

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

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.

Videoconference Sites:

Board Office, Marathon
Geraldton Composite High School, Geraldton
Lake Superior High School, Terrace Bay
Manitouwadge High School, Manitouwadge
Nipigon-Red Rock District High School, Red Rock

MINUTES

<u>Voting Members</u>	<i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>										
	OS	TC	VC	A	R		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Audia, Jessica				X		Notwell, Kathy (<i>Alternate</i>)		X			
Brown, Cindy (<i>Alternate</i>)	X					Nelson, Theresa					X
Dupere, Cheryl				X		Simmons, Tina		X			
English, Jennifer					X	Souckey, Leslie (<i>Chair</i>)	X				
Keenan, Darlene					X						

<u>Resource Members</u>	<i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>					
		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Pella, Patti: <i>Director of Education</i>					X	
Kappel, Colleen: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>			X			
Newton, Valerie: <i>Student Success Coordinator / Assistant to the Superintendent of Education</i>		X				
Parsons, Don: <i>Student Support Leader</i>			X			

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. and roll call taken by Chair Leslie Souckey.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

✓ ***That, the Minutes of the January 14, 2009 be approved as presented.***

Moved by Trustee Cindy Brown. Seconded by Trustee Kathie Notwell

3.0 Additions to the Agenda

- 3.1 Ontario Education Resource Bank
- 3.2 Quilt of Honour

- V. Newton
- K. Notwell

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

- 4.1 No new business.

5.0 Correspondence

- 5.1 Autism Matters Journal, Fall 2008 Edition

Colleen introduced the above journal, Autism Matters. The journal (formerly The Autism Newslink), is the quarterly magazine of Autism Ontario. Each issue contains articles on ASD research, tips and resources for parents and educators, personal stories and as well as additional information. Past issues of the magazine can be downloaded via Adobe Acrobat on the Autism Ontario website:

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/web/NewsLink>

6.0 New Business

6.1 VOICE Update

Leslie had a short DVD produced by VOICE; however, feels that it will be more beneficial to have a member from VOICE attend the May face-to-face meeting to provide information on the organization.

Anyone wishing to visit the VOICE website may do so at <http://www.voicefordeafkids.com/>. The DVD Leslie referred to may be downloaded on the site at the following link:

<http://www.voicefordeafkids.com/education.asp>

6.2 Student Support Leader

Colleen welcomed and introduced the board's newly hired Student Support Leader, Don Parsons, to the SEAC group.

Among Don's many duties he will be assisting schools to examine gaps in the following areas:

Assistive Technology: How are we using it? Are we using it effectively? What improvements/enhancements can be made?

Individual Education Plans (IEPs): An audit will take place in the Spring to ensure that Board and Ministry criteria and standards are being met. Cindy Brown asked if the audit included surveying parents with any input/concerns they may have. Colleen agreed that requesting parental input is important; however, she would like to survey SEAC first and possibly take it to parents at a later date.

Gaps in Services: Including, but not limited to, ISNC, CAS, Dilico. Don will also be examining what other boards have in place. As well he will concentrate on Mental Health issues, and look at ways to facilitate improved access to all identified service gaps. As part of examining the gaps in service, Don will be soliciting feedback/comments from SEAC.

6.3 January 30th PD Day Follow-Up

A presentation was made at all school sites on the 30th regarding Assistive Technology to determine if it was being used effectively. The technical aspect is not working in some schools and further investigation will be required to determine the problem, and a viable solution.

6.4 Review of Annual Special Education Board Plan

Colleen suggested that the Board Plan be split into two segments and reviewed by the SEAC members at the April and May meetings. The gathered members were in agreement to this suggestion.

6.5 Public Review for the Initial Proposed Employment Accessibility Standard

Colleen wanted all SEAC members to be aware that the public has the opportunity to offer their feedback to the Proposed Employment Accessibility Standard. Feedback is being accepted by the Ministry of Community and Social Services until Friday, May 22, 2009. To access the document and to provide feedback, members may visit:

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/accessibilityOntario>

6.6 Quilt of Honour

Kathie Notwell had the opportunity to see the Quilt at a recent OPSBA event, and to hear Susan Hess, who spearheaded the development of the Quilt speak about her experiences of having a young child with mental illness and the lack of available services and community understanding.

Members may find additional information about the Quilt, and its associated organization, Parent's for Children's Mental Health, at http://www.parentsforchildrensmentalhealth.org/au_about_us.php

6.7 Ontario Educational Resource Bank (OERB)

Val Newton provided an overview of the OERB, which is part of the eLearning Ontario program, and how it can be a valuable resource tool for students and parents. Val indicated that the materials available are very engaging for students and have multiple modalities. She noted that teachers can add to the resource bank. Access to the OERB is available at www.elearningontario.ca. The board username and password is required. Val will have this information sent out to SEAC members via e-mail.

7.0 Information Items

8.0 Next Meeting Date/Time/Venue

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2009 – Teleconference/Videoconference

Future Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2009 – Face-to-Face (Corinne to poll members for location preference – Marathon or Terrace Bay)

9.0 Adjournment

✓ **That**, the SEAC Meeting be adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Cindy Brown. Seconded by Trustee Tina Simmons