

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, November 13, 2018** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Bette Turner, Home and School Associations
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL

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

REGRETS

none

ABSENT

none

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the agenda for November 13, 2018.

The motion was carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

That SEAC approve the revised minutes for October 9, 2018.

The motion was carried

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

5. The Impact of Developmental Trauma and Attachment on Self-Regulation and Well-Being in Children

D. Miljevic presented a power point presentation to the committee. The presentation covered how to help educators understand what self-regulation is for children.

Self-regulation is "the ability to manage stress and refers to the neural processes that control the energy expended to deal with a stressor and then recover. When an individual's stress levels are too high, various systems for thinking and metabolic recovery are compromised. The signs of dysregulation show up in the behaviour, or mood, or attention, and physical well-being." (The Mehrit Centre, 2018). D. Miljevic went on to explain the 6 critical elements of self-regulation, and connecting with emotional regulation and behaviour communication. He explained the 6 core strengths for children and the types of trauma that children may experience, as well as the impacts of trauma and understanding a child's window of tolerance so that we can slowly increase challenges.

D. Miljevic welcomed input and questions from the committee. He will create a condensed version of his presentation to distribute to members of the committee.

6. Special Education Update

Professional Development Update

C. Mills updated the committee about our PD workshops in October and November.

- October 2, Conscious Classrooms
- October 10, Educators New to Autism
- October 17, 24, 29 Functional Behaviour Assessment
- October 24, Educators new to Autism
- October 26, 30 RISE Math PD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 13, 2018

- November 16, system wide PD
 - ◆ Examining Bias, Rollout of Secondary LST Binder, Make & Take, Ideas for the STEPS Classroom, Cooperative Activities & Collaboration for MAPS Teachers, Beyond the Folder for GAINS, EAs and DSWs will attend trauma training as well.
- November 19, Educators New to Autism
- November 27, New to GAINS Part 2

J. Newton, T. Lazuon, M. Wilcox and C. Mills presented learning opportunity sessions to the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee. They selected things that they felt were most relevant. There will be an evening in January for presentation. We will be asking for feedback after this session.

ESS Staffing at Re-organization

We are up 6.5 support staff this year. We have a total of 476 support staff for the 2018/2019 school year.

Empower Update

- We are moving into our 3rd and last year of the Ministry Pilot
- We have 3 service delivery models – Empower Only, Empower and Lexia Simultaneously, Empower Followed by Lexia (started in the 2017-2018 school year). We are continuing to gather data on the different models.
- We are continuing to administer the Pierce Harris Children's Self Concept Scale which measures socio-emotional self-concept. Last year was our first year of administration
- In the fall of 2017, we had an interviewer go in and interview 65 Grade 4 students who all received iPads the year before to assist in their learning. The purpose of the interview was to determine how and to what level of success the iPads were being used across the school day.
- OSIE, which is conducting the research on behalf of the Ministry of Education, will again be visiting all the research project schools to conduct pre and post assessments and interviews during the 2018/2019 school year.
- M. Wilcox will share more information at the December meeting.

7. New Business

K. Wilson asked about Conscious Classrooms. M. Wilcox explained that this program had just started and we will provide information at a later date.

C. Buckler expressed concern regarding the communication books. M. Wilcox suggested that if there are any concerns, they should be addressed at the school, with the school principal.

J. Matte-Gasparovic had concerns regarding the IEP, parent input and timelines. M. Wilcox explained that the procedure for IEP's is ministry mandated. C. Buckler suggested that J. Matt Gasparovic contact MACS, Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education

8. Association Reports

M. Fuduric – asked parents of children with LD to participate in a Ministry consultation. LDAWE provided points to consider and listed them on their website. The survey is open until December 15, 2018. Please refer to the website for further information.

M. Gilles – Down Syndrome Awareness is the 1st week of November. They had a family bowling and pizza night and were able to meet the families.

B. Turner – talked about fundraisers in schools. She shared that there was a Walkerville teacher who wrote a children's book on math. This teacher is having a book signing on November 24 at 2:00 p.m. at the Riverside Library.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee