

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, January 16, 2018** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Judy Kraemer – Canadian Hearing Society
Jan Matte-Gasparovic – Autism Ontario

BOARD PERSONNEL:

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

REGRETS:

Beth Cook, Indigenous Community - FNMI

ABSENT:

Susan Smith, Community Living, Windsor/Essex County
Anna Jurak, Brain Injury Association, Windsor/Essex County
JoAnn Percy, Home and School Associations
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community - FNMI

RECORDER:

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order
L. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. Elections for 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 2018.
Moved by: K. McKinley
That C. Buckler be nominated as Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2018.
L. McLaughlin asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.
L. McLaughlin declared C. Buckler as the Chairperson for the 2018 year by acclamation.
C. Buckler then took her position as Chairperson and continued the election for Vice Chairperson.
Election of Vice-Chairperson:
C. Buckler declared nominations open for the position of Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2018.
Moved by: K. McKinley
That K. Wilson be nominated as Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2018.
C. Buckler asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.
C. Buckler declared K. Wilson as the Vice-Chairperson for the 2018 year by acclamation.

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3. Approval of the Agenda
Moved by: K. Wilson
Seconded by: C. Buckler
That SEAC approve the agenda for January 16, 2018.
- The motion was carried.**
4. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: J. Matte Gasparovic
Seconded by: K. McKinley
That SEAC approve the revised minutes for December 12, 2017.
- The motion was carried.**
5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
There was no new business arising.
6. Transition Planning Model – Barry Welch, Educational Coordinator and Katie Crosby, Teacher - GAINS
B. Welch introduced his colleague Katie Crosby, teacher in Gains program. They presented a power point presentation on Transition Planning at GECDSB. Mr. Welch explained that we have over 400 transition meetings in Windsor/Essex County each year. Our board does transition planning as a regular practice. He went on to explain why transition planning is important as it results in continuity of programs and services for students with special needs and will support improved student achievement and well-being. Transition meetings are required for a number of reasons (new to school, new from another board, from community agency, etc.). Once the meeting attendees are gathered, a meeting is set to discuss safety, behaviours, medical needs, communication, feeding & toileting, transportation and other items pertaining to the student. K. Crosby then shared information regarding a meeting for a student. She explained some of the points that are normally discussed at these meetings. K. Crosby met with the Spec Ed team before the meeting, to be as informed as possible about this student. She had contact with JMCC/Occupational Therapist/Physiotherapist, parents/guardians. B. Welch asked us to look at parents' point of view. They are apprehensive. Transition meetings help to put parents at ease. Mike Wilcox read a letter from the parents of the student. The letter was heartfelt and sent the message that they were more than happy with the preparation that the GECDSB staff had done and that they and their son felt at ease. They were assured that everything that was being done for their son would help him have a successful transition to school.
B. Welch summed up that we all work together with staff and community partners and are proud of what we do.
7. Special Education Update
SERR Program Name Change: L. McLaughlin – memo went out last week, to change name of SERR, will take all feedback, pick top suggestions and bring to SEAC, possibly in February, maybe not until March.
- SEA Claims and Insurance: Some students do not bring equipment home because of insurance. Gathered information from students in the Ministry of Education Pilot schools – found that some are not bringing equipment home. We have draft changes to the form where the obligation to obtain insurance. M. Wilcox let the committee know that equipment has 3 year warranty. The draft will again be amended to be clear that there is a warranty. So far, all repairs have been by board personnel. We have only had 3 incidences of devices requiring repair since implementation. Students are taking care of their devices. M. Fuduric wondered how long a student would be without their device if it is out for repair/damaged/lost. M. McLaughlin explained that a re-furbished device is usually sent out right away for the student in the interim, or they are using a computer at the school.

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Reading Intervention Pilot – Update: L. McLaughlin – going very well – feedback – Empower/Lexia – every LST/staff/principal are very excited with the programs. L. McLaughlin shared that LEXIA is going to be piloted in 5 secondary schools under the leadership of Superintendent Houston.

PD Update: January 25, more training for Empower/Lexia

Mindforce – April 14 (Saturday) at Tecumseh Vista

LD symposium – April 26

January 19 – PD Day – CYW's

February 1 – IEP support session

February 6 – Careers and Civics PD for Secondary teachers

A BCBA qualified professional services staff member has been hired. She will be leading the ABA training for CYWS, administrators and school staff.

8. New Business

K. Wilson asked about mental health nurses in our schools. M. Debruyne – all high schools have access to them through referral at the school level first. Depending on the student's willingness to meet with the nurse, they will discuss options within the school and may discuss community supports. How do our students/staff know what we have in the community as supports? M. Wilcox informed the committee that PD has been done for principals, looking at who else we can offer it to (CYW's). We are sending information via social media, Synrevoice as examples. Dr. Pyke has a type of bookmark that has been distributed to staff. T. Rillet has handed out flyers regarding mental health seminars.

9. Association Reports

M. Fuduric – sending out information regarding a winter event coming Feb 4 – grownups read things they wrote as kids. It will be \$15.00 per ticket.

C. Buckler – Feb 9 is the Night to Shine at Western Secondary

J. Matte Gasparovic – Teletown hall – Michael Couteau – 600 callers listened in. Another one on Jan 17 from 7-9 pm for parents. 1st town hall package came out from Michael Couteau regarding specifications on changes of service providers.

J. Kraemer – office was closed down last week but are now back to work – A lot is happening – accreditation process.

10. Distribution

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee