

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, February 9, 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
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS

Suzanne Kovach, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Kimberly John, Indigenous Community Representative
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: J. Matte Gasparovic

Seconded by: S. Ruggaber

That SEAC approve the agenda for February 9, 2021.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: M. Vukov

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the minutes for January 12, 2021.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

February 9, 2021

5. Special Education Presentation

Supporting Anti-Racism Education Update – Rachel Olivero

Rachel Olivero is the Equity and Inclusive Education Officer for the Greater Essex County District School Board. She directed the SEAC committee members to specific links on the Board's website that explain their commitment to:

Diversity – The presence of a wide range of human qualities and attributes within a group, organization or society.

Equity – A condition or state of fair, inclusive and respectful treatment of all people.

Inclusive Education – Education that is based on the principles of accepting and inclusion of all students.

The document *Supporting Anti-Racism Education*, is being created to provide information on all topics covered through related links on the Board's website. A survey has been created on the Board's website, *Draft: Supporting Anti-Racism Education Regulation Framework January 2021*, seeking public input and feedback.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DgHgbDo7FEai29tzsY8hn9FoYsWG-fIIIT-uMDp4dldUNVA3TEsyMidUQTdPRDMzQ1RZN1FSRzVFSi4u>

The deadline to complete this survey is March 3, 2021.

6. Special Education Update

PD Update – February 2021

• **Boardmaker: Expedition Education and Activities to Go**

Expedition Education and Activities to Go. This workshop will teach you how to implement and sort through the premade curriculum.

• **Monday's with Amanda**

Participants learn how to create interactive tasks to be used to teach/support students virtually.

• **Behaviour Management Systems Recertification**

Staff will complete their recertification process with an online model reinforcing emphasis on prevention and non-physical interventions.

• **FEED THE NEED: Teaching Functionally Equivalent Replacement Behaviours in the Classroom**

In this presentation, staff will look at the "why" behind common challenging behaviours (aggression, stereotyping, non-compliance, disruption, etc.) seen in the classroom setting.

• **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**

This presentation will identify the areas most impacted by FASD and how we can support students with FASD in the classroom and school setting.

• **MS Teams – Supporting Students Remotely**

In this webinar Educational Support Staff will learn how to use the many features of MS Teams to support students and the classroom teacher during remote learning

• **MS TEAMS – Supporting Students Remotely**

This session will focus on using the IPAD and MS TEAMS to support students remotely.

• **Boardmaker – Beginner Level**

Participants will learn how to use Boardmaker to program structured learning activities.

Special Education Plan

The process for updating the Special Education Plan will begin in March 2021. M. Wilcox and K. Sweet will go through the document to make necessary minor changes and will send to SEAC committee members for input and direction around what sections to review at our March SEAC meeting.

February 9, 2021

Future Presentation

M. Wilcox proposed bringing in Amanda Laforet to present at the March 2021 meeting. Amanda is a virtual GAINS teacher and the presenter of the “**Mondays with Amanda**” after school workshop series for teachers who teach in virtual GAINS and STEPS classrooms. There has been great response to these sessions.

M. Wilcox asked SEAC member if there were any areas of interest or topics in Special Education that they would like to see a future presentation on for the remainder of this year.

A request from Sheila Ruggaber was mentioned as a possible presentation on RISE classrooms for later this year. M. Wilcox will look into this request and try to accommodate it before the end of the school year.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Association Reports

Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

- The epilepsy educator is still available virtually during Covid for any school education needs.
- Purple Palooza! This virtual event will take place on Friday, March 26th from 6:30-8:30 pm in support of EPSWO. Tickets are \$25.00 per household which includes live entertainment and digital swag bags. Click on <https://trellis.org/purple-palooza> for more details.

B. Turner, Home and School Instruction

- Our parents are thrilled that their children can return to in-person learning. Home and Schools sponsors Staff Appreciation Week each year which is happening this week.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING Mach 9, 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/