

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

---

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, May 12, 2020** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Aimee Omstead, Trustee  
Cathy Cooke, Trustee  
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  
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario  
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

**BOARD PERSONNEL**

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services  
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services  
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

**REGRETS**

Kimberly John, Indigenous Community Representative  
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County  
Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction  
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

**ABSENT**

**RECORDER**

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the agenda for May 12, 2020.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: S. Ruggaber

Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

That SEAC approve the Minutes for April 20, 2020.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There were questions regarding the IPRC process during the learn at home time. As directed by the Ministry, we are following through with IPRC waivers. For initial IPRCs, our Ed Coordinators are reaching out to those families. Ed Coordinators are also working on transition meetings as

May 12, 2020

well. If parents are not waiving the IPRC process a meeting will be held we will be reaching out to those families.

5. Proposed SEAC Meeting Dates for the 2020/2021 School Year

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the meeting dates for the 2020/2021 school year. The motion was carried.

6. Special Education Plan for 2020 Review

M. Wilcox shared his screen with the Special Education Plan for 2020 with the committee. M. Wilcox and K. Sweet went through all changes and discussed with committee before making them final. A definition of the Tier 3 Team will be added to the plan. There will also be a change to the wording of IPRC appeals to read that there were none that went to a formal hearing as we worked with individual families for resolutions. Detailed descriptions will be added for the different classroom settings (RISE, GAINS, STEPS).

7. Special Education Update

**PD Update**

- Educational Support Staff - Geneva Introduction to Autism course (750 plus support staff)
- Lexia Core5 and PowerUp PD sessions for over 1K teachers
- Boardmaker Online for DSWs
- PD session for our Support Workers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SWDHHs) to use the Microsoft Teams platform with teachers to better support our students who are deaf and hard of hearings.
- Our Behaviour Team has developed ABA Power Hour for all support staff. The John McGivney Children's Centre support staff are also attending this training virtually.
- Behaviour Management Systems and Behaviour and Safety Plan FAQ Webinar for CYWs and DSWs.
- Ministry funding to support teachers participating in the ASD AQ course.

**Overview of Mental Health Webpages**

- M. Crundwell discussed an overview of mental health webpages. He presented the GECDSB podcasts and videos page. Social workers have contacted all their clients will continue to provide services electronically. They are also posting weekly activities. Psychology are doing feedbacks of completed assessments. They are also involved in the podcasts and videos. SLP are doing consultation. They are also posting weekly activity guides. We are also doing podcasts with other board staff as well as community agencies. M, Wilcox has sent this information to outside agencies to share our resources. There is a hand-washing podcast on now. M. Crundwell is looking into information on wearing masks.

**Update on Supporting Students During School Closures**

- Special Education Coordinators developed our Week at a Glance
- Lexia Core5 and PowerUp licenses distributed to students
- SEAC equipment left in schools distributed to families
- Printing of work packages for GAINS students upon request
- Our Behaviour Analysts are collaborating with educators and administrators to contact families of students having difficulty with severe challenging behaviour in the home.
- SLPs and Psychological Support Staff are completing assessments started before March Break and will continue to provide feedback to parents/guardians.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2020

- Skill Development Program for children with ASD, our RBT and one of our BCBAs continue to work with two families.
- We have partnered with LDAWE to pilot virtual AT training for students who have been provided SEA equipment at Vista Secondary and Westgate PS.
- We are reaching out to our community partners for feedback from their agencies and families who they support to identify what we are doing well and what we need to consider moving forward

8. No new business

9. Association Reports

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor/Essex – launching 1:1 tutoring for students with learning disabilities starting May 19. Information on website.

J. Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario – no summer camps this year. Waiting announcements on programming. May be doing programming in July – preparing for back to school. Online partnership with Canadian Mental Health “Living Life to the Full” dealing with mental health. More information on this to come. Offering BCBA and Social work support at no charge to families via telephone. Michael Couteau leading consultations with autism community, town hall meetings. More information to come.

10. Distribution

M. Wilcox and K. Sweet Power Point Presentation

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee  
Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory

**NEXT MEETING June 9, 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/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/)