

**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, June 7, 2016 at the Administration Office.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)  
Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations  
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County  
Lucie Lombardo, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Mary MacLauchlan, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health

**BOARD PERSONNEL:**

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education  
Mike Wilcox, Principal, Special Education Programs and Services  
Melissa DeBruyne – OPC Secondary Representative  
Jackie Connelly – OPC Elementary Representative

**REGRETS:**

Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society  
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

**Recorder:** Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

K. McKinley called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Attendance

K. McKinley gave regrets from Canadian Hearing Society and Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association.

3. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by:** M. MacLauchlan

**Seconded by:** L. Lombardo

**That SEAC approve the agenda for June 7, 2016.**

**CARRIED.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by:** M. MacLauchlan

**Seconded by:** S. Smith

**That SEAC approve the minutes for May 10, 2016.**

**CARRIED.**

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### 5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

K. McKinley informed the group that Rowan's Law was going to vote in parliament today with support from all 3 parties. There is no need for SEAC to send a letter to support the bill.

### 6. Special Education Budget 2016-2017

Shawn Maheux, Financial Services Manager, was in attendance to present the draft Special Education Budget. The budget goes to the Board of Trustees on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

- The Ministry is still phasing in the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (formerly known as the High Needs Amount). This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the 4 year phase in. This grant is based more on needs of school boards as opposed to enrolment. The GECDSB is benefiting from this change in funding.
- C. Buckler asked if there was an allowance for IBI and newcomers to the system for next year. M. MacLauchlan reported there was no information on numbers of students with Autism that will be affected by the change. She will update SEAC in September. L. McLaughlin explained that there are 2 support staff held for new students in September that were not registered or known to be coming in June.
- S. Maheux explained that even though enrolment is down the cost of supplies is increasing due to wage increases. The board is trying to manage costs through attendance support.
- The decrease in materials cost for elementary is related to the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) received by the Board.

S. Maheux reviewed the Ontario Disability Act Plan for 2016/2017 with the committee.

### 7. Special Education Plan for 2016

L. McLaughlin reviewed the Support Staff numbers for September 2016. The committee voted to recommend the report to the Board of Trustees at the May meeting pending these numbers. The report will be presented to Trustees at the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

### 8. SEAC Dates for 2016-2017

**Moved by:** M. MacLauchlan

**Seconded by:** L. Lombardo

**That SEAC approve the dates presented.**

**CARRIED.**

The time of the meeting will remain at 1:00pm.

### 9. Special Education Update

L. McLaughlin reported that the message from the Ministry at the Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) was early intervention and the trend across the province towards unidentified IEPs. Last year there was a new definition from the Ministry for Communication - Learning Disability and next year they will be redefining intellectual - Developmental Disability and Behaviour.

L. McLaughlin reported that Special Olympics was wonderful again this year. The weather was great and parents and students had a fun day together.

M. Wilcox reported that Itinerant Teachers for the Blind and General Amherst High School hosted a special day for students who are blind or low vision. The Ontario Blind Sports Association came from Toronto to help our teachers put on this event. Student volunteers from General Amherst also contributed in making this a fun day for the students.

M. Wilcox reported there is a PD day for Support Staff this Friday and the Board is offering a variety of workshops including Office 365 and training on SEA Equipment and applications that students use. Summer institutes will offer IEP Workshops for teachers. There is a workshop on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome being developed for the fall. A survey for Grade 9 students taking LDCC courses is in progress. The results will help guide the future PD for the teachers.

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L. McLaughlin apologized for not having the questions for the survey for parents which is going home in the fall. She asked the committee to forward any suggestions of questions to Marion Goyette or herself. K. Wilson recommended a question regarding the involvement of parents before the IEP is developed rather than after.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Association Reports

*Windsor Council of Home and School Associations*

J. Percy presented information on the history over the 100 years that this organization has been in effect. Copies of the presentation will be brought to the next meeting.

*LDAWE*

B. DeSanti will be training staff on the PA day Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Trustees*

*Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County*

M. Fuduric reported that June is Brain Injury Awareness month. There will be a road safety challenge on Thursday. Two schools from the GECDSEB have been invited. Students will learn all about safety on bicycles. Police Officers are involved in the day as well.

*Autism Ontario*

M. MacLauchlan reported that the team at A.V. Graham – ASD Classroom received an award at the Annual General Meeting.

*Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health*

K. Wilson report that she has been involved in the new funding formula for Mental Health. There are 400 agencies that are funded but no new money. Lead agencies will streamline services and review services for fairness.

*Indigenous Community*

B. Cook reported that on June 11<sup>th</sup> there is a Powwow being held at Kennedy Collegiate. The Indigenous Community is asking the Ministry to envelope the FNMI funding allocated to boards.

12. Distribution

No discussion.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Kim McKinley, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee