

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Judy Kraemer – Canadian Hearing Society
Jan Matte-Gasparovic – Autism Ontario
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community – FNMI
Anna Jurak, Brain Injury Association, Windsor/Essex County

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent
Melissa Debruyne, OPC Secondary Representative
Tracey Rilett – OPC Elementary Representative
Mike Wilcox – Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS:

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
JoAnn Percy, Home and School Associations

ABSENT:

Susan Smith, Community Living, Windsor/Essex County

RECORDER:

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Quorum had not yet been met. Quorum was met at 1:25 p.m. Approval of Agenda and Approval of Minutes were moved down to item #3 and #4.

2. Special Education Presentation – Tammy Groulx and Sue Vickers, Educational Coordinators

Learning Differently Waterfall Resource

Sue Vickers informed SEAC that she is responsible for the Walkerville/Amherstburg family of schools, and Tammy Groulx is responsible for the Tecumseh Vista/Riverside family of schools. The Waterfall Resource was put together in 2016 by representatives from the LD Steering Committee, including Speech and Language/Psychology. This resource breaks down strategies for student success. Every teacher in the system has received a copy of this resource to refer to for strategies to accommodate students. It has become very helpful to elementary teachers now that they write their own IEP's. The Waterfall Resource is broken down into the following sections: Sensory Integration Skills, Visual-Spatial Skills, Visual-Motor Skills, Processing Speed, Attention, Memory, Phonological Processing, Language, and Executive Function. Each section presents what it is, what it looks like and difficulties you may see. It also provides strategies to use for these difficulties.

S. Vickers shared that the feedback is great, and teachers are finding it invaluable in the classroom as well as when writing IEP's. Educational Support staff in complex learning environments also find it very helpful as they are working with many students with varying needs.

L. McLaughlin credited York Region District School Board as our document was a revision of what they produced in the past. The document credits York Region formally.

J. Kraemer asked how this resource would be used for deaf students. T. Groulx responded that if relevant to the student, the resource is used, but usually the Itinerant teachers are asked for strategies. L. McLaughlin shared that there was a presentation by Itinerant teachers and M. Wilcox explained that the resource is used in many of the PD workshops. J. Kraemer asked that "deaf and hard of hearing" be the terminology used rather than "hearing impaired".

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: A. Jurak

Seconded by: K. McKinley

That SEAC approve the agenda for February 13, 2018.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Matte Gasparovic

Seconded by: K. McKinley

That SEAC approve the revised minutes of the SEAC meeting of January 16, 2018

The motion was carried

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no new business arising.

6. Special Education Update

- PD Update: February 1, 2018 we partnered with ETFO to provide an IEP support night at Tecumseh Vista PS. Educational Coordinators were there as well for support. February 6, 2018 open course PD for secondary teachers of careers and civics. Dr. Marc Crundwell presented. March 2, 2018 Empower Day 4 for LST trained in Empower. There will be a second group receiving this training in April.
- Ministry of Education Research Project Update: LD project – L. McLaughlin has been out visiting schools to see the Empower and Lexia interventions in action. There is nothing but positive feedback. The OISIE researchers are conducting interviews and there is one this week for Superintendent McLaughlin.
- Stepping-In Program: We have started something new in secondary schools for young adults who are registering in our Board and have been in section 23 programs in Ontario or elsewhere for extended periods of time. Secondary school students who continue to pose a risk to themselves or others despite the extensive intervention the Board has provided would also be considered (ASD Specialist, Behaviour Management Teams, BCBA etc). This is a system level decision and is a transitional program with the goal to build structure and routines as trained staff grow to understand and provide strategic programming for the student so that he/she can move back into their community school, in the appropriate I.P.R.C placement. The Education Act states that if students are on the ASD spectrum, the maximum of 6 students is permitted in a fully self-contained program. The program is currently at Westview Freedom Academy.
- SERR – Suggestions for change of program name: The invitation went out to the system to welcome suggestions to rename the program. All submissions were posted and SEAC members voted on their first 3 choices. Director's Council will make the final decision.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Association Reports

B. Cook – There is an Indigenous Education Team offering cultural programs on February 14th. Their next meeting is at the end of March and hopefully will have some idea of territorial acknowledgement. B. Cook is going to the Regional Leads Meeting to share ideas with leads in other boards. She is also hoping to establish more networks for special education for Indigenous students. More families are reaching out and B. Cook will suggest resources based on their needs. L. McLaughlin said that there will be a community event held in the future which is in the initial planning stages.

L. McLaughlin – The Night of Champions (Special Olympics) will be held on April 26th at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts. The Special Olympics will be held at Sandwich SS on May 10 for elementary students, and on May 11 for secondary students. The rain date for this event will be May 15, 2018.

Mindforce is scheduled to be held on April 14, 2018 at Tecumseh Vista.

9. Distribution

Learning Differently Waterfall Resource

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee