

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

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The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at the Administration Office.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health  
Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations  
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community - Arrival 1:35  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County  
Brienne DeSanti, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

**BOARD PERSONNEL:**

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education  
Mike Wilcox, Principals, Special Education Programs and Services  
Melissa DeBruyne – OPC Secondary Representative  
Jackie Connelly – OPC Elementary Representative

**REGRETS:**

Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society  
Mary MacLauchlan, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)

**Recorder:** Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

K. McKinley called the meeting to order at 1:08pm.

2. Attendance

K. McKinley gave regrets from Canadian Hearing Society and Autism Ontario.

3. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by:** K. Wilson

**Seconded by:** C. Bucker

**That SEAC approve the agenda for April 12, 2016 with the change in the order of items 6 and 7.**

**CARRIED.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by:** K. Wilson

**Seconded by:** C. Buckler

**That SEAC approve the minutes for March 8, 2015.**

**CARRIED.**

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### 5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

No business arising.

### 7. News from the Classroom

Dana Di Vincenza, Educational Coordinator, presented on the upcoming Mindforce Competition on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Tecumseh Vista Academy. Mindforce is a creative problem-solving competition based up the idea that creativity is a skill that can be taught and developed with practice. Participants are Kindergarten to Grade 12 and compete within divisions. Spectators are welcome.

### 6. Ministry of Education

Joy Antoniuk and Virginia Rutledge from the Southwest Regional Office based in London attended to explain the role of SEAC and answer questions. The London office serves 16 school boards, 3 school authorities and 3 provincial/demonstration schools.

Members of SEAC represent their agency but as a committee, SEAC represents all students with special needs.

Role of SEACs:

- Make recommendations
- Provide information to parents, as requested
- Consultation
- Participate in the board annual review of its Special Education Plan
- Participate in the board's annual budget process as it relates to special education
- Review the financial statements of the board as they relate to special education.

The officers informed the committee that what is next in 16-17 is:

- Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) will be replacing the High Needs Amount with full implementation in 17-18
- Renewed Math Strategy and Special Education
- Development of a Provincial Alternative Curriculum
- Special Education Handbook
- Development of New Definitions – Supporting Students with Giftedness, Intellectual or Behaviour Needs

### 8. Special Education Plan

L. McLaughlin reviewed the changes from March with the committee. Next month the numbers of GAINS and STEPS classrooms should be finalized. For qualifications of staff (which is new this year) a notation will be inserted before the staff numbers to explain the different way it appears on the chart. Qualifications were not included in the past. The finalized staff numbers for ESS may not be available until the final version in June. Information on IBI will be provided in the May version. The addition of the acronyms SWDHH and SLP should be added to the list. The final version will be finished at the June meeting to go to the Board for approval.

### 9. Special Education Update

*Renaming of the Adaptive Basic Program* - Each member was to indicate their top 3 preferred names from the list provided. The recommendations will go to the Senior Administration who will make the final decision.

LD@school video was filmed on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Tecumseh Vista Academy.

M. Wilcox reported on the meeting for the Provincial Schools. M. Wilcox and Kim Dugal, Itinerant Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended. We gave our input and now are waiting to hear back. The GECSB does not send as many students as other boards due to parental choice regarding the distance.

M. Wilcox informed the committee that the Elementary Special Olympics is on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Secondary is on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Rain date is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

10. New Business

L. McLaughlin stated that she will invite Tim McCarthy to the next meeting to speak to the information received this week from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services on Improving Autism Services. It is not known at this time how it will affect children in our school boards.

11. Association Reports

*Windsor Council of Home and School Associations*

B. Turner and J. Percy will be representing this area's council at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Brantford.

*Learning Disability Association Windsor-Essex*

The agency has announced Lucy Lombardo as the new Executive Director.

*Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County*

The Neuro Trauma Foundation will be holding a conference on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Workshops will include brain injury, complex addiction and mental health.

*Autism Ontario*

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services recently announced the new Ontario Autism Program for children 5 years old and younger with investing \$333 million over the next 5 years. Children five years old and older will be transitioned from the IBI waitlist and supported with one-time funding during the transition phase. For full details go to [www.Ontario.ca/autism](http://www.Ontario.ca/autism)

Excerpt from Autism Ontario's response:

*For parents who are seeing early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder or whose very young children have been diagnosed, news of a clear plan to significantly reduce waiting times for assessment and effective intervention for their young ones. This is very good news. For those families caught in the transition, this time period may feel heartbreaking and uncertain.*

To read the complete response from Autism Ontario, please go to [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)

World Autism Awareness day was April 2. We held a family celebration at Vollmer which was well attended. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Raise the Flag ceremonies were carried out across the province by municipalities, businesses & schools raising awareness about Autism. May 4<sup>th</sup> is our charity pasta night at Caboto.

For more details on upcoming events please go to

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/AO.nsf/WindsorEssex/WindsorEssexHome>

*Community Living Windsor/Essex*

No report.

*Parents for Children's Mental Health*

PCMH members have been asked to attend consultations to provide input on the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' new funding model for child and youth mental health services.

*Indigenous Community*

The GECD SB trustees accepted in principal the Indigenous Education protocols to form an ADHOC committee to review the policies to reflect the new indigenous protocols. Looking forward to the ADHOC committee development and selection and how it will look

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*Trustees*

C. Buckler informed the committee that the Special Olympics Gala is this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association*

No report.

12. Distribution

- Ministry of Children and Youth Services – Ontario Investing \$333 Million to Improve Autism Services
- MCYS – Action on Autism
- Autism information online webinar for parents and families information

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Kim McKinley, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee