

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Monday, April 20, 2020** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Aimee Omstead, Trustee

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association

Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health

Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario

Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

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

Kimberly John, Indigenous Community Representative

Cathy Cooke, Trustee

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: S. Ruggaber

That SEAC approve the agenda for April 20, 2020.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the Minutes for March 10, 2020.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

No business arising as a result of the minutes.

April 20, 2020

5. Special Education Update

How we are currently supporting our students with special education needs in the GECDSEB while they are learning at home:

M. Wilcox and K. Sweet presented a power point presentation outlining the supports in place for students learning at home. Topics covered in the presentation were:

- Technology distribution – 2800 iPads and laptop
- SEA equipment distribution is continuing through the school closures
- Instructional program, Lexia (Core5/PowerUp), Empower and Boardmaker
- Week at a Glance and SLP Weekly Activities
- Virtual Learning Tips Sheet for GAINS and STEPS Families
- Podcasts as part of our COVID-19 Mental Health Series
- Personalized phone calls to families
- Administrator follow up with GAINS, STEPS and RISE Teachers
- Support staff roles redefined for distance learning
- Professional Development

All departments have been contributing to the learn at home resources.

If families are looking for more support, they can contact their child's classroom teacher through Edsby. Most students receiving SEA equipment have already received their equipment. We are waiting on very few orders and they will be deployed as soon as we receive and set up technology for those students. There are also printed packages being sent out to families who do not have access to technology. M. Wilcox welcomes any information on how agencies are supporting students while they are learning at home.

PD Update:

- Lexia Core5 and PowerUp Webinars
- Teaching Students with Communication Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Additional Qualification Course
- Geneva/Sonderly Introduction to Autism Course, mandatory for all Support Staff
- Boardmaker Online, mandatory for all Developmental Service Workers
- Supporting Classroom Teachers and the Support Worker for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- ABA Power Hours, mandatory for all Education Support Staff, an invitation will go out to JMCC Support Staff

7. New Business

No new business

8. Association Reports

J. Matte-Gasparovic - Our Local chapter of Autism Ontario on Drouillard Road is providing lending learning take-home kits for students with pickup every other Wednesday. Various kits include cookie making, nails, arts and crafts, colours and numbers, vehicles, etc. The office welcomes ideas for specific kits that may be needed. The Music program has continued with an online version. BCBA's are offering behaviour Support online. The provincial office has made a number of parent and student webinars which can be accessed online at autismontario.ca.

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K. Wilson – PCMH is posting supports and resources on the Facebook page "Parent Support for Children's Mental Health" and letting families know they can contact PCMH Windsor Chapter if they are in need of support.

M. Fuduric – The LDAWE has been posting on our website - literacy and math. We also have added resources for assistive technology apps and use.

10. Distribution

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING May 12, 2020

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/