

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, May 14, 2019** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Aimee Omstead, Trustee
Martha Vukov , Community Living Windsor-Essex County
Bette Turner, Home and School Associations
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
Amanda Ing, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Chris Mills, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services
Tracey Rilett, OPC Elementary Representative
Kristie Sweet, OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS:

Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

ABSENT:

Kimberly John, Indigenous Community – FNMI

RECORDER:

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order
M. Fuduric called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Moved by: A. Omstead
Seconded by: C. Cooke
That SEAC approve the agenda for May 14, 2019.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: K. Wilson
Seconded by: M. Vukov
That SEAC approve the minutes for April 9, 2019.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
The letter regarding SIP funding was handed out to the committee. The committee discussed revisions to the letter (just some typo’s to be corrected). The committee will send this letter to other SEAC committees as well as the Ministry.

5. SEAC Dates for 2019/2020

The SEAC dates for the 2019/2020 school year are as follows:

2019: September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10

2020: January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: A. Omstead

That SEAC approve the dates for SEAC meetings for the 2019/2020 school year.

The motion was carried.

6. Special Education Update

- PD Update

C. Mills explained that we are wrapping up PD for this year and planning for summer and next school year. We are currently working with RISE teachers. There were four sessions of PD offered to RISE teachers. There is also an online platform and learning videos to use. There will be a Modified Geography course for next year for Grade 9. Summer PD will include: Make and Take for GAINS teachers, Robotics workshop for GAINS teachers (in conjunction with JMCC who has funded the kits), Introduction to Special Education, Technology workshop, clevr workshop, Empower training, Structured learning.

- Additions to GAINS and STEPS Complement

There are many students coming in with special needs this fall. The Educational Coordinators have been visiting daycares and homes. Both GAINS and STEPS complements will be expanded. We will be adding a new GAINS classroom at Coronation P.S. and LaSalle P.S., as well as an additional GAINS classroom at King Edward P.S. A new STEPS classroom will be added at Western S.S.

- Special Olympics

The Evening of Champions was a huge success again this year. Special acknowledge to Superintendent T. Awender and his committee for organizing the banquet and the Special Olympics events. M. Wilcox showed the video that was shown at the Evening of Champions banquet. T. Rilett added that the student featured in the video has not stopped talking about it! This video has gone on the Board's Youtube page.

- STRIVE

STRIVE was a huge success and we have had positive feedback. The committee members and Educational Coordinators were there to help coordinate the day. The guest speaker for the event was Blake Fly. Parents and students enjoyed his presentation. There were approximately 360 students who participated in the event. Our LD students from Sandwich S.S. did panels and spoke with our students about IEPs, advocating for themselves, and tips to succeed at school. This was very well-received by the participants.

- Special Education Plan Revisions

M. Wilcox went through the revisions to the Special Education Plan. He and C. Mills looked at Plans from across the province to see what other boards are doing. The Plan is broken down into 16 standards. C. Mills went through each standard and explained any revisions. Standard 1: The Board's Consultation Process, was not in last year's plan so it was added this year. The "Student Voice Session" is new as well. We are hoping to have the revisions to the Special Education Plan, completed by the next SEAC meeting.

7. New Business

There are many new letters coming from other school boards' SEAC committees, to the ministry. Our SEAC committee went through these letters individually.

Durham CDSB – subject of letter “e-learning”. Students are expected to completed 4 e-learning courses to complete requirements to graduate. This may roll out in 2020/2021. K. Wilson requested that we ask SEAC committees across the province to meet with the Ministry. M. Fuduric replied that we have a provincial SEAC that might meet with the Ministry. The SEAC committee would like to send a letter to the Ministry regarding e-learning.

Bluewater DSB – subject of letter “FASD”. Bill 44 brings awareness to FASD. M. Wilcox let the committee know that we have staff that have done PD on FASD in the past. The SEAC committee would like to send a letter to the Ministry regarding FASD.

Simcoe Muskoka CDSB - subject of letter “Bill 64, Noah and Gregory’s Law”. This bill urges Ontario to amend the system so kids with developmental disabilities can smoothly transition into receiving adult supports. The SEAC committee would like to send a letter in support of reading and expediting this bill.

Toronto DSB – subject of letter “Exclusion from school of students with disabilities”. This was discussed with the committee. K. Wilson asked if we could see TDSB’s policy on exclusion. M. Wilcox responded that our board has its own policy. We work very hard to get students back into school when they are on exclusion or modified day.

Durham DSB and Ottawa/Carleton DSB – subject of letter “OAP changes”. The ministry is looking at dismantling/changing the program. Parents who currently have contracts are extended until the end of September.

Thames Valley DSB – subject of letter “Long wait lists for therapy services for students with special needs”. We do not have the wait lists that TVCC may have, although there may be layoffs in the future at JMCC which may affect this.

8. Association Reports

K. Wilson – Next meeting is June 6, 2:30 pm, at Glengarda.

M. Fuduric – Upcoming summer enrichment camp. There are three sites: South Windsor, East Windsor and Essex. Registration is online. Please check the website for more information.

9. Adjournment

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: M. Vukov

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee