



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

April 26th @ 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](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 807-701-5980,806782529#](tel:+18077015980) Canada, Thunder Bay

Phone Conference ID: 806 782 529#

<u>Agenda</u>					
Voting Members (4/7)	OS	TC	VC	A	R
BRAKE-WELDON, Brandy: <i>Dilico (Chair)</i>			X		
MOORE, Jennifer: <i>Dilico (Alternate)</i>				X	
ZAPPITELLI, Sheila: <i>Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living (Vice Chair)</i>			X		
SMITH, Bobby Jo: <i>North of Superior Counseling Programs (NOSP)</i>				X	
MONTELPARE, Erin: <i>North of Superior Programs (NOSP-Alternate)</i>					X
CORMIER, Paul: <i>First Nation Trustee</i>			X		
MCINTYRE, Margaret: <i>Trustee</i>			X		
MANNISTO, Mark: <i>Trustee</i>				X	
NESBITT, Jason: <i>Trustee (Alternate)</i>				X	
MAJOR, Christine: <i>Trustee (Alternate)</i>				X	

Resource Members	OS	TC	VC	A	R
McRAE, Pinky: <i>Board Chair</i>				X	
MORDEN CORMIER, Nicole: <i>Director of Education</i>			X		
GOODMAN, Will: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>			X		
FREDRICKSON, Eric: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>			X		
COUTURE, Erin: <i>Student Trustee</i>				X	
MOLINSKI, Grace: <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>Special Education Lead</i>			X		
LEROUX, Erik: <i>Vice-Principal, Dorion Public School</i>			X		
DUMONSKI, Candice: <i>Secretary</i>			X		

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

Land Acknowledgement:	
1.0	Call to Order: At 4:03 p.m. by Chair, B. Brake Weldon
2.0	Approval of Minutes from January 11th, 2022, February 15th, 2022 and March 8th, 2022
	Motion to approve minutes made by: Jan 11 th , 2022 - P. Cormier

	Feb 15 th , 2022 – P. Cormier	
	Seconded by: January 11 th , 2022 – S. Zappitelli February 15 th , 2022 - S. Zappitelli March 8 th , 2022 SEAC meeting was an information only meeting and therefore, minutes do not need to be approved.	
3.0	Additions to the Agenda:	
4.0	Business Arising from Minutes:	
5.0	Agenda Items:	Host
5.1	Terms of Reference	Erik Leroux
	<p>Draft copy of the Terms of Reference was updated based on feedback received. Appreciation goes out to those that sent in suggestions. Most of the updates were around punctuation, adding periods to bullets, and word choices. On page 7 under the Duties of Committee, Policy 707 was added, Employee Code of Conduct. In section D, chair election needed more clarification and now specifies that Chair and Vice Chair are elected at the first meeting in January. Selection of SEAC Members section updated to: advertise in the local newspaper and social media. Board Contacts section was changed to Contact Information and instead of including specific contacts, it now references the board website. This negates the need to update this document with every contact change. This is the final copy and will be posted to the Board website.</p> <p>N. Morden Cormier added that this document will be included in the Trustee Handbook. G. Christianson will be handling that, so please forward this to her.</p>	
5.2	MDT Update	Annick Brewster
	<p>A report was presented on the MDT activities during the month of April which was Neurodiversity month for SGDSB. Many activities around the Neurodiversity celebration including the “I am Challenge” and various workshops for students. Two Hot Topic sessions are being offered, one from Developmental Services Ontario and will be presented to Special Education Teachers and Principals about what DSO is all about. This one is happening on the 28th. The second session was focused on inclusion and designing different ways for students to show what they know and is based on a Shelly Moore presentation. A variety of activities around neurodiversity celebrations at SGDSB schools were highlighted.</p> <p>It was explained that DSO are the gate keepers of services when transitioning from student/child to adult services. They are the ones that you must apply to for those services. This transition period is where gaps have been identified. This DSO presentation is important in getting the information out prior to the application process to make this transition as seamless as possible.</p> <p>Some background on Neurodiversity month at SGDSB. We wanted to make sure we included everyone. It started out as a day set aside for this and now has been expanded to Neurodiversity month as a way for us to celebrate how everyone uses their brains.</p> <p>B. Brake Weldon would like an update after the DSO presentation. This presentation may be helpful for her staff as they often have youth transitioning into adulthood without having supports in place. A. Brewster will follow up with an update and details. S. Zappitelli added that if a specific session is needed DSO is good at providing in person or virtual presentations specific to your needs.</p>	
5.3	Neurodiversity Month and I am Challenge	Melissa Bianco/Deana Renaud
	<p>This was a collaborative effort between D. Renaud, M. Bianco and A. Brewster to plan for SGDSB’s approach to Neurodiversity awareness and celebration. This Neurodiversity Team also collaborated</p>	

with the other systems leads. It explained what neurodiversity is, what that might look like and how we can help promote neurodiversity in SGDSB. Resources were provided to principals to use with staff that included tools for gathering information on student strengths. Focusing and identifying student's strengths and using inclusive ways of teaching were highlighted.

Superior Life Skills in collaboration with SGDSB offered pre-recorded class presentations and activities that allow students to work through the discussions as appropriate for their classes. Another initiative challenged students with a contest to create a social media post that celebrates different perspectives and shows empathy. There was a comic strip challenge contest and an after-school program called Lego Serious Play that is happening this evening April 26th with 9 participants signed up.

Some wonderful submissions from the "I Am" challenge and examples of how facilitators are engaging their students in this important piece. Students were asked to show any way that celebrates their uniqueness, they could draw a picture, make a video, write a poem, use art, music, anything. A poem that was submitted by a student was shared.

Celebrating differences is an important message to get out at an early age as it is an issue for a lot of teenagers. They often don't want to be different and if we imbed that message early on maybe this can be changed.

M. McIntyre asked to be sent a copy of this presentation as she will be reporting back to the Board.

It was suggested that the Student Trustees be involved in this work for next year, have them spread the word and champion this. We need to continue to grow this for early years. We should reach out to H. Freeburn to get this out and for ideas on how we can grow this.

5.4	Letter from SEAC to the Minister – Virtual Board Meetings	Nicole Morden Cormier
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A letter from SEAC to the Minister requesting a continuation of electronic meetings and a request to make the amendment of Regulation 632/20 permanent, eliminating the requirement for the Director of Education/designate and the Chair to be physically present in the same room for all meetings, regardless of distance, weather or health. Benefits: increased engagement, number of members, rate of quorum achievement, decreased impact on the environment and elimination of barriers to involvement (travel, distance and work commitments).

This letter was presented to Board of Trustees. The board had a keen interest in this and were pleased with this letter. Chair presented an option of what to do next. N. Morden Cormier will write a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees, M. McIntyre and P. Cormier, and it will be in support of this letter. It will contain some data and was suggested to cost out the change in savings fiscally. It is about \$9000 savings each year. This letter will go out before this weekend. They did not want to wait to get this letter out asap before the election etc.

Any enhancements or concerns with first draft that could be addressed? Please email or call if there are concerns. P. Cormier and M. McIntyre can look at those changes and approve them if needed. So please look at this and get back to N. Morden Cormier.

It was suggested to share this letter with OPSBA group, as others may have similar concerns. N Morden Cormier asked if it should be sent to the other boards directly? P Cormier and M. McIntyre agreed that this was a good idea as well and to share not just with SEAC but all Board Committees.

S. Zappitelli and B. Brake Weldon will look this letter over and get back to N. Morden Cormier.

5.5	Update on EQAO for Special Education	Will Goodman
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Resumption of EQAO assessments for Grades 3 and 6 (Reading, Writing and Mathematics), 9 (Math), and 12(OSSLT). Full participation at SGDSB. It is after Covid but still important to see how our students are doing. The last time we saw these assessments was over 2 years ago, 2019-2020, due to Covid and job action. 2021/2022 assessments are being offered online with larger windows over a

	<p>longer period, smaller sessions and added flexibility. User guides, webinars and lots of learning for administrators and staff to prepare were offered. Assistive technology has been built right into the assessments including, text to speech, line reader, zoom, calculator, and a highlighter. Students can go in out of the sessions and they can be accessed anywhere. A few changes to highlight, in prior years students with exceptionalities/Spec Ed that were unable to complete these assessments, were given a 0 for the Board. Going forward, they will not be recorded as a 0. This is big for us as we have a small group. Not all Spec Ed students are exempt from these assessments. The OSSLT requirement has been waived for this year's graduating class but will be administered to students primarily in grade 10.</p> <p>It was asked if there will there are paper version? There is a paper version that students can answer on and then it will need to be uploaded.</p>	
6.0	Correspondence:	Host
6.1	Definition of a Disability	Will Goodman
	<p>This correspondence is regarding the change to the definition of a disability and support of Bill 172. There isn't a consistent definition of disability across Education Act, Accessibility for Ontarian's Disability Act (AODA) and the Accessible Canada Act. The Education Act has a very narrow definition. The AODA, and the Honourable David C. Onley have a definition that is more encompassing:</p> <p>"disability means any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society."</p> <p>W. Goodman suggested that we should support this and would be happy to write and bring this forward.</p> <p>It was asked if a letter will be written of support?</p> <p>W. Goodman answered, yes.</p>	
6.2	Letter to Stephen Lecce – Staff Shortages	Will Goodman
	<p>This piece was written around nursing shortages and in support of nurses. They are asking for a solution to the shortage of nurses in school. W. Goodman recommends that we don't act on this one as we don't have any nurses providing support to any students in our schools. We don't have experience in this.</p>	
6.3	Letter to the Minister – DPCDSB COVID-19 Protocol Changes	Will Goodman
	<p>This letter was written out of concerned for the reopening of schools and impact on Spec Ed students that may have differing medical needs and concerns. This was put forth before new measures have been put in place. For example, increased HEPA filters, N95 masks, Rapid Antigen tests and access respirators, if needed. There is no need to support this now.</p>	
6.4	Letter to the Minister – DDSB PPM No.81	Will Goodman
	<p>Really outdated items in this PPM 81. Essentially it was created in the 1980s and outlined education's responsibility and health care's responsibility in a school. For example, in the past only a nurse could handle a feeding tube but now they are very easy to use. This PPM is now being updated. DDSB are requesting that this process be slowed down. Our school board is in a good spot and has been given enough time to provide input. Most likely there will be more delays and a longer consultation period due to an election and a possible new government. There isn't a need for us to support this at this stage.</p>	
7.0	New Business:	Host
8.0	Information Items:	Host

9.0	Agenda Items: Next meeting Date/Time/Venue:	
	May 10th, 2022 at 3 p.m.	
10.0	Adjournment: 4:09 p.m.	
	Motion to adjourn made by P. Cormier	
	Motion to adjourn seconded by S. Zappitelli	