

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 10, 2020** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Aimee Omstead, Trustee

Cathy Cooke, 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

Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction

Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS

Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario

Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

Kimberly John, Indigenous Community Representative

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the agenda for March 10, 2020.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: B. Turner

That SEAC approve the Minutes for February 11, 2020.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

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M. Wilcox discussed the letter that the GECDSEB SEAC committee sent to the Minister of Education in support of the DDSB letter to the Minister of Education regarding Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE). A copy of this letter was also sent to all Ontario School Board SEAC Committees. All boards were asked to submit to MACSE, celebrations and challenges from this school year. M. Wilcox shared his input to MACSE with the SEAC committee. This information/feedback is to support discussion at the next MACSE meeting.

There was also discussion around Soutinere (Empower) for French Immersion students. M. Wilcox suggested that we have A. Humber present at a future SEAC Committee meeting to discuss this program.

K. Wilson asked how we assist students with most challenging needs. M. Wilcox responded that we do have intensive support for students to keep them in school. We would be more than willing to review opportunities to partner with outside organizations that deal with challenging students. M. Fuduric added that we need more reading programs. According to M. Fuduric, reading is not being taught at the Faculty of Education.

5. Special Education Update

PD Update:

- Data is being gathered from the After School Skills Development Program. S. Mulcaster will present at a future SEAC meeting to discuss the data.
- K. Sweet shared that we are partnering with the Program Department to provide more support for early years teachers. This will help determine PD for the next school year.
- M. Wilcox added that a Gifted Committee has been formed. They are looking to move forward with a review of what types of programming and resources we have for students and how to build on it. The Faculty of Business at the University of Windsor partnered with us this year providing four days of programming for students identified as gifted from grade 5 to 8. Due to work sanctions, we only were able to participate for one day this year but the feedback was amazing! We look forward to next year. B. Turner asked if students in the gifted program were identified students on an IEP. M. Wilcox responded that students identified as gifted are on an IEP. It was acknowledged that there is no gifted program.

Special Education Plan:

- M. Wilcox and K. Sweet went over revisions for standards 11 – 16 of the Special Education Plan. It was shared that budgets may arrive to boards later this year.
- It was approved by the Ministry of Education this year to use SEA funds for Lexia licenses.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Association Reports

M. Vukov – Giving Tuesday – purchased smart devices. Youth in action – schools received student applications. Employer pamphlet is available.

M. Gilles – March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day – Rock Your Socks. Sweet revenge bakeshop is making special cupcakes for this day.

K. Wilson – April 2 next PCMH meeting at Community Living Windsor 1 – 2:30 pm

J. Matte-Gasparovic – March 13th 2nd Pasta Dinner at Caboto Club – Tickets still available

Programs for March: Paper, Pencil, Print (hand writing program – early learners)

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Lego and Robotics program (8-12 spots still left), Living Life to the Full – Adults with ASD anxiety (any adults with anxiety = spots still available), Living Life to the Full – Caregiver program (spots still available) Adult independent Group – monthly meeting, Family support group – monthly meeting, Wellness Group – monthly meeting, Drop in and Play – every Wed morning 9:30 – 11:30
S. Ruggaber - March 26 is purple day for epilepsy awareness day.

10. Distribution

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING Mach 10, 2020

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECDSB 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/