

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

February 18, 2022

MEETING DATE:	Friday, February 18, 2022
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM –3:01 PM
NEXT MEETING:	March 25, 2022

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Norine Schram	Voting Member - Member at Large, Chair
2.	<input checked="" 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"/>	Tom Fawcett	Voting Member - Member at Large
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	KACL to Appoint Member	Voting Member - KACL Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	Voting Member - FIREFLY Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Voting Member- Trustee Representative
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Director of Education
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Superintendent of Instructional Services
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair, Board of Trustees
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. Opening Prayer – Nicole Kurtz

2. Roll Call: Regrets – Aimee Foucher, Paul White, Teresa Gallik

Guest: École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys, LRT - Kristy Smith, Principal - Hilary Aitken

3. École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys Presentation: Hilary Aitken, Kristy Smith - Attached 5

4. Approval of January 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes

- **Approved by: Diane VanderZande**
- **Seconded by: Joel Willett**

5. Correspondence:

- **Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Letter – January 13, 2022 - Attached 17**
Review and file.

- **Durham District School Board – February 3, 2022 - Attached 18**

This letter was regarding the claw back of the SIP funding from an increase of \$11,016.00 per student to \$1,518.00 per student bringing the total funding per student to \$28,518.00 per student.

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**

February 18, 2022

Ann Sweeney feels SEAC should send a letter stating our concern to the reduction to the anticipated increase to SIP funding.

Norine Schram will draft a letter and bring it to the next SEAC meeting for approval.

6. **New Business: SEAC Trustee Vote** - Nicole Kurtz

After a review of the legislation, it was decided that Ann Sweeney, KCDSB Trustee can cast a vote at our SEAC meetings, and her attendance will count towards quorum.

7. **Professional Development:** Andrea Batters

Alison Smith will be joining the March 25, 2022, SEAC meeting to share funding information with the committee at that time.

8. **Business arising from last meeting:**

- **First Nations SEAC Representative** – Nicole Kurtz

The Ministry of Education states that we can have up to two First Nations representatives on our SEAC to represent the interest of First Nations students attending our board under a tuition agreement.

Norine Schram suggested trying to recruit a Métis representative as a member at large. This would be an opportunity to have more representation on the committee.

Anne Sweeney asked if we could contact Shelly White who is involved with the FNMI committee regarding a First Nations representative for SEAC.

Nicole Kurtz responded that we could put that item on the agenda for our next FNMI meeting which will be held on April 6, 2022.

Norine Schram also reminded the committee it has been a long time since we had a member from Red Lake

- **SEAC Meeting Survey** – Norine Schram & Andrea Batters

Norine and Andrea sent out a survey to our SEAC members regarding when and how we hold our SEAC meetings. Respondents were asked:

- **What day of the week would be best?**
- **What day and times would you be available to meet?**
- **What is your preferred way to participate in the meeting?**

The committee decided to keep the meetings on Friday afternoons at 1:30 pm.

Norine Schram suggested we revisit this in the June meeting when we discuss next years meeting schedule.

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****February 18, 2022**

- **In Person SEAC Meetings**

Dianne Griffith suggested that the meeting could be held in person but with the option to attend virtually as well.

Trustee Report: Only report on issues relevant to Special Education. The Board Meeting minutes are available online for review.

Coordinators Report: Keep this report directly related to Special Education.

Nicole Kurtz suggested reaching out to the Learning Resource Team each year to see where they are having struggles. Find out what they would like to be brought to our SEAC committees' attention that we could bring to the Boards attentions when they are determining Policies and Procedures.

Diane VanderZande commented prior to COVID the reason they would do school visits was to talk with the LRTs and find out what was happening in the schools and what issues they were having. They would listen to their suggestions to make improvements and bring them to the Board's attention. She wants the LRTs to know before the meeting that the SEAC committee will be asking them if they are having any issues that we could help them with.

Nicole Kurtz responded that since we have already had two school presentations this year that perhaps herself and Andrea could gather some feedback in general of struggles they are facing and bring this to the SEAC. The schools that have not presented would continue with the current format for this year.

Joel Willett added an example: Sarah Pyzer had reached out at one point from your school board regarding funding that there was for supporting kids with autism. But because you are a small board and there's a small select group of kids with ASD and such a wide age range, she was unable to utilize it. Could it be brought to this committee on how we help the school board utilize this funding? How do we better support those kids?

She would like to hear what school boards and schools need FIREFLY to assist them with.

9. Agency Reports

- **FIREFLY – Joel Willett – Attached 20**

Anne Sweeney asked Joel if FIREFLY has had any success filling the job vacancies she had talked about at our last meeting.

Joel Willett responded they had not. They currently have eight speech pathology vacancies, so it is important for the school boards to be aware that they have limited staff providing service and the wait list continues to grow. They do have communication assistants that are carrying out programming that the speech pathologists have put in place. University programs are finishing up in the summer, and they will try to recruit new staff in the fall.

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**

February 18, 2022

Andrea Batters asked how do KCDSB classes sign up for the neurodiversity programming?

Joel Willett reported they have a committee that is putting together the programming. She is anticipating reaching out by early March to see if there are classrooms that want to sign up for this program.

- **KACL – No Representative appointed yet to replace Aimee Foucher**
 - **Other Reports from Members-at-Large**
 - **Tom Fawcett** – Tom wanted to let the committee know that this will be his last year as a SEAC member. He hopes the SEAC committee continues to visit the schools, because he thinks it's important to have that contact. As a former teacher, he always thought this was important to have that contact with the members of the SEAC committee.
 - **Dianne Griffiths – Nothing to Report**
 - **Diane VanderZande – Nothing to Report**
 - **Norine Schram –Nothing to Report**
10. **Trustee Report – Anne Sweeney – January 18, 2022 Board Meeting**
 To see highlights or to watch on You Tube click on this link:
[From the Boardroom for January 18, 2022](#)
- Anne Sweeney** was thinking that perhaps she would review the board minutes with Nicole or Andrea and see from their perspective if there's anything from those minutes that should be brought forward to this committee. If there is something relevant in the Trustee Report it could then be entered as an agenda item.
- Norine Schram** asked for the Trustee Report to be kept as a standing item on the agenda and just to pass if there is nothing to report.
11. **Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters - Attached 21**
12. **Next Meeting: Friday, March 25, 2022**
Microsoft Teams
-

SEAC Presentation

Friday, February 18th

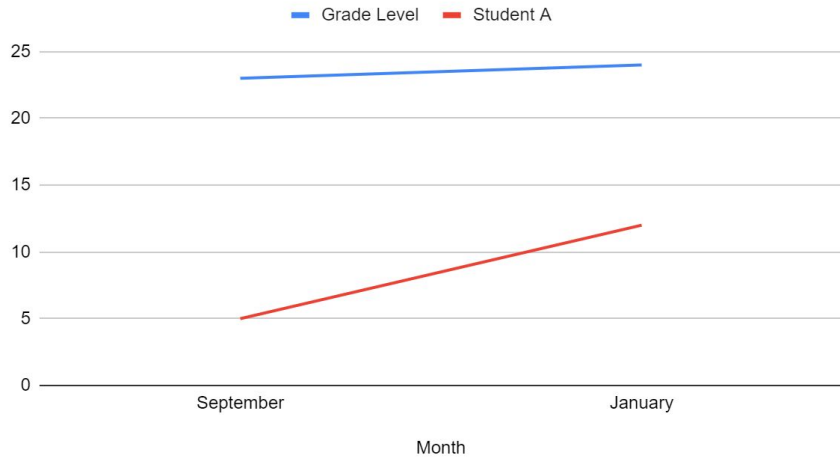
Empower



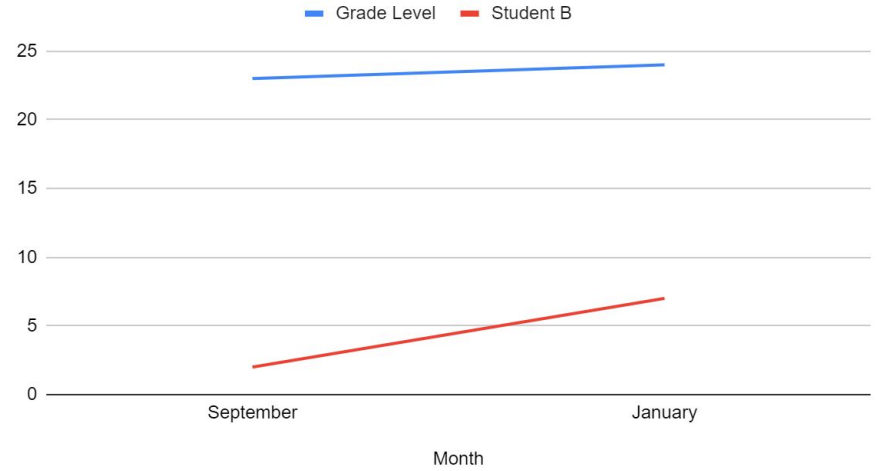
Empower⁷ Benchmark Data

Student	Assessment Date	Benchmark/Grade Level	Reassessment Date	Benchmark/Grade Level
Student 1	September	8 (middle grade 1)	January	11 (middle grade 1)
Student 2	September	5 (beginning grade 1)	January	12 (middle grade 1)
Student 3	September	6 (beginning grade 1)	January	10 (middle grade 1)
Student 4	September	2 (middle FDK)	January	7 (middle grade 1)
Student 5	September	7 (middle grade 1)	January	9 (middle grade 1)
Student 7	September	1 (beginning FDK)	January	4 (beginning grade 1)
Student 8	September	5 (beginning grade 1)	January	8 (middle grade 1)
Student 9	September	8 (middle grade 1)	January	15 (end grade 1)
Student 10	September	1 (beginning FDK)	January	10 (middle grade 1)
Student 11	September	3 (end FDK)	January	7 (middle grade 1)

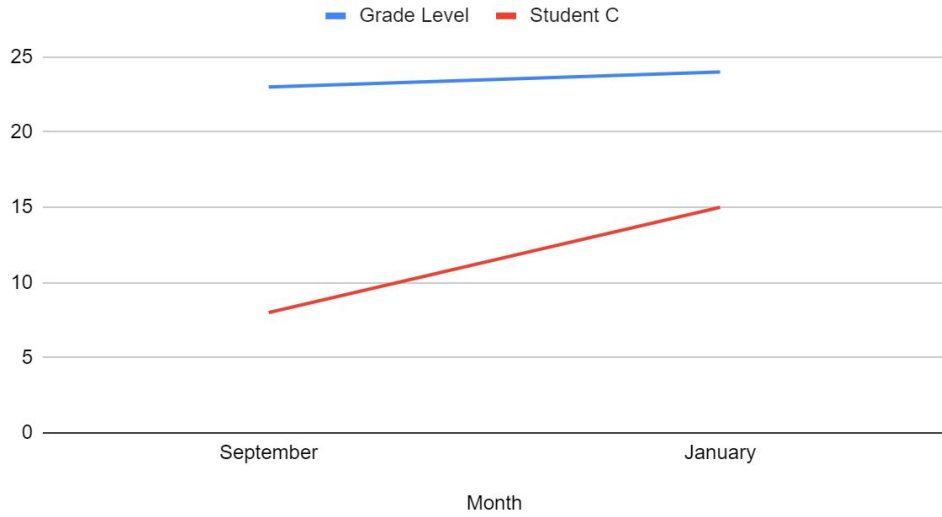
PM Benchmark



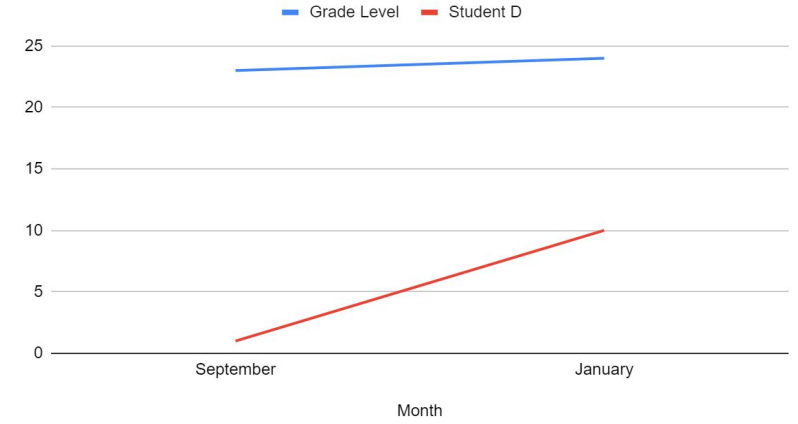
PM Benchmark



PM Benchmark



PM Benchmark



Literacy Intervention Programs

- Heggerty

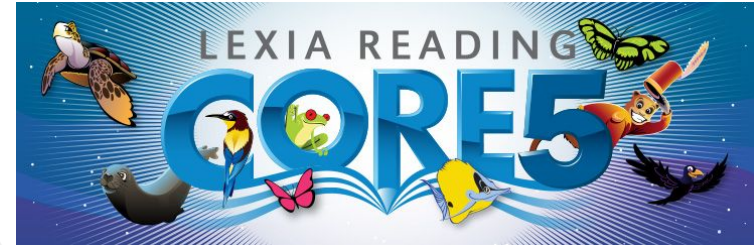


Heggerty

- Lexia

Lexia Reading Core5
Scope and Sequence

Grade Level of Material	Skill					
	Phonological Awareness	Phonics/PA	Structural Analysis	Automaticity/Fluency	Vocabulary	Comprehension
Pre-K	•	•			•	•
Kindergarten	•	•			•	•
Grade 1		•			•	•
Grade 2		•	•		•	•
Grade 3			•	•	•	•
Grade 4			•	•	•	•
Grade 5			•	•	•	•



Literacy Intervention Programs

- WISE



Literacy Intervention Programs

- French Reading Recovery Program



In School Team Meetings (IST)



In School Testing



Kimochi



Mental Health Supports



Thank you!





**Renfrew County
Catholic District
School Board**

499 Pembroke St. West
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 5P1
1-800-267-0191
(613) 735-1031
FAX: (613) 735-2649
www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca

*...as an inclusive Catholic
educational community, we
are called to express our
mission as church, to pass
on the Good News of Jesus
Christ, to make it relevant in
the world today, and to be
the hope for the future.*

January 13, 2022

Honorable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2

Honorable Stephen Lecce,

We, the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board (RCCDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), are writing to share our common concerns expressed by the Algoma District School Board (ADSB), Durham District School Board (DDSB), and Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) SEACs in regard to Online Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning in provincial online learning resources and the platforms used to access these resources.

We are deeply concerned about our students who do not have convenient access to wireless connections, as all areas in Renfrew County do not have the same access and resources. As such, it is our request that you commit to ensuring that all online and/or learning courses must be consistently maintained with enabled links and resources that meet accessibility standards (such as closed captioning, etc.).

While schools are opening back up to in-school to an uncertain future, and virtual needs may diminish school populations, we acknowledge that on-line learning may become the best choice for some students, and that their learning experience is as worthy of proper resources that adhere to the universal design for learning as their in-school peers. The pandemic has shown gaps in our provinces online learning resources and an opportunity to invest in our students' educational access.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this request for action.

Sincerely,

Pat O'Grady
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee
Renfrew County Catholic District School Board

Cc: Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

February 3, 2022

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

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of Durham District School Board's (DDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Our SEAC includes eight parent associations, who represent thousands of families in Durham Region.

In the spring of 2018, the previous government announced an increase to the Special Incidence Portion (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 that increase would be clawed back to \$28,518.00, bringing the net increase to \$1,518.00 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 that amount. For example, the average cost, including salary and benefits, for an Educational Assistant is \$58,870. A student who requires 2 plus Educational Assistants to support their learning needs would be at a cost of \$117,740 plus. The Ministry of Education's SIP amount covers approximately 24.2 percent of the cost to support a student with significant learning needs. The DDSB covers the remaining 75.9 percent of the cost from other Special Education and operational grants.

The budget gap at the DDSB between Special Education revenues and expenditures for the last three years has averaged 5.6%. This currently school year alone, the DDSB allocated \$6,699,588 more than was given in Special Education Grants to Special Education services. Some of the money the DDSB uses to fund this gap is the Local Priorities Funding, which is not funding that is guaranteed to be received annually from the Province.

Our SEAC has previously expressed our concerns that the amount the Ministry of Education provides for the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) is inadequate. The claw back of the SIP increase announced on August 24, 2018, along with the reallocation to the Special Education Per Pupil Amount resulted in a net decrease in funding, further increasing the DDSB's Special Education deficit. As the Auditor General highlighted in 2017, the Ministry of Education's "[f]unding formula uses out-of-date benchmarks and is due for a comprehensive external review." Our SEAC is extremely concerned by the direction funding for special education is taking, leaving our most vulnerable children further at risk.



Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

Inadequate funding of Special Education at the DDSB puts our most vulnerable children at risk by cutting the services that they need to be successful. Our entire system is strained when the DDSB takes revenues from other areas to meet its statutory commitment to children accessing Special Education services.

We urge the Minister to evaluate the true costs associated with SIP claims to support our students and increase funding accordingly. We further request, once again, that the Special Education funding model be reviewed and changed to accurately reflect the increasing and more complex needs of students with special needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eva Kyriakides".

Eva Kyriakides

SEAC Chair

Durham District School Board

cc: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
Hon. Rod Phillips, MPP
Hon. Marit Stiles, MPP
Hon. Kathleen Wynne, MPP

FIREFLY
KCDSB SEAC update
February 18, 2022

- Entry to School:
 - Currently we have 4 children who have received invites, 3 are eligible and registered with FIREFLY to begin services in March. The current students are all 3 year olds and registered to start JK with schools in KPDSB and RRDSB
 - KCDSB will be a partner in this program if there are any students from their schools registered
- Neurodiversity Celebration Week', which takes place this year March 21-27. As an agency working with 'neurodivergent' individuals, we think it would be beneficial for our clients and communities to start participating in this initiative. The plan is to hopefully be able to offer virtual presentations for different age groups at schools. More communication to come.
- Recruiting for dietician to expand our abilities to best support clients with complex feeding problems and support clients with eating disorders.
- Very short staffed for SLP services – please be patient while we recruit. Waitlists are long and growing. We have some communication assistants in place to help the situation.



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
DATE:	Friday, February 18, 2022
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

Marnie Buffett and I attended the **Best Start Network - Regional Transition to School Partners** meeting which took place on Tuesday, February 8. TTS partners aim to build authentic relationships between sending agencies, school teams, and families to ensure that children with special education needs have the best possible transition to school. During this meeting, participants discussed updates to the **How Does Learning Happen For Your Child? (HDLHFYC)** document that was reviewed with the group. Proposed revisions included a 'you know your child best page'. The goal of the document is to support positive transitions to school for children with individualized learning needs. As we enter this period of [Kindergarten Registration](#) everyone is excited to prepare to welcome our new KCDSB learners, who will be entering school for the first time this fall!

The **winter Regional Special Education Committee (RSEC) meeting** will be taking place on Thursday, February 24. Presentations and discussions will include:

- A **Ministry Special Education Update** by Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education / Success for All Branch;
- A **School Mental Health Ontario** overview of local school mental health trends, issues and a portal tour by Joan Kantola & Ashley Hendy;
- A **Special Education and the Law** presentation and discussion by Gillian Tuck Kutarna, LLP, Miller Thomson Legal Firm, and
- A **Northern Adjustment (Funding) Discussion and Update** from Rick Boisvert & Sylvia Parker.