

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations
Lucie Lombardo, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Trudy Richards, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education
Mike Wilcox, Principal, Special Education Programs and Services
Melissa DeBruyne – OPC Secondary Representative
Tracey Rilett – OPC Elementary Representative

REGRETS:

Beth Cook, Indigenous Community
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)

Recorder: Michelle Marcuz

1. Call to Order

K. McKinley called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Attendance

K. McKinley gave regrets from S. Smith and M. Fuduric.

K. McKinley noted that Trudy Richards is the new representative for Autism Ontario. K. McKinley thanked Mary MacLauchlan for her past service. A thank you card will be sent to her.

M. Wilcox noted Tracey Rilett is the new representative for OPC Elementary. Jackie Connelly has stepped down.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: T. Richards

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the agenda for September 13, 2016.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: L. Lombardo

Seconded by: M. Johnson

That SEAC approve the minutes for June 7, 2016.

CARRIED.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

None.

6. Agenda Items for 2016-2017

L. McLaughlin asked for agenda items to be considered for the upcoming school year.

K. Wilson requested updates on applied math in high schools.

T. Richards requested updates on reading initiatives for students with learning disabilities.

C. Buckler requested updates on funding for newcomers for IBI.

M. Johnson requested information on deaf students in mainstream classes as well as in classes with deaf students.

7. Special Education Update

LD@school video

The LD@School video was shown. L. McLaughlin noted we will use this video with staff and students. K. Wilson noted that in secondary schools, LSTs often give students their accommodations package to give to their teachers. She noted this may be a challenge for students with anxiety. We need to make them comfortable with this practice. T. Richards said students with LD or autism may have difficulty approaching staff and asked how we can help students overcome this. T. Rilett noted that students are increasingly involved in creating their IEPs. They learn to speak to their accommodations in an effective and productive manner. K. Wilson noted IEP meetings can be intimidating with 12 people around the table.

L. McLaughlin stated that profiles of students will be considered by School Based Teams before any action is taken.

Ministry of Education Pilot

L. McLaughlin noted Windsor-Essex is one of three areas in the province to pilot the Empower Reading Intervention program.

The budget is \$150,000 per year for three years. The purpose is to gather information in response to the Ministry's consultation around demonstration schools for learning disabilities. We will have five schools with eight Grade 3 students per school doing 60 minutes a day of intensive reading intervention all year. There will be an additional five schools with 8 students per school doing Empower but returning to their homerooms where Lexia Core 5 will be accessed by all. A brochure describing Lexi Core 5 was shared.

This will be a standing agenda item every month.

Support for Connections

Last year four students attended school one day a week while they were in the IBI program at Thames Valley. The students saw the same ESS each time. This year students will be attending one day a week, and we may have some doing two and three days a week as the year progresses. This will be a challenge. Posting for an ESS for Connections Support will go out before the next SEAC meeting.

Survey of Parents/Guardians who have Children on IEP

Thank you to everyone for their feedback. The purpose of this survey of JK-12 parents with students with IEPs is to learn how to support parents and guardians. The final question is global, asking for feedback on what we can do in the future to meet the needs of their children.

8. New Business

M. Wilcox noted there are many staff PD sessions this year including: Clevr, IEP, GAINS, SERR, LST, Edsby, Brigance, Empower, math and leveled reading, re-certification for BMST, ASD, zones of regulation, fetal alcohol syndrome, deaf and hard of hearing, and special education training for NTIP and LDCC.

L. McLaughlin noted we will receive profiles from schools and reallocate Education Support Staff next week.

9. Association Reports

Connie Buckler, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

There are several new builds going on this year. The first board meeting is on September 20th.

Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health

On August 24th, K Wilson, the family engagement consultant for Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital, held two community consultations to let families know what changes have been happening in our community and across the province in the area of children's mental health. Several families attended, and all four agencies (Regional Children's Centre, Maryvale, Children First and Family Respite Services) are currently looking for client families who have received or are receiving mental health services to be a part of the new family engagement working groups at each agency.

PCMH has been involved in the new Moving on Mental Health initiative from the beginning. This Thursday K. Wilson will be in London for the second consultation of the new funding model allocation.

Lucie Lombardo, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

October is Learning Disability month. The LDAWE held a successful summer camp over five weeks in three locations with 12 students per camp one was at Forest Glade Public School. The camp also employed three public board secondary students.

10. Distribution

No discussion.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Kim McKinley, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee