

JAMES BAY LOWLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL BOARD &
MOOSONEE DISTRICT SCHOOL AREA BOARD

Combined Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: Board Office Meeting Room

In Attendance: Charlene Reuben (Co-Chair) – MDSAB Trustee
Pauline Sackaney (Co-Chair) – JBLSSB Trustee
Andrea Haule – MPS Vice-Principal
Kelly Tomatuk – MPS SERT
Veronica Shortt – MPS SERT
Shawn Klingenberg – NLSS Principal
Brian Panaligan – James Bay Association for Community Living
Jessica Carter - Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre
Dorinda Vincent – Child & Youth Milopemahtesewin Services (CYMS) (*via Google Meet*)
Angela Tozer – JBLSSB & MDSAB Director of Education

Regrets: Angela Bellaire – Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Yvonne Morrison – NLSS SERT

Call to Order: Meeting started at 3:33 pm

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Kelly Tomatuk seconded by Brian Panaligan

Approval of November 5, 2025: Moved by Veronica Shortt and seconded by Shawn Klingenberg

Moosonee Public School Deaf Student – Staffing and Program Support

- MDSAB hired a full-time Language Acquisition Support Worker (LASW) on December 2, 2024 to support the identified needs of a Deaf Student attending MPS
- Ministry of Education Demonstration School Staff were on-site December 3 & 4, 2024 to support and assist with program set-up and professional development for education staff
- Afterschool PD session was held to provide an overview of hearing, language acquisition & exposure, over 20 educators attended the session
- LASW has started an ASL club to teach students sign language, 17 students are in the ASL club
- LASW has been making YouTube videos for staff to reinforce 5 signs at a week, posting of staff 'sign' names
- In 3-weeks seeing a positive improvement in mode of communication

2024-2025 Special Education Services and Supports – Updates

Moosonee Public School Overview:

- Currently 2 SERT in place, ELK to grade 2, and grade 6 to 8; MDSAB is attempting to staff to have 3rd SERT in place once other staffing can occur at the school
- Reports received from 4 Education Psychology assessments completed in the fall through MPS partnership with CYMS
- Reports were easy to understand and have resulted in 3 new IPRC's will take place, which will involve the high school for students currently in grade 8

Northern Lights Secondary School:

- End of Semester 1 in the next few weeks, culminating activity days are spread out over 4 instructional days to better support students in successfully demonstrating their learning
- EA support is in place for students with special education needs during culminating activity days
- 48 students have been IPRC'd and are on IEP's currently
- 2 sections of Special Education resource support, 3 Educational Assistants, posting to hire additional EA
- Literacy and Numeracy lunch-time tutoring program is continuing to take place every day
- Follow-up took place with Colleges and Universities; all have varying requirements for Education Psychology assessments depending on programs and have supports in place to assist students
- Students on IEPs in graduating class for June 2025 all have updated Education Psychology assessments

SEAC Agency – Updates

Jessica Carter - Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre

- Speech and Language services have been going through the waiting list, referrals can be made through the Augmentative Clinic being held at the end of February, trips will be booked based on referrals
- ASD diagnosis clinic with Dr. Garth Smith was filled based on referrals received from Moosonee / Moose Factory from developmental pediatrician
- MPS has scheduled Occupation Therapy (OT) supports, grade 2 group is working on fine motor skills, which is being layered into the work the students are doing in class
- Services can be provided from 0 to 18 years of age

Dorinda Vincent – Child & Youth Milopemahtesewin Services (CYMS)

- Providing counselling supports youth up to 17
- Currently have a vacancy for Special Needs Worker – attempting to fill this needed position
- Clinicians go into the schools to provide supports, open lines of communications
- Caseloads are high, increase referrals being made for anxiety
- Safe spaces are available in schools and this need has been identified and supported by CYMS Clients
- Continuing to partner with schools to support Education Psychology Assessments

Brian Panaligan – James Bay Association for Community Living

- Passport funding supports are in progress to support 2 adults from up the coast

Professional Development

- 3 staff at NLSS and 2 staff at MPS are taking Special Education courses support through the Ministry of Education subsidy opportunity in place for the 2024-2025 school year
- Vice-Principal at NLSS is currently taking their Special Education for Administrators which is being supported by a subsidy offered by Ontario Principal Council (OPC)
- Behaviour Management (BMS) training to take place at the end of January, partnership in place with MPS, NLSS and Ministik
- PD session is planned in February to support Emotional Regulation student needs

SEAC Recommendations *(Standing Item)*

- #2 – Open House Table with IEP pamphlet and other resources
 - Kindergarten Information / Registration evening session, supported by agencies (Occupation Therapy (OT) referrals took place, Nurse Practitioner and Public Health in attendance)
- #3 – Daily Social Skills and Life Skills sessions / programming in place

Special Education Board Plan (*Standing Item*)

- Available on both MDSAB and JBLSSB Board sites, SEAC members were encouraged to review both Board plans and SEAC recommendations to provide input at next meeting, print copies can be distributed as well

New Business:

- Keewaytinok Legal Services is offering free Tax services for students and parents starting February 3, 2025, no appointment necessary, I.D. clinics still taking place for lower-income individuals, who have not taken advantage of this service before, first time for this service is free

Other:

- No items discussed

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 @ 3:30 pm
Tuesday, June 3, 2025 @ 3:30 pm

Adjournment: Meeting ended at 4:32 pm, Moved by Kelly Tomatuk and seconded by Brian Panaligan