



# DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
Commencing at: 12:00 noon

**MINUTES** of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held at the Schumacher Board Office and video conferencing sites, with the following in attendance:

**Committee Members:**

Kathy Farrell	Vice Chairperson, Community Living Timmins	
Bruce Cutten	Trustee	
Dennis Draves	Trustee	
Peter Osterberg	Trustee	
Arline Chasle	Education Officer, Timiskaming First Nation	(v/c NLBO)
Alice Hearn-Flannigan	VOICE	(v/c NLBO)
Bruce Hayter	parent representative	(v/c Hearst)

**Staff Present:**

Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Schools responsible for Special Education	
Joanne Marsh-Peters	Acting District Special Education Administrator	
Denise Plante-Dupuis	Mental Health & Addiction Lead	
Patricia Chertow	Principal	
Alison Fantin	Principal	(v/c KLDCS)
Vanessa Harmanmaa	Acting Autism Support Officer	

**Committee Members Absent:**

Christine Heavens	parent representative
Gary Dowe	Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Centre
Melanie Hebert	parent representative present but room access was an issue

**Guest:**

Gale Wiseman	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins branch
--------------	---

**Recording Secretary:**

Dianne Gaudreau	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
-----------------	--

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm by Kathy Farrell, Vice Chairperson, and round table introductions and video conferencing sites were made.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

**MOVED** by Dennis Draves **SECONDED** by Bruce Cutten **THAT** the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

**Election of SEAC Chair:**

**Kathy Farrell** assumed the Chair roll to oversee the election of the Chair position. As there was no express of interest for the position it will be tabled to the December meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOVED** by Bruce Cutten, **SECONDED** by Alice Hearn-Flannigan **THAT** the minutes of the October 5, 2016 meeting be approved as written.

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising:**

1. **PAaC Modules:**

**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** provided an update on the revised PAaC handbook that has been posted on the website [www.paac-seac.ca](http://www.paac-seac.ca), which includes the purpose of SEAC, the roles and responsibilities and the meeting process.

The link will be emailed to members for them to review to help engage conversation at the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2. **School Council/PIC letter:**

**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** stated that the letter has been revised and ready to send to School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees. At the request of Trustee Cutten the letter will be emailed to members to review before sending it out.

3. **SEAC Member Nomination:**

**MOTION:**

**MOVED** by Dennis Draves, **SECONDED** by Bruce Cutten **THAT** the following motion is presented to the Board at the next Board meeting of November 15, 2016.

**“SEAC recommends to the Board of Trustees that they accept Gale Wiseman, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Timmins, association representative and full members of SEAC for a term commencing December 1, 2016 and ending November 30, 2019.”**

**CARRIED**

As some members were unable to be present at the October meeting Gale shared a brief outline of her role as Resource Facilitator with the Learning Disabilities Association which their Mission Statement is: *“To support all individuals with learning disabilities in reaching their full potential in a community that values their unique abilities and contributions.”*

**New Business:**

1. **Trustee Report:**

**Trustee Cutten** reported on the release of the Education Funding Engagement Guide, which is to continue the dialogue on funding supports to ensure equity and accountability, while expanding the conversation to other topics for the education funding for the 2017-18 school year.

**Trustee Draves** inquired if there is any way to find out if PAaC will be hosting another Conference in the near future.

**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** will follow up with the Ministry and report back at the December meeting.

2. **Agency Report:**  
None report at this time

### **Special Education Team Updates:**

1. **Change SEAC meeting day:**  
**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** approached the Committee if they would be interested in changing SEAC meeting day to Mondays to align better with Board meetings that are scheduled on Tuesdays.

Discussion ensued regarding changing the meetings to Mondays, and all were in favour that SEAC meetings would continue to be held on Wednesdays.

2. **New Autism Support Officer:**  
**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** welcomed Vanessa Harmanmaa who has been hired to replace Anne Price, our Autism Support Officer, while on leave, stating the level of services has been a smooth transition.
3. **New Ontario Autism Program:**  
**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** updated the Committee on the Ministry's memorandum to support the transition and guidelines to the new Ontario Autism Program.

An application has been submitted to support an after school program which will build and enhance skills for students affected by changes to autism services and for students with high-needs autism spectrum disorder. This new funding program is intended to run for 18 months during the transition period to the new Ontario Autism Program.

The Committee discussed in length the program, cost and what will happen once this program ends after 18 months.

4. **SEAC Directory:**  
**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** reported on an email that was received from Jim White, Sudbury-North Regional Office regarding a SEAC Chairs/Co-Chairs directory that is being developed with the goal of electronic distribution to share resources, updates and best practices. It was been agreed that until we have a Chair elected the following email address would be created [seacchair@dsb1.ca](mailto:seacchair@dsb1.ca) and any correspondence received would go directly to Superintendent Steve Pladzyk and shared with the Committee.

5. **Update on psycho-educational assessment wait list:**  
**Superintendent Steve Pladzyk** provided an update on the psycho-educational assessments, stating that the Special Education team have gathered data. It has been determined that, across the three regions of the Board, a minimum of 300 students are waiting for an assessment. Currently, 72 students annually receive a psycho-educational assessment. To address this situation, the Special Education team is working on developing a business plan to address the wait list. This plan will be shared at the next meeting in December.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Trustee Peter Osterberg would like a follow up report on the psycho-educational assessment wait list.

**Adjournment:**

**MOVED** by Dennis Draves  
**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 1:04pm

**NEXT MEETING: December 7, 2016 – 12:00 noon, Schumacher Board Office.**

(v/c sites: NLBO, Hearst, Kapuskasing & Kirkland Lake)

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
Kathy Farrell, **Vice Chairperson**  
Special Education Advisory Committee