

Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and Church.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 22, 2023**

MEETING DATE:	September 22, 2023
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
NEXT MEETING:	Friday, October 20, 2023 –CEC Board Room & Microsoft Teams- Meeting 1:30 PM

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	Voting Member - FIREFLY Representative - Chair
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane VanderZande	Voting Member - Member at Large, Vice Chair
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dianne Griffiths	Voting Member - Member at Large
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Voting Member - Member at Large
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erica Murray	Voting Member - KACL Representative
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shirley Jette	Voting Member - Harmony Centre for Community Living Red Lake
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marie Lundin	Voting Member – Trustee Representative
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Director of Education
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair, Board of Trustees
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. **Opening Prayer: Nicole Kurtz**

2. **Roll Call – Cathy McQuillan – Regrets, Diane VanderZande, Shirley Jette, Teresa Gallik**

3. **Welcome: Nicole Kurtz welcomed our returning SEAC members and our new member Maureen Frankcom, in her new role as, Assistant to the Director.**

4. **Approval of June 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Approved: Marie Lundin

Seconded: Anne Sweeney

5. **Board and Ministry Updates: Nicole Kurtz - Attached 3**

6. **Professional Development:**

Handout Resource – Frequently Used (Education) Acronyms -Attached 13

The board is seeking committee input on Professional Development topics.

- **Anne Sweeney asked if the committee could receive updates from the Early Literacy Support Team**
- **Sue Devlin from the KCDSB Mental Health Team could present on:**
 - **The 2023-2024 Book Club**
 - **The new grade 7-8 Mental Health Curriculum**

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- Joel Willett, Firefly, commented the Northwest Health unit offers service for deaf, hard of hearing, low vision, and blind students.

Nicole Kurtz asked if we should invite the health unit to talk about those two services.

- Anne Sweeney asked if we could have a presentation on the EQAO results and how they are applied to our Special Education students.

7. Correspondence:

- Near North District School Board: "SIP" Claim Funding – Attached - Reviewed and filed. **18**

8. New Business: New Business: [Special Education Plan](#)

9. Business arising from the last meeting: Nicole Kurtz

- Consultation with principals regarding In-School SEAC Meetings
- After the requested consultation with the principal, is reporting back that school teams will attend meetings at the CEC unless a site visit to the school is integral to the presentation. St. John Schools remain status quo.

10. Agency Reports

- FIREFLY – Joel Willett –
 - Triple P parenting
Watch social media in the new year - 2 groups coming.
 - Early years mental health program
Being developed, need MOUs in place and staff to complete training prior to roll out.
 - KACL – Erica Murray - Regrets
 - Harmony Center for Community Living – Shirley Jette - Regrets
- Other Reports from Members-at-Large**
- Dianne Griffiths – Nothing to Report
 - Anne Sweeney
 - Anne Sweeney asked if the Board could let parents know earlier if they are running a Summer Learning Program.
 - Nicole Kurtz responded that if they receive the program funding earlier in the year and we have the staff to run it they will let the parents know as soon as possible.
 - Diane VanderZande - Regrets

11. Trustee Report – Marie Lundin reported on the September 19, 2023, Board Meeting

[Click here](#) to access the Board Meeting minutes.

Meeting Highlights:

2023 Summer Learning Program – Jared Ralko

Education Services: Early Years Coordinator – Marnie Buffett

Education Services: Curriculum Coordinator – Nancy Barclay

Education Services: Special Education Elementary Learning Resource Lead – Leanne Chisholm

Student Trustee Report –Joshua Pitt, Jesse Peterson, and Benjamin Favreau

12. Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters – Attached **20**

13. Next Meetings: - Friday, October 20, 2023



Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year

5 2023 - 2024 Principal Assignments 17

St. Thomas Aquinas High School



 **Kylie Hughes**
Principal

 **Mark Richards**
Vice Principal

 **Jared Ralko**
Vice Principal

 **Tammy Bush**
Principal

 **Travis Batters**
Vice Principal

École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys



Presenta...e

St. John School St. Louis Living Arts School





2023 - 2024 School Year Calendar

Approved by the Ministry of Education, May 1, 2023



SCHOOL HOLIDAY



PD DAY



SECONDARY EXAMS

20 Instructional Days
September 2023

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

20 Instructional Days
February 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

20 Instructional Days
October 2023

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

15 Instructional Days
March 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

21 Instructional Days
November 2023

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

20 Instructional Days
April 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

16 Instructional Days
December 2023

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

22 Instructional Days
May 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2023

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

17 Instructional Days
January 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

14 Instructional Days
June 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

All students begin school on August 30 , 2023 and end on June 21 , 2024

School Holidays

September 4, 2023	Labour Day
October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving
Dec. 25 , 2023 - Jan. 5 , 2024	Christmas Break
February 19, 2024	Family Day
March 11-15, 2024	March Break
March 29, 2024	Good Friday
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday
May 20, 2024	Victoria Day

First Day of School for Students
August 30, 2023

Last Day of School for Students
June 21, 2024

Professional Development Days

August 28, 2023
August 29, 2023
October 27, 2023
November 27, 2023
January 26, 2024
April 19, 2024
June 10, 2024

Elementary Report Cards

P1-Progress Report November 14, 2023
R1-Report Card February 14, 2024
R2-Report Card June 21, 2024

Secondary

Semester 1

August 28, 2023 to January 25, 2024
Semester 1 Term 1 - August 28 to November 3, 2023
M1-Mid Term Report - November 15, 2023

Semester 1 Term 2 - November 6 to January 25, 2024
F1-Final Report - February 16, 2024

Semester 2

January 26 to June 21, 2024
Semester 2 Term 1 - January 26 to April 10, 2024
M2-Mid Term Report - April 22, 2024

Semester 2 Term 2 - April 11 to June 21, 2024
F2-Final Report - July 2024



Board & Ministry Updates

- Start-up – Opening Masses, Open Houses
- Professional Development Days – Health & Safety Training, Staff meetings., Professional Development
- Ministry of Education – New Curriculum
 - Grades 1-8 Language Arts
 - Grade 10 Technology Course Grade 10 Computer Studies course, *Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World, Open (ICD2O)*.
 - Revised Grade 1-3 Social Studies – Indigenous Education:
 - traditional Indigenous and treaty territories
 - developing an understanding of the ways of life in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities between 1780 and 1850 and the impact of colonial policies and treaties
 - the interrelationship between contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and the land, including land use, employment and the natural environment; and
 - the impact of colonization, including the residential school system, and the reclamation and revitalization of identity, language, culture and community connections.



A. Student Achievement Plan Framework

PURPOSE:

Levelling up achievement outcomes and experiences for every student.

For each priority and indicator, school boards will use board-level data on their student populations to further refine actions.



PRIORITY:
Achievement
of Learning
Outcomes in
Core Academic
Skills



PRIORITY:
Preparation of
Students for
Future Success



PRIORITY:
Student
Engagement
& Well-being

Goal: Improve students' literacy learning and achievement.

Indicators:

1. % of students who meet or exceed the provincial standard on:
 - Grade 3 EQAO Reading
 - Grade 3 EQAO Writing
 - Grade 6 EQAO Reading
 - Grade 6 EQAO Writing
2. % of fully participating, first-time eligible students who are successful on the OSSLT/TPCL

Goal: Improve students' math learning and achievement.

Indicators:

3. % of students who meet or exceed the provincial standard on:
 - Grade 3 EQAO Math
 - Grade 6 EQAO Math
 - Grade 9 EQAO Math

Goal: Improve students' graduation rates and preparedness for future success.

Indicators:

4. % of students who earn 16 or more credits by the end of Grade 10
5. % of students participating in at least one job skills program (Specialist High Skills Major, Dual Credits or Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program)
6. % of students graduating with an OSSD within five years of starting Grade 9
7. % of students enrolled in at least one Grade 12 math or Grade 11 or 12 science courses
8. % of students who believe their learning has prepared them for the next step in their learning experience (i.e., next grade, post secondary, etc.)

Goal: Improve students' participation in class time and learning.

Indicators:

9. % of students in Grades 1-8 whose individual attendance rate is equal to or greater than 90 percent
10. % of students in Grades 4-12 who were suspended at least once

Goal: Improve student well-being.

Indicators:

11. % of Grade 6, 9 and 10 students who report being aware of mental health supports and services in order to seek supports for mental health

Kenora Catholic District School Board and Northwestern Health Unit

2022/2023 Annual Partnership Report

Student Engagement

- Over \$33,000 in funding provided for the Student Nutrition Program to all schools for food and beverages, program coordination, and food distribution to supplement programs by providing grain products, egg vouchers, and applesauce.
- 100% of K-8 schools participated in the Northern Fruit and Vegetable (NFVP) program.
- Increased food access for students through participation in the Nutrition on Weekends (NOW) Program in collaboration with schools, the Rotary Club of Kenora, Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre, Kenora District Services Board, and NWHU.
- Positive body image workshop for grade 7/8 students as part of Kenora Eating Disorder Week campaign.
- Student education and awareness presentations on health topics for grades 4 and up including sexual health/puberty, safe needle pick up, and vaping prevention.

Staff Engagement

- Dietitian presentation for École Ste Marguerite Bourgeoys staff on best practices for teaching about food and nutrition and the benefits of using a food neutral approach.
- Public Health Nurse provided naloxone training for St. Thomas Aquinas staff.
- Annual principals' presentation to provide overview of 22/23 school health programs and services.
- Quarterly Healthy Hints for Educators newsletter shared with staff to promote classroom resources, grant opportunities, and NWHU health services.

Student Health Services

- 828 K-8 students received dental screening and 336 preventive treatments were provided.
- Regional compliance rates for routine immunizations were improved to 97.9% coverage for K-grade 7 and 84.64% for grades 8-12.

Parent Engagement

- NWHU staff participated on the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC).
- Welcome to Kindergarten resources provided for parents/guardians.
- NWHU staff supported parent events taking place at St. Louis School and École Ste Marguerite Bourgeoys.
- A virtual parent information session was offered to parents across the region on the topic of promoting positive body image for children and youth.

Partnership Highlights

School health program recovery

For more than 2 school years, NWHU staff were re-deployed to the COVID-19 pandemic response. During this time, some health unit programs and services had to be paused, however, in the 22/23 school year, school programming and other health services were gradually restarted. An increased number of school clinics took place to reach students who had fallen behind on their routine immunizations. The oral health program in schools was fully implemented this year, with a high proportion of K-8 students receiving screening and many taking advantage of the preventive services (including fluoride varnish) offered in schools. We rely on our school partners to provide space and help us obtain parent/guardian consent to deliver these important health services for children and youth. Thank you for your support!

Supporting the work of Eating Disorders Ontario-Prevention (EDO-P)

KCDSB identified a rise in disordered eating and eating disorders among students this past year. Your board has shown to be a leader among school boards in the region in recognizing and advancing work toward preventing eating disorders in children and youth. EDO-P is a provincial initiative that has been in the “build phase” for the past several years. In 22/23, EDO-P sought the expertise and review of their school-based resources from KCDSB mental health staff along with piloting lesson plans in the classroom. This process involved multiple meetings and consultations with school board staff, EDO-P provincial leads, and NWHU as a local partner. These consultations and partnership were instrumental in moving the work forward and will improve school resources that will be available across the province. Taking the time to provide input and giving the north a voice shows your dedication to this important mental health topic. Thank you for your leadership, ongoing support, and willingness to work collaboratively!



KCDSB Professional Development Plan

[KCDSB Website Link - PD Plan](#)



Thank you



~~"It takes a special kind of person to care for a child with special needs."~~

A child with special needs will inspire you to be a special kind of person.

GLOBAL HYDRANENCEPHALY FOUNDATION

FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS		
A	ABA	Applied Behaviour Analysis
	AC	Achievement Centres
	ADE	Average Daily Enrolment
	ADR	Alternate Dispute Resolution
	AODA	Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
	ARC	Accommodation Review Committee
	ASD Team	Autism Spectrum Disorder
	ATM	Assistive Technology Mentor
B	BAC	Benefits Advisory Committee
	BIEP	Board Improvement and Equity Plan
	BLDS	Board Leadership Development Strategy
	BPS	Broader Public Sector
C	CALP	Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency
	CASL	Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation
	CCD	Christian Community Day
	CCE	Continuing and Community Education
	CCLB	Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks
	CCSTA	Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association
	CEC	Catholic Education Centre
	CEFO	Catholic Education Foundation of Ottawa
	CEW	Catholic Education Week
	CIC	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
	CIL-M	Collaborative Inquiry Learning in Mathematics
	CLB	Canadian Language Benchmarks
	CLL	Catholic Learning Leaders
	CODE	Council of Ontario Directors of Education
	COW	Committee of the Whole
	CPCO	Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario
	CPI	Crisis Prevention Institute
	CPP	Canada Pension Plan
	CRA	Canada Revenue Agency
	CSPA	Catholic School Parents' Association
CSS	Client Support Specialist (LT)	
CTESL	Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language	
D	DA	Development Assistant
	DAR	Directors Annual Report
	DCC	Deferred Capital Contributions
	DE	Developmental Education
	DeLC	District eLearning Contact
	DELFL	Diplôme d'études en langue française
	DEP	Destination Employability Pathway
	DL	Deep Learning
	DOE	Director of Education
	DS	Developmental Specialist
	DS	District Supervisor
E	E&E	Effectiveness & Efficiency Reviews
	EA	Educational Assistant

	EAP	Employment Assistance Program
	ECCODE	English Catholic Council of Ontario Directors of Education
	ECE	Early Childhood Education
	ECL	Education for Community Living
	ECNO	Educational Computing Network of Ontario
	ECPP	Education and Community Partnership Program
	EDC	Education Development Charges
	EDI	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
	EDP	Extended Day Program
	EI	Employment Insurance
	EL	Experiential Learning
	ELD	Early Learning Division
	ELD	English Literacy Development
	ELHT	Employee Life and Health Trust
	ELL	English Language Learner
	ELP	Early Learning Program
	ELS	Early Learning Services
	ELTOC	English Language Tutoring of Ottawa Carleton
	EMCS	Energy Management & Control Systems
	EOCCC	Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Corporation
	EOSDN	Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network
	EOSS	Employment Ottawa Social Services
	EPCI	Early Primary Collaborative Inquiry
	EQAO	Education Quality and Accountability Office
	ESL	English as a Second Language
	ESSD	Elementary Student Success Department
F	FCTGO	Federation of Catholic Teachers' Guilds of Ontario
	FDK	Full Day Kindergarten
	FOI	Freedom of Information (see MFIPPA)
	FOY	Focus on Youth
	FRP	Facility Renewal Projects (see also GSR)
	FSL	French Second Language
	FTE	Full Time Equivalency
	FWC	Family Welcome Centre
G	GSN	Grants for Student Needs
	GSR	Grant for School Renewal (see also FRP)
	GWL	Great West Life
I	IBI	Intensive Behaviour Intervention
	IE	Indigenous Education
	IEP	Individual Education Plan
	IL	International Languages
	ILT	Interdepartmental Leadership Team
	IMENU	Internet Menu (Absences, Timesheets, Pay Statement. OFD filing etc.)
	IPPS	Integrated Personnel Payroll System
	IPRC	Identification, Placement and Review Committee
	ISSSD	Intermediate/Secondary Student Success Department

J	JCC	Joint Consultation Committee
	JK/SK	Junior or Senior Kindergarten
K	KID	Kindergarten Early Identification
L	LARC	Language and Assessment Referral Centre
	LBM	Labour Board Management
	LBS	Literacy and Basic Skills
	LC	Learning Connections
	LINC	Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada
	L and PE	Leadership and Parent Engagement
	LNS	Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat
	LSA	Leading Student Achievement
	LT	Learning Technologies
	LTD	Long Term Disability
	LTO	Long Term Occasional
	LTST	Learning Technologies Service Technician
M	MACSE	Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
	MAESD	Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development
	MEN	Ministry Educator Number
	MRC	Ministry Rated Capacity
	MCI	Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Ontario
	MCYS	Ministry of Child and Youth Services
	MFIPPA	Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
	MLO	Multicultural Liaison Officer
	MLTSD	Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development
	MOE	Ministry of Education
	MOE	Ministry of the Environment
	MOH	Ministry of Health
	MOT	Ministry of Transportation
	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
	MSAC	Minister's Student Advisory Council
	MYPSP	Multi-Year Strategic Plan
N	NIC	Newcomer Information Centre
	NPDL	New Pedagogies for Deep Learning
	NPP	New Pupil Places
	NTIP	New Teacher Induction Program
O	OA	Office Administrator
	OASBO	Ontario Association of School Business Officials
	OCH	Operation Come Home
	OCREAC	Ottawa-Carleton Research and Evaluation Advisory Committee
	OCSOA	Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association
	OCSTA	Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association
	OECM	Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace
	OECTA	Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
	OFA	Ontario Financing Authority

	OFIP	Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership
	OMERS	Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (Pension Plan)
	ONFE	Ottawa Network for Education
	OReg	Ontario Regulations
	OnSIS	Ontario Student Information System
	OSBIE	Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange
	OSR	Ontario Student Record
	OSSC	Ontario Secondary School Certificate
	OSSD	Ontario Secondary School Diploma
	OSSLT	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
	OSSTF	Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
	OSTA	Ottawa Student Transportation Authority
	OTIP	Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan
	OYAP	Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
P	PASS	Partnering to Achieve Student Success
	PBLA	Portfolio Based Language Assessment
	PCAP	Pan Canadian Assessment Program
	PCS	Primary Class Size
	PD	Professional Development
	PFLC	Parenting and Family Literacy Centre
	PIC	Parent Involvement Committee
	PIM	Privacy and Information Management
	PKE	Provincial Knowledge Exchange
	PLAR	Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition
	PO	Purchase Order
	PPM	Policy/Program Memoranda (Ministry of Education)
	PRO	Parent Reaching Out Grant
	PS	PowerSchool
R	RECE	Registered Early Childhood Educator
	ReCAPP	Renewal Capital Asset Planning Process
	RFP	Request for Proposal
	RFQ	Request for Quote
	RPC	Request for Physical Change
	RMS	Records Management System
	RTW	Return to Work
S	SAA	Special Assignment Assistant
	SAL	Supervised Alternative Learning
	SAP	Student Achievement Plan
	SAR	School Accommodation Review
	SCI	School Condition Improvement
	SCO	School Cash Online
	SEA	Special Equipment Amount
	SEAC	Special Education Advisory Committee
	SECAC	Special Education Curriculum Advisory Committee
	SEF	School Effective Framework
	SEL	Social Emotional Learning
	SEMS	Substitute Employee Management System

	SEP	Summer Experience Program
	SEPPA	Special Education Per Pupil Amount
	SFIS	School Facility Inventory System
	SGF	School Generated Funds
	SGH	Shepherds of Good Hope
	SHSM	Specialist High Skills Major
	SIEP	School Equity and Improvement Plan
	SIM	System Implementation and Monitoring
	SIP	Special Incidence Portion
	SLA	Service Level Agreement
	SLT	Settlement Language Training
	SMS	Student Management System
	SRO	School Resource Officer
	SSLI	Student Support Leadership Initiative
	SSRP	Supported School Readiness Program
	StAR	Students as Researchers
	STDP	Short Term Disability Plan
	STEP	Steps to English Proficiency
T	TELT	Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching (eLearning lead and contact)
	TESL	Teachers of English as a Second Language
	TLA	Temporary Letters of Approval
	TLIA	Teacher Learning and Innovation Allotment
	TLLP	Teacher Learning and Leadership Program
	TPA	Teacher Performance Appraisal
	TPP	Teachers Pension Plan
	TSSA	Technical Standards and Safety Authority
U	UW CBA	United Way Community Builders Awards
W	WITS	W alk away, I gnore, T alk it out, S eek help
	WSIB	Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
	WTK	Welcome to Kindergarten



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RECEIVED

JUN 20 2023

Kenora Catholic District
School Board

February 14, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
15th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce:

Re: Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Near North District School Board would like to send this letter of support for the concerns expressed by the Durham District School Board regarding funding of the Special Incidence Portion (SIP)

Like other school boards in Ontario would like to remind you that in the spring of 2018 the previous government announced an increase to the SIP claim funding of \$11,016.00, bringing that funding amount up to \$38,016.00 per student from the previous funding amount of \$27,000.00. On August 24, 2018, after school board budgets were prepared and approved, the Ministry announced that the previously-announced increase would be clawed back. Currently the funding received from the Ministry is \$28,803.00, bringing the net increase to \$1,803.00 per student.

SEACs across the province were dismayed by the Ministry of Education decision to claw back that increase, given that the true costs of supporting a student with a SIP claim are significantly higher than the allocated amount. For example, the average cost, including salary and benefits, for an Educational Assistant at the Near North District School Board is \$52,397 a student who requires 2 plus Educational Assistants to support their learning needs would be at a cost of \$104,794 plus.

In the 2021-2022 school year alone, the NNDSB allocated \$707,634 more than was given in Special Education Grants to Special Education services. Some of the revenue the NNDSB has used to fund this gap is the Local Priorities Funding, which, as you are aware, is not guaranteed annual funding from the Province.

Furthermore, when you take into account the claw-back of the SIP funding increase in 2018, combined with the reallocation of the Special Education Per Pupil Amount, this resulted in a net **decrease** in funding and a further increase in the NNDSB's Special Education deficit. In 2017, the Auditor General highlighted that the Ministry of Education's "[f]unding formula uses out-of-date benchmarks and is due for a comprehensive external review."



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Specifically, we urge the Minister to consider:

- A minimum 5% increase in the Special Education funding that will better align with the true costs associated with SIP claims to support our students and increase funding accordingly.
- That the Special Education funding model be reviewed annually and changed to accurately reflect the increasing and more complex needs of students with special needs.
- An improved process that will eliminate the need for such intensive applications or provide support for Boards to complete the SIP applications. It takes countless staff hours per SIP application, which impacts the time our trained Special Education teachers and leads are away from their other important work supporting high-needs students.

Sincerely,



Albina Lavictoire,
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee,
Near North District School Board



Erika Lougheed,
Chair, Board of Trustees,
Near North District School Board

cc: Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and the Church.

SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

SUBJECT:	Special Education Coordinator's Report – September 2023
DATE:	Friday, September 22, 2023
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

The **KCDSB In-School Team (IST) school administrator** and **Learning Resource Teacher (LRT) assignments** this year are as follows:

- **Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys** – Principal: Hilary Aitkin, new Vice-Principal: Jordan Temple, Learning Resource Teacher: Kristy Smith
- **St. John Paul II School** – Principal: Tammy Bush, Vice-Principal: Travis Batters, Learning Resource Teachers: Anissa Fraser, Stacey Goodridge, and Shaun Dufresne
- **St. Louis Living Arts School** – New Principal: Erin Hercun, Learning Resource Teacher: Karen Smith
- **St. John School** -- Principal: Corinna Glazier, Learning Resource Teacher: Shawna Lamme
- **St. Thomas Aquinas High School** – Principal: Kylie Hughes, Vice-Principal: Mark Richards, new Vice-Principal: Jared Ralko, Learning Resource Teachers: Danielle Grosset (Special Education Area Chair), Kirsten Fair, and Sommer Kennedy.

The **Ministry's Transition to School funding** continued to be accessed by school teams as they prepared to welcome back students for their return to school. The purpose of the Transition to School initiative is to support students with special education needs by providing additional staffing funding and program support dollars, prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Examples of some individualized transition assistance for students and families included:

- Educator(s) contacting families of students with special education needs to determine what supports they would find helpful and to answer any questions parents have about the upcoming school year,
- Providing students and families with an opportunity to become reacquainted with the school environment (tours, practicing routines, etc. This also included several Kindergarten welcome events),



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- Creating or purchasing transition materials to prepare comforting and welcoming transition or comfort spaces in classrooms or shared school spaces.

The **Opening Professional Activity (PA) Days for the 2023-2024 school year** took place on August 28 & 29. The first day was devoted to **School Improvement Planning** and **Student/School Safety**. Annual Occupational Health and Safety Training took place for staff, as well as school-based planning time to link board and school plans, with a focus on literacy, numeracy, and equity. The second PA day topics included **Curriculum Implementation and Student Safety**.

- **Instructional curriculum sessions** were led by Instructional Services Coordinators, System Leads and school administrators to review the following **updates to the Ontario curriculum** and supporting documents
 - The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language
 - English, De-streamed, Grade 9
 - Effective Early Reading Instruction, A teacher's guide
 - Math Grades 7-8 and 9-12

School teams had opportunities to learn about curriculum updates and plan for assessment and evaluation practices in virtual group sessions, organized by division. The **Language curriculum** sessions centered on **The Science of Reading** evidence-based programming which focuses on the **foundational literacy skills** including word recognition/decoding, vocabulary building, oral expression, reading comprehension and fluency. In the **Mathematics workshops**, Facilitators from **Make Math Moments** worked virtually with Grade 7-8 teachers and Grade 9-12 Math teachers. Their focus was on destreaming numeracy instruction and alternatives to traditional textbook-based programming. Nancy Barclay, KCDSB's Curriculum Coordinator/Destreaming Lead delivered in-person sessions to **secondary educators** on **Evidence Based Strategies for High Impact Teaching** and **Equitable Assessment** practices.

Time on the August 29 PA day was also devoted to **trauma-informed Non-violent Crisis Prevention Intervention Training**. Educators learned about strategies to recognize and respond to crisis and non crisis situations, and Educational Assistants (EAs) at some schools took part in their **annual Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) recertification training**.

The **next KCDSB PA day** is set for **Friday, October 27** with an instructional and student mental health-wellbeing focus.