

**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 11, 2017 at the Administration Office.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Lucie Lombardo, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children’s Mental Health  
JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations  
Kim Fralik, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County  
Trudy Richards, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)

**BOARD PERSONNEL:**

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education  
Mike Wilcox – Principal, Special Education Programs and Services  
Tracey Rilett – OPC Elementary Representative

**REGRETS**

Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society  
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)

**ABSENT**

Beth Cook, Indigenous Community

**Recorder:** Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

T. Richards called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

2. Attendance

T. Richards gave regrets from Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County, Canadian Hearing Society and Windsor Community Living.

3. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by:** L. Lombardo

**Seconded by:** C. Buckler

**That SEAC approve the agenda for April 11, 2017.**

**The motion was carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by:** L. Lombardo

**Seconded by:** K. Wilson

**That SEAC approve the minutes for March 7, 2017.**

**The motion was carried.**

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5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising.

6. Special Education Presentation

Superintendent Clara Howitt and Tina De Castro, Program Consultant present on First Nations, Métis and Inuit programs and supports with the Board.

The Board uses data to support student achievement by:

- Communication with families regarding events and available supports is sent regularly through the mail
- School selection for FNMI Student Support Workers
- School selection for Special Initiatives
- Introduction of Secondary Native Language courses
- FNMI focused collaborative Inquiries
- Student profiles are analyzed
- Additional Literacy test support provided based on data

7. Special Education Presentation – Self Advocacy in Secondary Schools

Self Advocacy is students learning to speak up on their behalf and to ask for what they need. It is learning to take charge and to be more independent.

Kathryn Collins, Educational Coordinator presented a video with students discussing how they learned to advocate on their own behalf.

The goal is for students to know themselves as a learner, know what supports they need to be successful and to be able to communicate their needs appropriately to maximize success at school.

Research shows that highly successful adults with learning difficulties have identified the ability to self-advocate as an important factor contributing to success in both post-secondary education and in the workplace.

It becomes increasingly important for students to express their needs in a positive way. To develop self-advocacy, they will require support and guidance to develop these skills to increase their independence as learners.

8. Special Education Plan Review

L. McLaughlin reviewed the changes for this year.

9. Special Education Update

*Special Education BUdget*

L. McLaughlin informed the committee that Finance will bring forward the budget at the June meeting. She suggested we move the meeting up to 12:00pm instead of 1:00pm and have a working lunch so that it can go to the Board meeting that same day. The committee agreed by consensus to change the time of the meeting to 12:00pm on June 13, 2017.

*May SEAC meeting*

Superintendent Pyke will be the Administrative Liaison at the May meeting on behalf of L. McLaughlin who is not available that day.

*SEA Process Review*

There is no new information on the SEA Process Review.

*Ministry of Education Research Project*

L. McLaughlin reported that Lexia has provided a new application that allows the Board to see usage of Lexia by student and by school. The Board will be expanding the Empower program to additional schools next year. Schools can order the Empower kit now if they are able and the Board will provide the training in the fall. Additional schools will be fully funded by the MOE Research Project for LD.

M. Wilcox informed the committee on the upcoming professional development.

The MindForce competition was held at Tecumseh Vista on April 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 46 teams registered representing 26 schools.

10. New Business

No new business was brought forward.

11. Association Reports

*Windsor Council of Home and School Associations*

The Association's 101<sup>st</sup> conference is in London at the end of the month. There are winners of the Citizenship Awards from Windsor.

*Trustees*

C. Buckler reported that the Western Regional Trustee meeting is reviewing priorities for the year. They have now called for a full review of how we are delivering special education programs across the province.

*Parents for Children's Mental Health*

May 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> is Mental Health week.

*LDAWE*

There are opportunities for a scholarship for students. Students can submit an application through the local LDAWE. Please spread the word. The deadline is April 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Autism Ontario (Windsor Essex)*

T. Richards thanked everyone for celebrating World Autism day on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a great success. There is a walk in Leamington on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The general membership meeting is in May.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Trudy Richards, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee