



Special Education Advisory Committee

October 15, 2025 12:00pm
Microsoft Teams

INFORMAL MEETING NOTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Wiwchar	Trustee
Jonathan Byer	Chair of the Board
Holly Castellani	Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre (CTRC)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS:

Christine Heavens	Chair, Parent Representative
Crystal Hewey	Trustee
Dennis Draves	Trustee
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck	Trustee
Lorette McKnight	Temiskaming Metis Community Council (TMCC)
Shannon Costello	Director of Children's Services, CDSB
Shelly Charette	Indigenous Representative, Education Director, Timiskaming First Nation

STAFF PRESENT:

Chad Mowbray	Superintendent of Education
Jody Pecore	Special Education Administrator
Andreanne Denis	Communication Officer

STAFF REGRETS:

Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education
Elizabeth Kazienko	Mental Health & Well-Being Lead
Shawn Donovan	Principal, R. Ross Beattie Public School

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Cathy Levasseur	Executive Assistant to Superintendent Mowbray
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CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at **12:00 p.m.**
Land Acknowledgement.
Teams Introductions were made.

BUSINESS ARISING:

No report



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PLAN SURVEY

- Survey to be completed by families
- Feedback is to be incorporated into the Student Achievement Plan
- Key improvement priorities in the Student Achievement Plan:
 - EQAO reading, writing and mathematics for grade 3, 6, 9 and 10 students
 - 5 Year Graduation Rate
 - Attendance rates
 - Suspension rates
 - Number of students enrolled in at least one grade 12 math course or a grade 11 or 12 science course
 - Number of students participating in at least one job skills program
 - Number of students who believe their learning has prepared them for the next step in their learning experience which could be workplace or post secondary education
 - Students' awareness of mental health supports

FINAL DSB1 SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN

- Superintendent Pladzyk shared the plan last year and it is posted on the DSBONE website for review
- Superintendent Mowbray and Jody Pecore will be working on condensing the document as it is done annually and shared
- Trustee Wiwchar suggested doing a summary at the beginning with main points

CORRESPONDENCE:

No report

TRUSTEE REPORT:

No report

AGENCY REPORT:

No report

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES:

- Continue to work on our wait lists for students requiring a high support classroom.
- Jody Pecore discussed class sizes and what supports are available in high support classrooms
- Superintendent Mowbray discussed how funding comes from the Ministry of Education and Trustee Byer and Trustee Wiwchar discussed a possible recommendation letter being drafted up and brought to the board regarding this funding on behalf of the SEAC committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Review the terms of reference for SEAC committee
- Explore pathway options for students other than just going straight to workplace. Superintendent Mowbray reached out to Northern College but they are on strike and will wait to hear back.
- Holly Castellani has graciously agreed to host us for a future meeting and we will discuss a date.
- We will also be looking at a visit to an elementary school
- Trustee Wiwchar asked if we would discuss students who are gifted and how we could support within the school and board and will add to a future topic item.



District School Board
Ontario North East

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 12:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 pm.