

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Bette Turner, *Alternate*, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations
Brianna De Santi, *Alternate*, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Trudy Richards, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)

BOARD PERSONNEL:

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

ABSENT:

Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society

Recorder: Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order
K. McKinley called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Attendance
No regrets were sent.

3. Approval of the Agenda
Moved by: T. Richards
Seconded by: K. Wilson
That SEAC approve the agenda for December 13, 2016.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: M. Fuduric
Seconded by: B. De Santi

That SEAC approve the minutes for November 8, 2016 with corrections.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising.

6. Well-Being Consultation

Superintendent Dr. Sharon Pyke was in attendance to conduct a consultation on Well-Being in Our Schools, Strength in Our Society. The Ministry of Education is consulting across the province with a diverse range of partners in Ontario. Dr. Pyke posed 6 questions to the committee and will be reporting the results and comments back to the Ministry.

7. Special Education Presentation – STEPS Culinary Program

Emily Ross, STEPS Department Head, and Dontre, a student in the program, presented on the STEPS Culinary Program, Step it Up Catering, at Walkerville Secondary School. The class provides catering for school functions and takes orders and prepares staff lunches once a week. Ms. Ross stated the class emulates a restaurant. The students in the class do all the work for prep and cleanup.

8. Reading Intervention Pilot - Update

L. McLaughlin reported that the third day of Empower training was completed on December 12th. The Lexia training was completed the week before. Thank you to LDAWE for the iPad training that is in progress for the students in the Empower Program. Each student's achievement was measured at the beginning of the year and will be done again at the end of term one and term two.

9. Special Education Update

L. McLaughlin reported that the LD Steering Committee has been working on "Learning Differently: A Resource Guide of Practical Strategies for Improving Student Success" This guide will be in the hands of every educator by the end of January. L. McLaughlin explained the pamphlet and the strategies in the guide. This is a hands on tool for teachers from Kindergarten to age 21. This was the team work of many people including psychology, speech and language, educators, and administrators.

There was a brief discussion on assistive technology.

- The Board requests home insurance to cover computers that may be taken home by students. The Board recognizes that not everyone carries home insurance that would cover. Concerns of breaking the devices are minimized using protective cases etc. The Board will review the wording in the application and home use agreement for equipment.
- The SEA process is being reviewed step by step by all individuals who are part of the process to see how it can be improved. This will begin in January.

Connections Update

- There have been no additional requests, to date, for children to attend school on the days Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) has meetings.
- Currently 10 students/schools are involved in the Connections process. TVCC is in constant communication with Connections Lead, Tim McCarthy when this occurs. Info is then shared with school and the appropriate Ed Coordinator. One Transition meeting is usually held.
- Our Connections Support Worker is supporting 5 schools with students in Connections (one school has 3 children). The worker's duties continue to include observations, assisting the classroom team with the goals identified at the Connections meetings, creating visuals and learning materials, and some excellent data collection
- Connections school meetings continue on a monthly basis depending on the needs of child, time release for staff is provided.
- IEP support (PPM 140) is provided by Connections Lead and our TVCC staff (identifying goals and expectations) when required/asked

IEP Survey for Parents

L. McLaughlin will close the survey at Christmas. Information will be provided to SEAC when the results have been compiled.

Special Education Numbers

L. McLaughlin reported that total numbers are remaining status quo. The number of students who are identified as Multiple are increasing and the needs are more complex.

Professional Development Update

M. Wilcox reported that on December 20th there is professional development for Locally Developed Credit Courses (LDCC) Science teachers. Part of the day will be assistive technology training. In January the IEP audit is being held for both elementary and secondary schools. Schools will look at their own IEPs for clarity and consistency. On January 24th there is a full day workshop on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

10. New Business

K. Wilson reported she had received information from an unnamed school that GAINs classrooms were lacking supplies. T. Rilett responded by explaining the teacher or parent needs to approach the principal with their resource needs.

K. Wilson reported that she is hearing support staff from the Agency Schools no longer accompany students transitioning back to their home school and expressed concern because the adult that has been working with the student is missing from the meetings. C. Buckler suggested that the Ministries need to be aware. M. Wilcox responded that he will look into this. L. McLaughlin will speak to Sharon Pyke who is the Superintendent for the Agency Schools to gather the information from our community partner.

Motioned by: C. Buckler

Seconded by: T. Richards

That SEAC draft a letter to the Ministry of Education appealing for communication and action with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to support our students for successful transitions in and out of Agency Schools.

Discussion:

K. Wilson asked if this is the correct next step.

B. Turner asked if we would have more information if we waited a month. L. McLaughlin replied yes and that information will be brought to the next meeting.

M. Wilcox said that he recently received information regarding staff at the agencies. It will be beneficial to have S. Pyke contact them for more information before moving forward.

The motion was carried.

The Chair will draft a letter to bring to SEAC for review.

11. Association Reports

LDAWE

B. De Santi distributed the 2017 Windsor Program Guide.

Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County

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Last month the association hosted a concussion workshop. The majority of attendees were coaches and educators.

Autism Ontario

T. Richards has stepped down as President of the Windsor Essex Chapter but will remain on SEAC. No replacement has been appointed yet.

Community Living Windsor-Essex

Community Living is holding their present wrapping fundraiser at Devonshire Mall again this year.

Indigenous Community

B. Cook reported that there is tutoring available for FNMI clients.

11. Distribution

There was no distribution.

Kim reminded everyone about the January election for the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Kim McKinley, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee