

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 12, 2018** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community – FNMI
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario

BOARD PERSONNEL:

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

REGRETS:

Anna Jurak, Brain Injury Association, Windsor/Essex County
JoAnn Percy, Home and School Associations
Judy Kraemer – Canadian Hearing Society

ABSENT:

Susan Smith, Community Living

RECORDER:

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda
Moved by: M. Fuduric
Seconded by: K. Wilson
That SEAC approve the agenda for June 12, 2018. The motion was carried
3. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: J. Matte-Gasparovic
Seconded by: K. McKinley
That SEAC approve the minutes of the SEAC meeting of May 8, 2018 The motion was carried
4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
Letter – committee reviewed the draft letter which was recommended in the May meeting. K. Wilson requested to hold off on sending the letter, as the issue may have been resolved. K. Wilson will keep us posted.
Motion to hold off on sending letter.
Moved by: K. Wilson
Seconded by: M. Fuduric The motion was carried
5. Special Education Budget 2018-2019
Shawn Maheux, Manager of Finance presented the proposed Special Education budget for the 2018-2019 school year. It is similar to what has been done in the past. He explained the different grants and expenses that are a part of the budget. The Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount was increased again this year. SIP amount has increased 40% based on claims submitted (high needs students). This will cover more of the cost of providing support for these students. We do not yet know about Connections for next year. SEPPA – this is the majority of Special Education funding (based on average daily enrolment of the board). It has increased from last year since enrolment has gone up. Overview of last budget to this budget – we have additional educational support and professional services staff for 18/19.
6. Special Education Plan for 2018 Review
Items not reviewed in May to be approved. L. McLaughlin shared the information. There will be an Increase in staff from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019. There was a discussion regarding whether or not we should require higher qualifications for Educational Assistants and Special Education Coordinators. We need to gather all information regarding potential implications (will it impact availability of replacement staff etc). SEA purchases were updated in the 2018 plan.

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We have had much PD opportunities for educational support staff this year. K. Wilson explained a program called "Retopia" which is used in the U.S. to support students with developmental disabilities in reading. She requested this be considered for GECDSD students.

Recommendation to board of trustees to approve the plan

Moved by: J. Matte Gasparovic

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

The motion was carried

7. Special Education Update

- Connections – do not know about funding yet.
- ODA 2018-19 Plan was shared by Superintendent McLaughlin – prepared by Superintendent Cathy Lynd after consultation. It identifies renovations at different schools (accessibility/washrooms/door openers, etc).
- Conscious Classrooms – GAINS and STEPS classrooms (teacher and one DSW) will be trained as well as system level staff. The first training date will be at the beginning of October. We will be gathering data and providing a report at end of the school year. K. Wilson stated she was proud of the board for beginning this and that the evidence on this program is amazing. She thanked the Special Education team and trustees for looking outside of the box. L. McLaughlin shared that Conscious Care is in place with Windsor Community Living already.
- MAPS – The program is ready to go at LDSS. The classroom space has been established, curriculum and technology are being put in place prior to the fall.
- B. Cook inquired about support for the Indigenous community. L. McLaughlin shared that she and Dr. Saunders had attended two meetings of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) and we are planning three evening sessions next year to engage the parent/guardian community. IEAC recommended a flyer be prepared with all dates/times/locations and workshop details to be shared in the fall to allow for advanced notice and planning.

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Association Reports

B. Cook – June 21st is the 3rd Annual GECDSD Micmac National Indigenous Peoples Day. June is National Indigenous Peoples Month. B. Cook provided resources to IEAC to explore information/curriculum/understanding of cultural confidences.

M. Fuduric – summer programs being offered by LDAWE. They are full in South Windsor and East Windsor, but still have openings in Essex. The summer programs over literacy, math, and other interests.

J. Matte-Gasparovic – informed SEAC of the Sensory and Learning library through Autism Ontario – can borrow resources for a two week period (body socks, scooter boards, vocab kits, adaptive scissors). June 22 – Toileting without Tears.

10. Distribution

- SEAC Memo ODA
- ODA 2018-19 Plan

11. Adjournment

Final meeting with Superintendent L. McLaughlin who is retiring this summer.

L. McLaughlin shared that she is very proud of work of GECDSD and its staff. Our special education team is second to none. Our students have resources and opportunities that reflect research based, informed practice. She thanked SEAC for the commitment and work of each representative. Working together in the best interests of our students and seeking to understand by gathering all information prior to decision making is what moves us forward under the Ministry of Education umbrella.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee