

# GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at the Administration Office.

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Beverly Clarke, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)  
Mary MacLauchlan, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health  
Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Bette Turner, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations, *Alternate*  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County  
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community

### BOARD PERSONNEL:

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education  
Jackie Connelly – OPC Elementary Representative  
Mike Wilcox, Principals, Special Education Programs and Services

### REGRETS:

Melissa MacIntyre – OPC Secondary Representative  
Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society

**Recorder:** Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

Bev Clarke called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Attendance

B. Clarke reported regrets from Meghan Johnson from the Canadian Hearing Society.

3. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by:** K. McKinley

**Seconded by:** K. Wilson

**That SEAC approve the agenda for November 10, 2015.**

**CARRIED.**

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

B. Clarke reviewed the Point of Order that was emailed to committee members after the October 13, 2015 meeting. The vote for the recommendation to the Board of Trustees was not carried as it did not meet the criteria for being a majority vote (half + 1) of the members present due to the number of abstentions.

5. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by:** K. Wilson

**Seconded by:** M. MacLauchlan

Amendment 1. - With consideration to the Point of Order the recommendation to the Board of Trustees in item 8 from October 13, 2015 was defeated.

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Amendment 2. - M. MacLauchlan added to a discussion point regarding a Western program being partially integrated and LDCC courses offered there.

**That SEAC approve the minutes of October 13, 2015 with the amendments.**

**CARRIED.**

6. News From the Classroom

Tammy Wilcox, Educational Coordinator, presented on how students in the ASD classroom at A.V. Graham Public School were prepared for a school field trip to the Tecumseh arena to ice skate. The pre-field trip was to prepare the students for the noises, the cold and other experiences encountered at an arena. The staff were also able to take the opportunity to incorporate classroom lessons on this trip as well. The ASD classroom is a fully self-contained system placement for students from other schools in the Board who are not experiencing success despite intensive intervention. Language, communication and ABA are addressed in this short term placement. This classroom is also a demonstration site where staff from all schools can go to observe and learn.

7. EQAO Results – Secondary Panel

Superintendent Houston reviewed the assessment results for the 2013-2014 year elementary and 2014 2015 secondary panel. The procedure for exemption and deferral was explained. Accommodations for the EQAO are directly related to the accommodations on the IEP for the student. An on-line version will be available in the spring for OSSLT but there will still be a pencil and paper test as an option.

8. Math Task Force

Clara Howitt, Superintendent of Program stated that at the May 5, 2015 Education Meeting a motion was passed by the Board to convene a Math Task Force. Final recommendation will be provided to the Board of Trustees between April 2016 and June 2016. The Task Force is made up of Trustees, Administration, Principals, Teachers, Consultants, and Community Experts.

The Board's Vision for math is posted on the Board website.

9. PARC Information

Todd Awender, Superintendent of Education was present to review the recommendations from the PARC specific to Western Secondary that were approved by the Board of Trustees. It could be 3 to 4 years before the process for the new duo campus for Western Secondary and General Amherst High School is complete. There are many steps in the process. The recommendation was that schools remain independent from one another. An implementation committee will be formed.

10. Special Education Update

*Special Needs Strategy*

Mona Stonefish, Chair of the Coordinated Service Planning Table reported on the Special Needs Strategy and distributed the response from the Ministry to the Windsor Essex Coordinated Service Planning Proposal Development Table. The proposal was not completed.

*LD Steering Committee*

L. McLaughlin said that she is looking forward to LD steering committee to reconvene. The video mentioned last month is being developed and will be done the end of January. The Board has 25 to 30 identified students selected that represent the diversity of our region. Snips of each student will be videotaped. The whole video will be located on the LD@school site. Thank you to B. Clarke at LDAWE for their partnership.

11. New Business

B. Turner brought in an article from the Windsor Star on treatment wait lists for pre-school children with autism. She requested an update of what services the Board has and what services the article represented.

M. MacLauchlan asked if the parent communication tool on the process for psychological assessments was developed and when it would be brought back to SEAC.

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L. McLaughlin reported that the IEPs were part of the sanctions for Elementary Teachers. They are now expected to be completed by the end of November. The question was asked whether there are IEPs for a non – identified students. The response was it would depend on the needs of the student and parents can discuss this with the school.

12. Association Reports

*Windsor Council of Home and School Associations*

B. Turner reported that the association will start back to normal now that the schools are not under sanctions.

*Indigenous Community*

M. Stonefish stated there is a parent meeting and election on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at John Campbell Public School.

*Autism Ontario*

Autism Ontario's Chapter & SEAC training is Nov 12-14<sup>th</sup> in Alliston.

The following are some of the presenters:

Sarah Hardy for MCYS manager of Autism Unit,

Julie Williams Manager, special education policy and programs branch, Ministry of Education in attendance with

Kathryn Nowina & Alexisi Stefanowich-Thomson from Ministry of Education and Joseph Trovato, Chair of Ministry's Advisory Council of Special Education

Should be an exciting 3 days.

*Parents for Children's Mental Health*

November 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Conference at the Downtown Marriott - Eaton Center in Toronto.

*Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County*

The association held a successful workshop that coaches, educators and concerned parents attended. Sharon Seslija presented the Board's concussion policy.

*LDAWE*

LDAWE will have PA day camps running. A student at Sandwich Secondary School held a haunted house and hosted several hundred people. This event raised \$409.00.

*Trustees*

No report.

*Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)*

No report.

13. Adjournment

**Moved by:** M. MacLauchlan

**Seconded by:** M. Fuduric

**That SEAC adjourn the meeting at 3:22pm**

**CARRIED.**