



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 13, 2024 at the John McGivney Children's Centre, 3945 Matchett Road, Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario
Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise
Chelsey Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association
Lucy Coppola, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services
Shawn Maheux, Financial Services Manager
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Lana Brode, Education Coordinator

REGRETS

Martha Vukov, Community Living Essex County
Tina Szymczak, Inclusion Action in Ontario
Teresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative

RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-e-naa-bay), Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-oh-show-nee), Lenni (Len-eh) Lenape (Le-naw-pay) and allied

Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy, Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-dah-wah), Potawatomi (Paw-taw-watt-ohme) and Huron/Wendat (Wen-dat) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: J. Conrad

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC approve the Agenda of February 13, 2024

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Conrad

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC approve the Minutes of January 9, 2024

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no new business arising as a result of the Minutes.

6. Special Education Presentation

- C. Mills met with T. McCarthy and K. McKinley to brainstorm topics for upcoming meeting. He thanked M. Wilcox for hosting us today.
- Budget Survey presented by S. Maheux. The Ministry requires SEAC be involved in the budget, we are starting a lot earlier this year. We currently have a \$9 million deficit. The pressures relate to special education, transportation, occasional cost, inflation. It is important to get feedback from committees, as well as the public. We will be releasing 2 different surveys this year. I really encourage SEAC to provide feedback to the survey as a committee. We are looking for suggestions for potential savings. The Board will submit a deficit recovery plan to the Ministry, everything is being looked at. 80% of the Board's budget is wages and benefits. There are still a lot of unknowns. Over the next month we need to think about what is important as a group for Special Education.
- Brain Computer Interface, K. Smith, from the John McGivney Children's Centre School Authority and L. Brode, Education Coordinator, presented and demonstrated the brain computer interface. JMCC has been trialing and using this technology successfully for a few of their students and the GECDSB is partnering with Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab to trial it with a select elementary and secondary students.
- Tours of John McGivney Children's Centre were given by M. Wilcox.

7. Special Education Updates

- PD Updates

K. Sweet gave an update on the upcoming PD for February. We are offering a series of workshops for secondary administrators, on February 22nd we will be hosting workshop #2 to discuss what they saw and what they learned from visiting GAINS programs to meet students who will be transitioning into Grade 9.

8. New Business

- SEAC Letter to Minister

Budget concerns

- MACSE Collaboration Form
C. Mills, we spoke about this before, feedback is due on February 16th. Looking for successful practices, challenges, and future direction. If there is anything you would like to add or discuss, please email him directly.

9. Association Reports

- C. Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association -Windsor council and 3 different school parent councils met to discuss RISE review concerns; we drafted a letter to the trustees share with the group.
- L. Coppola, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County – we have moved to our new location at Maryvale, it's looking great. The other big initiative Inclusion Equity for all kids, groups are planned for March Break. We are bringing kids back in-person.
- S. Yang – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise – upcoming Art Meets Wellness Event shared with the group.
- J. Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association – Shared information with the program about RISE and it's potential elimination. We are putting out a poll to see who is in a RISE or GAINS program. We are also putting together a letter to trustees. Valentine's day party for members on Friday.
- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – We are reviewing the current definition of Autism.

10. Distribution

- Brain Injury Association Letter

11. Adjournment at 2:41pm



NEXT MEETING, March 19, 2024

Board Meeting Minutes available on [GECD SB website](#).

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)