



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on March 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

**Present:**

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

**Trustees:** John Willemsen  
Barb McCool

**Associations:** April Porter, Alternate, Community Living  
Marie Derosier, Member, LDAO  
Mary Grise, Member, Parent Representative

**Regrets:** Jeannie Boissonneault, Member, NDSS  
Tracey Hanzlik, Member, Nipissing First Nation

---

**1. PRAYER**

Ms. Weller led the committee in prayer.

**2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE**

Roll call was completed.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded April Porter THAT the agenda of March 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by April Porter THAT the minutes of February 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### Guide to Remote Learning

Ms. Weller shared an overview and highlighted NPSC's contribution to a research project entitled "Guide to Remote Learning". This guide will comprise of a series of promising practices, resources, pedagogical strategies and challenges of teaching students with special education needs in the virtual environment. This work will be compiled from several school boards from across the province by a team of researchers from Ottawa University, who will later share their findings with the Ministry of Education by means of a final document with a timeline of April 2021. Ms. Weller will share the final document with SEAC upon receipt.

## 6. UPDATES

### a) Parent Guide

DEFERRED

### b) SEAC/PIC Carousel Evening 2021

Ms. Derosier shared an update from the March 8 2021 Carousel Evening subcommittee planning meeting including information on the format of the evening , registration process, "Celebrating 20 Years" slide show, and distribution of promotional materials such as invitations and posters. SEAC discussed ideas for thank you gifts for Michael and Marcel Jacques.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) wrote to the Minister of Education supporting a recommendation brought forward on December 2020 to support Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Durham District School Board (DDSB) members of SEAC wrote to the Minister of Education requesting it strengthen its commitment to Universal Design for Learning by ensuring provincial online learning resources, supports, and platforms are accessible to all students.

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared an update on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Virtual Community Event which will be held in conjunction with this year's Evening of Applause and celebration of 'Students Who Make a Difference', which will be celebrated virtually on March 24,2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms Weller shared a virtual learning update including:

#### **Program Resources:**

Program Resources to ensure the quality of student learning and educator instruction include a variety of new digital resources such as: Religious

Education: Growing in Faith and Family Life Program, Supporting the new ON Mathematics Curriculum: Math Up Platform and literacy digital resources such as PM eCollection.

**Experiential Learning Experiences:**

Experiential learning experiences are being provided in different and creative ways. Educators are facilitating virtual exploration through a variety of resources and programs including Art Gallery of Ontario, Celebrating Black Creatives and Indigenous Arts and Artists.

**STEM Opportunities:**

In addition to coding activities, NPSC is excited to begin working with Scientists in School, a charity and trusted STEM enrichment partner.

**Pathway to Movement Virtual Electives:**

To support overall physical activity for students within the virtual classroom environment, NPSC has offered virtual electives to supplement the physical education curriculum. Virtual classes have a choice between two series throughout the month of March. One being a live interactive Pathways to Movement series with a certified yoga instructor and the second being a recorded Virtual Zumba series with a licensed Zumba instructor. In this way, our virtual school can continue playing a pivotal role in engaging students in physical education.

ii) Coordinator's Update:

Virtual electives continue to be provided within the virtual Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) classroom. To supplement physical education, a former Special Olympics Coach and qualified Medical Exercise Specialist, in partnership with the LAC teacher, guides students in a wide range of opportunities to learn, practice, and demonstrate knowledge and skills related to healthy and active living. Additionally, to supplement the music curriculum, a guest facilitator, in partnership with the LAC teacher, guides students to participate in musical experiences that involve listening, creating, and performing through singing, moving and playing 'homemade' instruments.

b) **Association Reports**

i) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member

Ms. Weller shared the following article links on behalf of Ms. Derosier:

<https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-distance-learning-poses-challenges-for-some-families-of-children-with-disabilities-136696>

<https://www.edcan.ca/articles/diversity-via-distance/>

ii) Community Living – April Porter, Alternate

Ms. April Porter shared an overview of the “Early ON Program”. The Early ON Program is an interactive program for children and their families, from birth to six years of age and plays an important role in supporting children’s learning, development, health and well-being. Research shows that children succeed in programs that focus on active learning through exploration, play and inquiry and

that children thrive in programs where they and their families are valued as active participants and contributors. Through the health crisis, Early ON has had to be creative around virtually supporting children. Programs now offer families virtual options such as Zumba and yoga as well as providing literacy, numeracy, and social emotional learning kits. Early ON North Bay is looking at how to offer school readiness programming outdoors as warmer weather arrives.

iii) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member

Dr. Grise shared an update from her role as pediatrician regarding the rise of mental health issues secondary to COVID, as well as, the increase in presentation at the hospital as a result of increased drug use in North Bay and area youth. Pediatricians work to access community resources to assist youth address these issues while considering these concerns may be contributed to cumulative stressors.

**9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER**

NIL

**10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Barbara McCool and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the meeting of March 9, 2021 adjourn at 6: 56 p.m.