

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community
JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations
Trudy Richards, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL:

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

REGRETS

Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children’s Mental Health

ABSENT

Kim Fralik, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County

Recorder: Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

T. Richards called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. Items #3 and #5 were postponed until quorum was met. Quorum was made at 12:50.

2. Attendance

T. Richards gave regrets from, Canadian Hearing Society, Community Living Windsor Essex and Windsor Essex County and Parent for Children’s Mental Health.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: K. McKinley

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the agenda for June 13, 2017.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: C. Buckler

Seconded by: J. Percy

That SEAC approve the minutes for May 9, 2017.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising.

6. Special Education Budget

Shawn Maheux, Manager of Finance presented the proposed Special Education Budget for the 2017-2018 school year. S. Maheux explained the different grants and expenses that are a part of the budget. The Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount was increased again this year. This grant has been phased in over the last 4 years.

7. Ontarians with Disabilities Act Plan

S. Maheux reviewed the needs and the renovations that the Board has completed as well as the planned renovations for the 2017-2018 school year. The plan is available on the Board's website.

8. Special Education Plan

L. McLaughlin reviewed the final changes which included the numbers for GAINS and STEPS classes. Westview is receiving the Urban Grant that will provide additional programming and also fund a Child and Youth Worker. A CYW will be working with students with anxiety including those that were accessing the Transition Room. The Special Education profile at Westview has been changing since the combining of Forster and Century. The number of students accessing the Transition Room has been decreasing. The Transition Room at Westview will be closing this year. Students currently accessing the room will have a support plan in place for the fall. All parent/guardian have been contacted. Western Secondary will still have a Transition Room to serve students that are identified.

Moved by: K. McKinley

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC move to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to support the Special Education Plan 2017.

The motion was carried.

9. Special Education Update

Ministry Reading Intervention Pilot

L. McLaughlin and M. Wilcox attended the Regional Special Education Council meeting in May. They reported that other Boards were interested in coming to see the Lexia and Empower programs.

Martin Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education visited the programs on June 6th with L. McLaughlin and the Director of Education.

The Ministry of Education is collecting data from the Boards that are participating in the Pilot Program. OISE researchers have visited the schools in the Board Pilot Program and interviewed students and staff involved in Empower.

Next year Lexia will be available to all schools for many students in grade 2 and 3, identified in Tier 2 requiring intervention for reading.

The Board is funding Empower for more schools next year.

Leamington PARC

The Trustees voted to close Mill Street Public School. The boundaries have been changed for Queen Elizabeth, M.D. Bennie and Mount Carmel Blytheswood to accommodate the students from Mill Street. The GAINS class will be relocating to M.D. Bennie. Staff will be relocated as required to the different schools.

Connections

L. McLaughlin and T. McCarthy met with staff from the Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC). This organization offers IBI privately. The province has made it the parent's decision as to when the child leaves the IBI program. The Board now has the same agreement with TLC that they have with Thames Valley Children's Center to support students when they transition to our schools.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Association Reports

Indigenous Community

B. Cook reported that a Pow wow was held on Saturday, June 10th. The Community provided Grandmother Josephine Mandamin support on her annual Water Walk along the shores of the Great Lakes from Duluth Minnesota to Matane, Quebec. June 21st is solidarity day and all are welcome.

The Greater Essex County DSB Indigenous Education Protocol was signed on June 12th as West Gate Public School.

Trustees

The Ontario Public School Board Association put forward a motion a year ago to move to this point of the Indigenous Education Protocol signing. The Association has a new Indigenous Director.

The Trustee Budget Meeting is occurring after today's SEAC meeting.

Camp Wonder will be held for three weeks in July for students in Grades 1 to 3 in many different locations throughout our Board.

Windsor Council of Home and School Associations

The Council held their last meeting for this year on June 5th. The first meeting next year will be held in October.

Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

Up about Down had a successful walk-a-thon in Harrow. Members will be visiting the Zoo on the 24th of June.

Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

The Association is busy prepping for the summer program in 3 locations. The programs are filling up quickly.

Autism Ontario

T. Richards is stepping down from the agency. They are looking for a replacement.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45.

Trudy Richards, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee