

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Special Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 @ 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	Keenan, Darlene					X
Bartlett, Bette <i>(Alternate)</i>				X		Notwell, Kathy <i>(Alternate)</i>			X		
Brown, Cindy				X		Nelson, Theresa					
Dupere, Cheryl		X				Souckey, Leslie <i>(Chair)</i>	X				
English, Jennifer					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			

1.0 Call to Order

- 1.1 SEAC Chair, L. Souckey, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- 1.2 Guest, Kylie Manchester, SERT for Pic Mobert Elementary School was welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.3 Due to technological glitches with both the videoconference and teleconference systems it is noted that SEAC member, T. Nelson, did attempt to attend the meeting electronically, but was unable to do so.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

- 2.1 As there was a lack of quorum the approval of the October 7, 2008 Minutes has been deferred to the next SEAC meeting, and the November 12, 2008 SEAC meeting was deemed an informational meeting only.

3.0 Additions to the Agenda

- 3.1 C. Kappel - Correspondence

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 SEAC Advertisement in School Newsletter

- The SEAC advertisement has been sent to all elementary and secondary schools for inclusion in their newsletters.

- Concern was expressed that high schools may not circulate newsletters and that the information may not get out to parents of secondary school students. C. Kappel will address this concern with the secondary administrators.
- It was recommended that the advertisement also be sent to both elementary and secondary Parent Councils for information to be shared with their members, and to include it in information they may send home to parents. C. Hooper will forward this request to the Director's office as Parent Councils are coordinated by the Director's administrative assistant.

4.2 For Discussion: SEAC Member Advertisement in School Newsletter

- C. Kappel explained that SEAC members can often be an important advocate as initial contacts to the public. As such she is proposing that SEAC member contact information be provided in school newsletters. This is strictly a voluntary option.
- C. Hooper will email the proposed advertisement to all SEAC members asking if they wish to be included. If they do not, their information will be stricken from the advertisement.

5.0 Correspondence

- 5.1 C. Kappel introduced a pamphlet she received from OSSTF entitled "Enhancing Services: Enhancing Success", and an OPA document entitled "Summary of Key Results Areas – Critical Findings". C. Hooper will check both organization's web sites for electronic copies of these materials. If found, she will forward the electronic documentation to the SEAC members.

C. Kappel also gave a brief overview of the OPA (Ontario Psychological Association); explaining that the board has received funding from the organization through CODE (Council of Ontario Directors' of Education). These monies help to provide training for teachers and educational assistants in a variety of areas to better serve our special needs students.

6.0 New Business

6.1 EQAO Results

- C. Kappel reviewed the recent EQAO results, noting the different achievement levels between girl and boys and that the girls out perform boys in the grade 3/6 assessments.
- The board continues to examine strategies to support boys in their improved achievement.
- It was noted that special needs students, who undertook testing, performed well.
- The schools were polled with the question "What does assistive technology mean to them?" The feedback indicated that computers and laptops were of significant importance to them, followed by sound fields. Brailers and FM systems were also identified, but to a lesser degree.

6.2 VOICE Update

- L. Souckey had electronic copies of informational materials forwarded to SEAC members prior to the meeting. These documents included:
 - Parent Guide to Acronyms in Education
 - Special Education News: Exceptional Students and SEAC
 - CTRI – Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute
- She also suggested that Norah-Lynn McIntyre, Executive Director for VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children be invited to a future SEAC meeting to do a presentation.
- C. Kappel provided an overview of the publication "Special Education in Ontario Schools" by Ken Weber and Sheila Bennett. This publication is in its sixth edition and provides valuable information and resources. She is willing to share her copy with

interested members, and also suggests considering purchasing a copy to be circulated among SEAC members.

6.3 Information Sharing: De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations and Other Training Opportunities

- L. Souckey provided information on the above workshop she recently attended advising that it was an excellent opportunity, with information provided by a dynamic presenter who has is a social worker and also who has his Masters in social work.
- She indicated that this is something the board might be interested in as a worthwhile PD for staff. It was noted that V. Newton, and two teachers from the board's secondary panel recently attended a Critical Incident Crisis Management Workshop which focused on Tragic Events and Emergency Response. Additional training is also available and Val will be discussing this with Colleen.
- It was also mentioned that North of Superior Victim Services, who coordinated the workshop, has mentioned that they will be contacting the board to give consideration to a partnership to establishing joint protocols.

6.4 Bridges Program

- C. Brown had requested information regarding the above program at the October SEAC meeting. V. Newton will follow-up with Cindy directly, but provided a brief overview.
- Bridges is a program that was offered in the past to help students to work on college/work placements, etc.
- There is also a series of software programs available through a company, which is also named Bridges Transitions. The board currently, at the secondary level, currently uses the software program CHOICES. This comprehensive program is available to students through the Guidance department.
- Another software program, which is used in both the elementary and secondary panels and which is similar to CHOICES is Career Cruising. This software is provided by OESS (Ontario Education Software Service). Career Cruising is also used as part of the Career Studies Course.

7.0 Information Items

- 7.1 The 2008-2009 SEAC Contact List (internal document) was made available to SEAC members electronically.
- 7.2 As new members were in attendance introductions were made around the room as each attendee introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of their representation on SEAC.

8.0 Agenda Items: Next Meeting Date/Time/Venue

- 8.1 Special Olympics Presentation by C. Dupere
- 8.2 Future Presentation by Norah-Lynn McIntyre, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
- 8.3 Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2009

9.0 Adjournment

- 9.1 SEAC Chair, L. Souckey, called for the meeting to be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.