



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on March 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Office.

**Present:**

**Administration:** Theresa Bitonti, Special Education Coordinator  
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

**Trustees:** Barbara McCool  
John Willemsen

**Associations:** Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member  
Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member  
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member  
Tracy Hanzlik, Nipissing First Nation  
Dan Lachance, Community Living, Member

**Regrets:** Shannon O'Connor, CCCNIP, Member  
Jennifer Palangio, Curriculum Lead - SJSH

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**1. PRAYER**

Mrs. McCool led the committee in prayer.

**2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE**

Roll call was completed.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Dan Lachance and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault THAT the agenda of Tuesday, March 10, 2020 be approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Tracy Hanzlik THAT the minutes of February 11, 2020 be approved as presented.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Membership – Shannon O'Connor  
Due to unforeseen changes in work schedule, Ms. O'Connor is unable to continue her SEAC membership.

## 6. UPDATES

- a) Carousel, Sub Committee Planning Minutes and Email Feedback  
SEAC discussed ways to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and engage community partners. This year's theme is: It's My Journey: How Do I Get There? Motivational speaker Michael Jacques has been booked for the evening of May 27, 2020 at SJSH. Ms. Weller shared feedback received following further committee input. Brainstorming ideas included highlighting our journey in special education from a historical perspective, inviting schools to submit a poster submission highlighting inclusion, and recognition of community partners. Ms. Weller to send out a meeting invite for the next Carousel Sub Committee meeting.
- b) Parent Guide  
The Parent Guide was updated to reflect Ministry criteria in fall 2019. Ms. Weller and Ms. Derosier shared an outline, which will assist SEAC in developing parent friendly materials over the coming months. Ms. Weller will send out a link to access other resources from other school boards, for SEAC to review to assist in gathering ideas for next steps.
- c) School Visit – February 28, 2020 at St. Francis  
The committee discussed the highlights of the visit to St. Francis a NPSCDSB French immersion school. French immersion is a form of bilingual education in which students, who do not speak French as first language will receive instruction in French. SEAC confirmed that there is value in visiting schools on a rotational basis and according to the Action Plan. SEAC is scheduled to visit Our Lady of Sorrows in Sturgeon Falls.

## 7. CORRESPONDANCE

- a) Letter to Minister of Education – GECDSB  
Ms. Weller shared GECDSB's letter of support in regard to the current status of MACSE. Additionally, GECDSB is in agreement with DDSB's recommendation that moving forward, six of the voting members be selected from SEACs from the six Ministry of Education's regional areas.  
  
SEAC discussed submitting a letter to MACSE in support of the two previous school board letters, which advocate for regional representation. Ms. Weller will draft a letter to share with SEAC.
- b) "Momentum" – SMHO Newsletter, February 2020  
Ms. Weller shared the Momentum newsletter which highlights news and updates to help in the advancement of school mental health. Ms. Weller drew SEAC's attention to the Spotlight Story – "Students RISE in North Bay: Students from St. Joseph-Scollard Hall CSS Are Helping Their Peers to Maintain Positive Mental Health".

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update

##### PIC Speaker Session: April 14, 2020 with Dr. Greg Wells at SJSH.

Ms. Weller encouraged SEAC to participate in the free information session on April 14, 2020 entitled "Eat. Sleep. Move. Think: The Ripple Effect", featuring bestselling author and physiologist, Dr. Greg Wells. In his keynote Dr. Wells will draw on over 25 years of experience to explain his holistic approach to health and how this can help parents support their children's well-being. Dr. Wells is a health and high performance expert and senior scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

##### Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) Event: June 1 or June 2, 2020 – Focus on Health and Well Being

NPSC Parent Involvement Committee is organizing an event to gather representatives from all NPSCDSB school CSACs to learn, network and share best practices.

##### Ontario's Survey on Bullying

Students, parents and educators are invited to share their voice by taking part in a survey developed by the Ministry of Education. The survey will be used to gather information about bullying to better understand this complex issue and to help support inclusion. Ms. Weller encouraged SEAC to access the board website and complete the survey if they wish to provide input.

##### Concussion Protocol

NPSCDSB first established and implemented a Concussion Management Protocol (AS 15.2) during the 2015 school year, as a requirement of the implementation of **Policy and Program Memorandum 158, School Board Policies on Concussion (2014)**. On March 7, 2018, the Ontario government enacted Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety) and amended the Education Act, to ensure amateur athletes, including students, are protected by improving concussion safety standards on the field and at school. These amendments to the Education Act came into force on July 1, 2019, and give the Minister of Education the authority to require school boards to comply with policy and guidelines consistent with Rowan's Law. Accordingly, this past fall, school boards received an updated Policy and Program Memorandum 158 which reflects these amendments and outlines the minimum requirements for school board policies on concussion. Updates have been made to the NPSC Concussion Management Protocol (AS 15.2) in order to reflect the requirements of legislation.

### J. Vanier

A comprehensive review of classroom and professional resources has occurred through the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE). Schools have been encouraged to exercise professional judgement where J. Vanier is cited, referenced, or held up as example in materials produced and published under the auspices of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and ICE.

### COVID-19

The health and well-being of all students, staff, volunteers and community members is a priority for the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board (NPSC). NPSC works in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit on issues related to public health, including COVID-19. Ms. Weller encouraged SEAC to access the board website for updates as they become available.

March Break 13 – 20, 2020: School to resume on March 23, 2020.

- ii) Coordinator's Update:  
NIL Report

### b) Association Reports

- i) Community Living – Dan Lachance, Member
  - Community Living North Bay (CLNB) memberships are now available. It is \$5.00 per person if anyone is interested.
  - CLNB's Respect Campaign took place the first week of March. The web site is still open for pledges. CLNB has over 1200 currently and would love to have more. Please visit [www.respectnorthbay.com](http://www.respectnorthbay.com) to sign the pledge and invite a friend to do the same.
  - Funding has been secured for training of selected CLNB staff and high school staff from three area high schools. The training scheduled for April 27th is on a program called Job Path. This program assists youth in high school with Intellectual Disabilities bridge the gap between education and employment. SJSH was the first to be interested in this training and Jennifer Palangio was a key piece in helping Dan Lachance make it happen. CLNB is very excited to be able to do this training which will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- ii) Nipissing First Nation – Tracey Hanzlik, Member  
NIL Report
- iii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member  
NIL Report
- iv) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member  
NIL Report
- v) NDSS – Jeannie Boissonneault, Member  
NIL Report

**9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER**

NIL

**10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting will be on April 7, 2020 in the Board Office Board Room at 5:30 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Dan Lachance and seconded by Jeannie Boissonneault the meeting of Tuesday, March 10, 2020 adjourned at 7:00 p.m.