

**GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
REPORT OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, April 20, 2021** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Aimee Omstead, Trustee
Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction
Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS

Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Suzanne Kovach, Parents for Children's Mental Health

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: M. Vukov

That SEAC approve the agenda for April 20, 2021.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

Seconded by: C. Cooke

That SEAC approve the minutes for March 9, 2021.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

Review of the GECSB SEAC letter supporting the letter from the Durham DSB regarding *Online Learning Supports/Universal Design for Learning*.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 20, 2021

M. Wilcox drafted a letter in support and sent a copy of this letter via email to the SEAC committee members for review.

Send Letter of Support to Ministry

Motion: A. Omstead

Seconded: C. Cooke

That SEAC send the GECDSB SEAC letter supporting the letter from the Durham DSB, to the Minister of Education.

Special Education Plan for 2020 Review

K. Sweet shared her screen with the Special Education Plan for 2021 with the committee. M. Wilcox and K. Sweet went through all revisions from the first six standards of the Special Education Plan 2021 and discussed with the committee before making them final. Suggestions will be integrated into the plan and reviewed again at the next SEAC meeting in May.

The first six standards of the Special Education Plan 2021 are:

Standard 1: The Board's Consultation Process

Standard 2: The Board's General Model for Special Education

Standard 3: Roles and Responsibilities

Standard 4: Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies

Standard 5: The Identification, Placement and Review Committee Process and Appeals

Standard 6: Educational and Other Assessments

Greater Essex County District School Board Strategic Priorities – Madeline McEachern, Communications Officer

M. McEachern shared a Power Point presentation which focused on:

- Mission Statement:
 - Leading excellence in public education by creating confident learners, engaging diverse communities and demonstrating ethical stewardship
- Strategic Priorities:
 - Creating confident learning through personalized learning, supportive environments and trusting relationships
 - Engaging communities through equitable and reflective practices that respect and honour our diversity
 - Demonstrating ethical stewardship through thoughtful and purposeful use of financial, human, environmental and community resources.

Suggestions and questions were taken by the SEAC committee members and M. McEachern will bring them back to the Strategic Priorities committee for review.

5. Special Education Update

PD Update – March 2021

- Lexia PD for New Lexia Teachers
- Lexia Refresher
- Gifted Experiential Virtual Fieldtrip, University of Windsor

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 20, 2021

Ministry Funding for Summer Initiatives

GECDSB received funding last year for summer learning. The Special Education Department held Camp Discovery for special education students. The feedback was amazing and we would like to hold this event again this summer. We also received Transition funding to assist students who may have difficulty transitioning into the 2021-2022 school year. We will also be holding the STRIVE conference in May, which focuses on intermediate students (gr. 7 and 8).

6. New Business

7. Association Reports

J. Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario – Thanked the GECDSB for their participation in *Raise the Flag for Autism*. Autism Ontario is currently getting online camps underway. Please visit <https://www.autismontario.com> for more information

B. Turner, Home and School Instruction – Windsor Council continues to communicate with families virtually.

L. Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative – IAC and GECPIC have been going over the Strategic Plan.

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County – Providing virtual supports through <https://mycommunityhub.ca/>

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – There is a scholarship for students with an LD identification, who are attending post-secondary school next year. The deadline to apply is April 30th. Visit <https://www.ldawe.ca> for more information.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING May 11, 2021

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECDSB Website
<https://publicboard.ca/Board/Meetings/Pages/default.aspx>

Erin Kelly
Director of Education

Mike Wilcox
Administrative Liaison

(Ministry SEAC Website) www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/