

**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, December 8, 2015 at the Administration Office.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Beverly Clarke, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)  
Mary MacLauchlan, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children’s Mental Health  
Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society  
JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations  
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community

**BOARD PERSONNEL:**

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

**REGRETS:**

Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County

**Recorder:** Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

Bev Clarke called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Attendance

B. Clarke reported regrets Up About Down and Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County.

3. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by:** C. Buckler

**Seconded by:** M. Johnson

**That SEAC approve the agenda for December 8, 2015.**

**CARRIED.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by:** M. MacLauchlan

**Seconded by:** K. Wilson

**That SEAC approve the minutes of November with amendments to Item #4 adding “due to the number of abstentions” and Item 6 indicating that the program at A.V. Graham is a short term placement. There currently is no waiting list for the program.**

**CARRIED.**

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

*Autism Services for preschool ages children.*

L. McLaughlin reported on behalf of T. McCarthy the follow up information about the newspaper article shared at the last meeting. The article was specific to the preschool waitlist for IBI.

There is approximately a one-year wait list from date of referral with TVCC. For the Summit Centre, the wait list is also one year. For TVCC, that one-year can be shortened depending on gains being made by the children currently in IBI. If they are exceeding expectations, they can be discharged earlier and enter school (for the social skills). When this happens, it opens a spot for another child to enter IBI.

Summit Centre usually accepts children for ABA (they do not refer to it as IBI) but they must be 'pre-school' aged. TVCC takes children at the pre-school ages and/or FDK age levels.

It has been brought to our attention that there may be a new Center opening (or has opened) in Windsor. Tim McCarthy is currently working on establishing connections with this new center. This may be another option available to families in Windsor for IBI but we are unsure of the funding process as of yet.

The Board currently has children out of school and attending IBI. There are children entering school from IBI in January, February and possibly April 2016. There have been students who have been assessed for IBI, but were unfortunately deemed ineligible.

The Board also has children (FDK, Grade 1) who have an ASD but are capable and doing well enough in school, they do not require IBI. These students are getting more benefit (especially with social skills) by being in school.

*Communication tool for the Psych/Ed assessment process.*

L. McLaughlin distributed a draft for a pamphlet for parents. Dr. P. Ricciardi will attend the January meeting to receive input from the committee.

6. Mental Health Report

Dr. S. Pyke reviewed the Mental Health Strategic Plan with SEAC members and at the end of the year will return to report where the Board is and what is planned for the next school year. The whole plan is connected to the Board Plan and is available at [www.publicboard.ca](http://www.publicboard.ca). B. Cook asked to include the residential schools in the Trauma Workshop.

7. News From the Classroom

Sue Vickers, Educational Coordinator was there to present a success story from one of our schools about 2 students who were refugees with significant special needs and spoke no English. These students, in little over a year, have shown great accomplishments with support from the school and community.

8. Special Education Numbers

L. McLaughlin presented the numbers of identified students, exceptionalities and placements in both elementary and secondary schools. The numbers show that total number of identified students is consistent over the last few years despite declining enrolment.

9. Special Education Update

L. McLaughlin reported that the Board has hired an additional 1.0 FTE Psychologist and a .5FTE Social Worker this year. It was also reported that there are 2 Psychologists that have scheduled one half day a week to assist schools with longer assessment lists.

The LD@school partnership video will be done the end of January. There are 2 projects involving a total of 30 students across county, city, elementary and secondary participating in 2 videos. Students will be prepared with the questions beforehand. One project involves educators and 8 students telling their own stories. This project is being filmed by a production company. The second one is a montage of students. Both videos will be on the LD@School website when finished. The montage will be the introductory video for the Summer Learning Institute.

*Integrated Rehab Services*

The local community proposal was sent to the Ministry on October 30<sup>th</sup> with support from all signatories. It is in the Ministries' hands now.

10. New Business

K. Wilson asked if the Board has done a study on how well the former Modified students are doing academically in their home schools. She has received reports from parents that they are struggling academically but doing well socially.

L. McLaughlin replied that the course credit success rate is around 90%. The LD Steering committee's work will be important for the transitions. The Board will do a survey for students to better gauge student voice in June.

B. Clarke asked if there is provincial data on the amount of money allocated and spent for SEA Equipment and the nature of the equipment that is being issued. Is there data that we can compare what the GECDSB does in comparison to other boards? L. McLaughlin replied that the Board will follow up on the question. The Board has a team that attends the provincial meetings where there is discussion and sharing of information.

M. Wilcox stated that there is an LDCC workshop being planned for March. The workshop will include training on assistive technology.

B. Cooke asked if it is possible for indigenous students who need assistive technology to access the other money available from the community/organizations. This will be added to the agenda next month as Dr. Ricciardi has already researched this.

M. MacLauchlan stated that there are great apps for student with autism. L. McLaughlin will ask T. McCarthy for information on what is being used in the Board.

M. McLaughlin stated it might be beneficial to have one of the education coordinators come in and present the SEA process from beginning to end for better understanding of the process of how SEA equipment is provided to students. It will be added to the agenda items for an upcoming meeting.

11. Association Reports

*Canadian Hearing Society*

No report.

*Windsor Council of Home and School Associations*

The December meeting was cancelled due to fog. Next meeting is in February.

*Trustees*

The Organizational Meeting was held. C. Buckler is the new Chairperson for the Board. The Vice Chairperson of the Board is Ron LeClair.

*Indigenous Community*

Beth Cook was elected Chairperson of the Indigenous Parent Committee. The FNMI received a parents Reaching Out grant. There will be a symposium on May 27<sup>th</sup> and a parent and community conference on May 28<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided at a later date.

*Parents for Children's Mental Health*

No report.

*Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)*

No report.

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*Autism Ontario*

Last month the organization had their provincial leadership & SEAC training with 120 in attendance. They are happy to report their SEAC does a lot of thing better than other boards. The Christmas party was fantastic with 486 in attendance. Autism Ontario is just finishing their first PEERS group - an amazing success. They will be startin a cooking program in January, Children Friendship Training, Adult Music Therapy, Circle Curriculum and many other opportunities.

Please go to the website for more information:

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/windsorsex/windsorsexhome>

*LDAWE*

No report.

12. Distribution

A letter was received from the Ottawa Carlton District School Board supporting the efforts of Thames Valley DSB on the subject of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

13. Motion to Adjourn

**Moved by:** M. MacLaughlan

**Seconded by:** J. Percy

**That SEAC adjourn at 2:30pm.**

**CARRIED.**

Bev Clarke, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee