

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Kimberly John, Indigenous Community
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario Windsor-Essex
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Bette Turner, Home and School Associations
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Mike Wilcox – Superintendent
Tracey Rilett – OPC Elementary Representative
Chris Mills – Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS:

Aimee Omstead - Trustee

ABSENT:

RECORDER:

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

M. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

Introductions were done by Committee members.

2. Elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Election of Chairperson:

We have always alternated years (trustee one year, association next year, for chair of SEAC)

M. Wilcox established that quorum was obtained and declared nominations open for the position of Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2019. M. Wilcox explained the job description of the chairperson.

M. Wilcox declared nominations open for the position of Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2019.

Moved by: K. Wilson

That M. Fuduric be nominated as Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2019.

M. Wilcox asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

M. Wilcox declared M. Fuduric as the Chairperson for the 2019 year by acclamation.

M. Fuduric then took her position as Chairperson and continued the election for Vice Chairperson.

Election of Vice-Chairperson:

M. Fuduric declared nominations open for the position of Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2019.

Moved by: B. Turner

That C. Cooke be nominated as Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2019.

M. Fuduric asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

M. Fuduric declared C. Cooke as the Vice-Chairperson for the 2019 year by acclamation.

B. Turner Moved to close nominations.

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3. Approval of the Agenda
Moved by: B. Turner
Seconded by: K. Wilson
That SEAC approve the agenda for December 11, 2018.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: K. Wilson
Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic
That SEAC approve the revised minutes for November 13, 2018.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
There was no new business arising.

Update SEAC Binder

Asked to be handed in for updating. P. Russette will update binders and send out paper or electronic copies to SEAC committee members depending on their preference.

7. Special Education Update
November 16, 2018: Examining Bias, Rollout of Secondary LST Binder, SEA Equipment, Make and Take.
November 19, 2018: Educators New to Autism
November 27, 2018: New to GAINS – Part 2
December 5, 2018: Open Course PD - Secondary
Upcoming in January – Empower, IEP Audits, Lexia

Empower – M. Wilcox shared a power point that outlined year 2 of our 3-year project with the Ministry of Education regarding intensive reading interventions. There was an opportunity for questions.

K. Wilson - are there are ESL students participating? M. Wilcox - yes there are.

K. Wilson – do students repeat if there is no a significant progression? M. Wilcox said that Sick Kids does not say that you can't repeat it, but it would be under rare circumstances.

J. Matte-Gasparovic asked if the student was accurately measured by the DRA. The response was yes. T. Rilett added that students do not move to the next DRA level until comprehension has been achieved.

M Vukov – how does the teacher manage the different levels? T. Rilett – they are all at the same lesson. That is why attendance is so important.

K. Wilson – how much time is spent daily on Empower? M. Wilcox - 50 minutes per day.

8. New Business
M. Wilcox - Conscious Classrooms - starting training with secondary, postponed at this time – meeting with trainer late-December.
Update on EA qualifications - M. Wilcox – 98% of our applicants to TSS have St. Clair qualifications. There are a small number of support staff that have degrees in education, social work, etc.
K. Wilson – would like Edsby training at SEAC meeting.
K. Wilson – transition plan (last page of IEP). Are teachers in-serviced about the important aspects of the IEP? Some may not understand fully what is required. C. Mills – staff are receiving more PD regarding the IEP process. We did have PD last year and it helped answer many questions. Ed Coordinators and LSTs are doing training. There was much discussion about clarity around IEPs. We need to follow the IEP and students and families need to know how to proceed to best help their child through this transition.
M. Vukov – when students graduate secondary school, they need something in place to transition to post-secondary. Parents have to take care of this themselves at this point.

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9. Association Reports

B. Turner – busy fundraising and planning for winter open house at schools.

M. Vukov – handed mycommunityhub.ca flyers – good resource for parents and teachers. Can sign up online.

M. Vukov will send the link to the SEAC committee members.

J. Matte-Gasparovic – still working on letter for Ministry regarding IEP, timelines.

K. Wilson – January 10 is next support group meeting.

S. Ruggaber – meeting January 15 at United Way on Giles 6:30 – 8:30 pm

M. Fuduric - winter program guide – tutoring, math and literacy, social skills, employment training.

10. Distribution

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Mary Ann Fuduric, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee