

**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, October 9, 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  
Betty 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**

Judy Kraemer, Canadian Hearing Society

**ABSENT**

Susan Smith, Community Living (no longer the representative for Community Living)

**RECORDER**

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: K. McKinley

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the agenda for October 9, 2018.

The motion was carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

Seconded by: Ma. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the minutes for September 11, 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. Jordan's Principle

J. Newton and T. Lauzon presented a power point presentation on Jordan's Principle which is a child first and needs-based principle used in Canada to ensure that First Nations children living on and off reserve have equitable access to all government funded services. They explained key points such as background, process, special education needs, and the number of applications in 2017/2018. Out of the 43 applications that were received in the 2017/2018 year, 30 students were able to get help, with resources such as SEA equipment, psych assessments, etc.

Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations child, is the reason Jordan's Principle was created. Jordan waited 5 years for funding to be approved and it ended up being too late for him. Jordan's Principle pays for the need for indigenous children so there is no delay in funding.

6. Special Education Update

Professional Development Update

C. Mills informed the committee about our PD workshops in October.

- Hearing Awareness
- Functional Behaviour Assessment (FBA)
- Autism
- RISE Math PD
- Conscious Classrooms

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.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 9, 2018

### Conscious Classrooms

Mike presented a power point presentation on Conscious Classrooms. He outlined the scope of the project and the roll out to selected STEPS programs beginning in October and then the roll out to selected GAINS programs beginning in February 2019. He provided an overview of the components of the program including the benefits for both students and staff. Please see accompanying power point.

### Application and Nomination forms for the 2018-2022 SEAC Associations

M. Wilcox spoke with S. Scantlebury about putting advertising on the board website. The link to the electronic forms for the application and nomination are posted on the special education page on the board's website. According to the Education Act, SEAC can have up to 12 associations represented on the committee.

### 7. New Business

There was no new business.

### 8. Association Reports

B. Turner, Home and School Associations – October 15, 2018 is candidates' night for home and school. B. Turner handed out information to post.

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association – October is Learning Disabilities Awareness month. Koma restaurant is holding a fundraiser on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The fall programs have started. There is a new program called Tech 101 which teaches students about researching, smart social media use, etc. There is also a Supported Employment Training program for students age 15 and older, which helps with self-care, time management, resume writing, etc. Information regarding these items was handed out to the committee. T. Rilett asked if Jordan's Principle would fund these activities. M. Wilcox suggested that she ask T. Lauzon about this.

K. Wilson – there is a support group at Glengarda on the first Thursday of every month during the school year from 1 – 2:30 p.m. The support group is for parents, regardless of the age of their child(ren).

M. Wilcox – The IEP and More evening was held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. There were about 70 parents that attended this presentation. This speaks to the need to understand the IEP process. Our educational coordinators work very hard to help parents understand the process. K. Wilson added that this was the first year that the presentation information was shared on social media and this most likely contributed to the increased attendance.

### 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee