

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, January 14, 2020** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Aimee Omstead, Trustee
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County
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
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

Kimberly John, Indigenous Community Representative

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

M. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

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 2020. M. Wilcox explained the job description of the chairperson.

Moved by: B. Turner

That A. Omstead be nominated as Chairperson of the SEAC for the year 2020.

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

M. Wilcox declared A. Omstead as the Chairperson for the 2020 year by acclamation.

A. Omstead then took her position as Chairperson and continued the election for Vice Chairperson.

Election of Vice Chairperson:

A. Omstead declared nominations open for the position of Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2020.

Moved by: K. Wilson

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That M. Fuduric be nominated as Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2020.

A. Omstead asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

A. Omstead declared M. Fuduric as the Vice Chairperson for the 2020 year by acclamation.

Motion to close nominations

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: S. Ruggaber

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the agenda for January 14, 2020.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: M. Vukov

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the Minutes for December 10, 2019.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

M. Wilcox revisited discussion on BMS training in partnership with Autism Ontario. J. Matte-Gasparovic will be included in the training sessions. This will most likely take place in the spring.

6. After School Skills Development Program (Autism) – Samantha Mulcaster

S. Mulcaster reviewed the upcoming After School Skills Development Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The “My Way” program was developed to provide a meaningful school experience for students currently referred for behavioural intervention support services requiring individual functional skill growth, in order to increase engagement, promote independence and decrease the occurrence of challenging behaviour. The program (as outlined by Greg Hanley, PhD) will teach a student how to ask to have all of their wants and needs met with one easy response to replace the challenging behaviour, and will be followed with the slow re-integration of the typical classroom expectations. A Registered Behaviour Technician has been hired to follow through with the program by working with students and staff before and after school, and during nutrition breaks.

M. Wilcox added that there were 10 pilot boards across Ontario that had After School Skill Building programs. It is our hope to have 5 students complete the program by the end of June. It will depend on the student and their needs. Transportation for students is not required as observation of students will happen during the regular school day during nutrition breaks. The Ministry has provided 3 years of funding for this project.

7. Special Education Update

PD Update:

- Robotics session at JMCC – great turnout!
- 7 new teachers to Empower just finished Day 3 (January 10)
- Online autism training opportunity for staff – funding for approximately 113 participants
- Asset conference – Jennifer Newton, Christine Daigle and Amanda Laforet will be presenting at this conference.

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8. New Business

M. Wilcox and K. Sweet have gone through the Special Education Plan, flagging what needs to be revised. They will bring these revisions to the committee in February to start work on the plan. Budget information will most likely come closer to the end of the school year.

M. Wilcox read a letter from the Durham School Board regarding the inactive status of the Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education (MACSE). B. Turner suggested that we take this information to our local MP/MPP. The committee would like to write a similar letter to the Ministry.

Moved by: J. Matte Gasparovic

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC draft a letter to send to the Ministry regarding the inactive status of the Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education.

The motion was carried.

9. Association Reports

B. Turner – Things are quiet right now. Being careful to respect sanctions.

K. Wilson – The next meeting will be held on February 6th at the Community Living Windsor building.

S. Ruggaber – March is Epilepsy Awareness Month. The Purple Door School Campaign will be in March.

J. Matte-Gasparovic – There will be a symposium held on March 31st at the Caboto. The presenter at this symposium is Temple Grandin. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

M. Vukov – Community Living Essex is holding a workshop for girls 16 years and over. The presentation is titled “Ruby” and it will cover personal safety assault prevention. In the planning stages is Reaction for Inclusion, breakaway day for students. Career Compass Employment Services is gearing up for the summer program. Information will be sent to schools.

10. Distribution

11. Adjournment

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: B. Turner

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING February 11, 2020

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECDSD Website

<https://publicboard.ca/Board/Meetings/Pages/default.aspx>

Erin Kelly
Director of Education

Mike Wilcox
Administrative Liaison

(Ministry SEAC Website) www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/