	Host
	<p>Three announcements were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nicole Beaulieu has announced her retirement, and we would like to openly thank her; A. Gyori has been asked to thank her personally for her time and work with our committee. 2. A. Gyori will become the principal of GOPS and leaves the role with the MDT and the SEAC. 3. Thank you to all of committee members, for their commitment to our committee, especially knowing the challenges this year has brought about. We are hoping that everyone has a healthy and safe summer. 	
8.0	Information Items:	Host
	<p>None</p>	
9.0	Agenda Items: Next meeting Date/Time/Venue:	September 21, 2021 at 3 pm
10.0	Adjournment:	4:26 p.m.
	<p>Motion to adjourn made by M. Mannisto</p>	
	<p>Motion to adjourn seconded by C. Davies</p>	