

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

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 @ 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**

<b><u>Voting Members</u></b>	<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 <i>(Alternate)</i>				X	
Brown, Cindy	X					Notwell, Kathy		X			
Simmons, Tina <i>(Alternate)</i>				X		Nelson, Theresa					X
Dupere, Cheryl				X		Tyance, Shirley		X			
Brown, Tammy <i>(Alternate)</i>					X	Groenveld, Sharon <i>(Alternate)</i>		X			

<b><u>Resource Members</u></b>	<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
Tamblyn, David: <i>Assistant to the Director of Education</i>	X					
Willcocks, Barb: <i>Student Success Coordinator</i>	X					
Hamill, Sherry: <i>Special Education Board Lead</i>		X				
Parsons, Don: <i>Student Support Lead</i>				X		

- 1.0 Call to Order  
 Trustee Cindy Brown accepted the role of rotating chair for this meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes  
 Moved by: K. Notwell                      Second: S. Tyance  
 ✓ ***That, the Minutes of May 25, 2010 be approved as presented***
- 3.0 Additions to the Agenda
  - 3.1 Caring and Safe Schools
- 4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes
- 5.0 Correspondence
- 6.0 New Business
  - 6.1 Special Education Update - S. Hamill

Sherry Hamill, Special Education Board Lead, providing updates in the following areas:

#### Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Training Opportunities

- Received \$4,025.00 from the Ministry this year; received a similar amount last year. Will use this money to release teachers and EAs to meet with consultants from Child Care Resources (CCR)
- Also entered into an agreement with CCR to provide Awareness presentation to students to increase their understanding of Autism; will be in the elementary schools in Marathon and Geraldton.

#### Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA)

- Received approximately \$84,000.00 from the ministry to hire additional personnel to build capacity
- We have used this money to continue the Communication Class at Nip-Rock High School (NRHS) for one period each semester
- We are hoping to use technology to inform other schools of the best practices happening at NRHS

#### EA and Supply EA Handbook

- Is in the process of being updated and will be posted in the Public Folders shortly

#### Growing Success and IEPs

- Growing Success is a new Ministry Publication that relates to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in all Schools K – 12
- No significant changes in reporting to parents and IEPs for the secondary panel but are changes for the elementary panel
- Elementary - there will now be one Progress Report that will be sent home October 29th and then the next 2 reports to parents will be report cards
  - IEPs will still be reviewed 3 times/year, however, there will only be 2 “sets” of expectations rather than 3 as the IEPs. IEPs must be developed and in place within 30 school days of the student’s placement , which takes us to Oct 19th so there is not enough time from October 19th to October 29th when the Progress Report goes out to implement the expectations in the IEP and to report on student achievement of the expectations

#### Special Equipment Amount

- The Ministry changed the 2010 – 2011 SEA guidelines in May 2010. There is now the Per Pupil Amount (PPA) that provides the Board with a base amount of money (\$10,000.00) plus an additional amount of money based on a formula, and the Claims-Based Amount where the board will continue to pay for the first \$800.00 of a claim and then the Ministry will pay for the balance of the claim;
- Per Pupil Amount (PPA) – to cover the costs of computers, software, computing related devices, SMART boards; we received just over \$34,000.00 this year
- A guide will be developed that must outline a transparent process for approving PPA claims within the Board; Board within the NW Region are hoping the Ministry will provide a template for this guide
- Claims-Based Amount (i.e. braille, FM system, etc.)
  - The Board will pay the first \$800.00 and the Ministry will pay the balance of the claim

#### BMST (Behaviour Management Systems Training)

- EAs at NRHS were trained by our board trainer (Tina Hamel) on the September 2, 2010 PD day

#### Autism Ontario – Ed Mahoney

- Positive Intervention presentations in Nipigon (Aug 19th) and Geraldton (Aug 20) – excellent reviews from all who attended
- If Ed is working for Autism Ontario and doing presentations next year, we will inquire as to whether he can put on a training session for all our EAs on a PD day as the strategies he talks about can be used with all students

### 6.2 Caring and Safe Schools

Dave Tamblyn addressed Caring and Safe Schools:

- Ministry PPM 145 released October 2009 with regards to the above. Progressive discipline uses a continuum of prevent programs, interventions, supports and consequences to address inappropriate student behavior and build upon strategies that foster positive behaviours
- The *Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario: Supporting Students with Special Needs Through Progressive Discipline, Kindergarten to Grade 12* resource guide promotes and supports a caring and safe school culture for all students and provides information about appropriate strategies and resources that address behavioural challenges for students, in particular students with special education needs
- The key elements of the resource guide, which are introduced in Chapter 1 are:
  - Characteristics of a caring and safe culture and on procedures and indicators that can be used by system and school leaders to assess the culture in their schools and plan for needed improvements
  - Description of the factors that influence student behavior and that may contribute to inappropriate and/or challenging behavior
  - Description of approaches and sources of information that school leaders can draw on in planning how to meet identified needs
  - Strategies on how to organize and manage a response to the identified behavior issues and needs and offers some sample assessment and planning tools that system and school leaders can adapt to their own circumstances
  - Glossary that provides explanation of a variety of terms used in the document

### 7.0 Information Items

#### 7.1 Services for Children in the “Grey Zone”

Jennifer Welsh, Psychologist, with Integrated Services for Northern Children raised the following for discussion with the members:

- While the SGDSB, and in fact the Ministry of Education, is very specific about what student needs can be supported through the identification process, there are some students who have very significant needs that do not fit under any specific category.
  - For example, students whose intellectual functioning falls in the Borderline range (i.e., 2nd to 8th percentile) are not eligible to receive exceptionalities because their test scores are not low enough (i.e., <2nd percentile) to qualify under the

Mild Intellectual Disability exceptionality, but not high enough (>8th percentile) to qualify under the Learning Disabled/Communication exceptionality.

- Dr. Welsh's experience in working with various school boards has shown that it is very challenging to create adequate supports for these students (i.e., those with Borderline IQ scores which often relates to very significant learning challenges). She queried the committee for documents, resources, or other opportunities that she can encourage parents and/or school staff to pursue when they find themselves in the position of having to provide programming for students with these profiles. This issue has been flagged by the Ministry in the past as an outstanding area of need, although a clear solution has not been achieved (at least in the form of a formal document with guidelines to follow). Sherry Hamill provided some direction on the issue. An IEP can be created for a student in need without an identification being made. Modifications may be more appropriate for these cases rather than accommodations. The student would still be eligible for claims to be made through SEA, if warranted. Don Parsons provided some training education to SERTs in the district last year (2009), although it was unclear if new staff are acquainted with those details given some staff changes at the admin level.
- Dr. Welsh was encouraged to contact Sherry Hamill should she run into situations where SGDSB staff are uninformed about these issues.

8.0 Agenda Items: Next Meeting Date/Time/Venue  
Next meeting date will be Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.  
Agenda Items: Elections  
E.A. INAC – Tuition Agreements

9.0 Adjournment  
Moved by: K. Notwell                      Second: S. Tyance  
That the SEAC Meeting, September 14, 2010 be adjourned at 7:10 p.m.