

# 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, January 17, 2017 at the Administration Office.

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Bette Turner, *Alternate*, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations  
Lucie Lombardo, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
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

### REGRETS

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County  
Trudy Richards, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)  
Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society

**Recorder:** Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

Lynn McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Election of Chairperson

L. McLaughlin established that quorum was obtained and declared nominations open for the position of Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2017.

**Moved by: C. Buckler**

That Trudy Richards be nominated as Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2017.

C. Buckler presented an email from Trudy stating she would accept the nomination.

L. McLaughlin asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

L. McLaughlin declared Trudy Richards is the Chairperson for the 2017 year by acclamation.

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Election of Vice-Chairperson

L. McLaughlin declared nominations open for the position of Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2017.

**Moved by:** K. Wilson

That Connie Buckler be nominated as Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2017. C. Buckler accepted the nomination.

L. McLaughlin asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations. L. McLaughlin declared Connie Buckler as the Vice-Chairperson by acclamation for the 2017 year. C. Buckler assumed the Chair for the meeting in T. Richard's absence.

3. Attendance

L. McLaughlin gave regrets from the Canadian Hearing Society, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County and Autism Ontario.

4. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by:** K. Wilson

**Seconded by:** S. Smith

**That SEAC approve the agenda for January 17, 2017 with the change in order of Items 6 and 7.**

**The motion was carried.**

5. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by:** B. Turner

**Seconded by:** L. Lombardo

**That SEAC approve the minutes for December 13, 2016 with amendment.**

**The motion was carried.**

6. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

Draft letter to the Ministry of Education.

L. McLaughlin reported that Dr. Pyke spoke with the agency regarding key people attending transition meetings. The response was that the practice of sending staff had not changed. There were cases in the fall that due to circumstances, their staff were unable to attend. L. McLaughlin's recommendation was not to send the letter until we monitor further attendance from community agencies. She suggested that we reach out to the agencies with any concerns if and when they occur. L. McLaughlin will speak to Dr. Pyke regarding communication between the school and agencies and ensuring staff that have been with the student daily attend the meetings whenever possible.

7. Special Education Presentation –

Jennifer Newton, Educational Coordinator for Herman Academy Secondary School and Sandra Pizzo, Department Head for the STEPS Department, shared the experience for students in STEPS on their way to the Provincial Special Olympics in Niagara Falls. The provincials will feature 20 teams from across the province, Canada, and the United States. Overall, the provincials will involve over 900 athletes and coaches this year.

8. Review of the Special Education Website

It was decided by the committee that a sub-committee consisting of Trudy Richards, Kim McKinley and Susan Smith review the Board's Special Education website and bring back suggestions for changes.

9. Special Education Update

*Connections*

The memo has been distributed to Principals with students that are returning from IBI regarding requests from parents for additional school days. As children are identified at other schools, we will ensure these Principals are informed as well.

The Instructional Therapists who do the IBI with the children at Thames Valley Children's Centre, have asked for some in-servicing on Early Years. Thames Valley would like their therapists to see how our teachers are transitioning. T. McCarthy will be in touch with the teacher of our Early Years Demo Site at Glenwood to help support this.

*Reading intervention Pilot*

The GECDSB presented at the Toronto Learning Disability Reference Group. The Board is hearing fantastic reviews from the Learning Support Teachers on this pilot project.

A presentation for SEAC can be arranged in the future to hear from teachers their experiences and student responses to this pilot. It was suggested that the information be shared with the community agencies and organizations as these programs could be an option for them.

*Professional Development Update*

M. Wilcox informed the committee of the planned PD for the next month. Including workshops on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, IEP Writing, Locally Developed Credit Course (LDCC) training for secondary teachers and the list of workshop on the February 17<sup>th</sup> professional development day for Educational Support Staff. We finished IEP audit with one third of our schools.

*SEA Process Review*

L. McLaughlin reported that on January 19<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting with Information Technology, a Secondary Learning Support Teacher, Elementary Learning Support Teacher and Special Education to review the work flow involved with a SEA claim. L. McLaughlin will inform SEAC of any changes to the process.

10. New Business

B. Cook mentioned that GECPIC was discussing how to get the information out for upcoming events. The information is on the website but if there are any flyers they can be sent to M. Goyette who can email them to SEAC members.

M. DeBruyne informed the committee that Western Secondary School is the venue for the Night to Shine on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

11. Association Reports

*Windsor Council of Home and School Associations*

Home and School took break after the holiday. B. Turner stated that there is concern and confusion about the PARCs that the Board is doing. L. McLaughlin suggested to direct them to the Board website where the information on the process is posted or to the Principal of the school.

*LDAWE*

LDAWE is participating in the upcoming professional development at the Board.

*Trustees*

K. McKinley stated that there is a Board meeting where they will be deciding on the PARC committees for the Forest Glade and Leamington areas.

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*Community Living Windsor/Essex*

Community Living will be hosting a Smart Support Workshop. This workshop will have information of supports in the community.

*Parents for Children's Mental Health*

PCMH has been invited to participate in dialogue sessions across the province with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH.) We will share our expertise and input to identify evidence needs related to mental health, substance use, and addictions, in the areas of health promotion and prevention, early identification, treatment and recovery. The results of these sessions will help to create an evidence priority agenda for Ontario.

*Indigenous Community*

The FNMI program is offering Ojibway and Oneida language classes on Tuesday Evenings, 6:00pm, at John Campbell Public School. The community is in the process of organizing a Pow Wow. B. Cooke is going to be attending an Indigenous Woman's Leadership conference.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Connie Buckler, Vice-Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee