

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Suzane Kovac, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Judy Kraemer, Canadian Hearing Society

BOARD PERSONNEL

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

REGRETS

Anna Jurak, Brain Injury Association, Windsor/Essex County (no longer on the SEAC committee)
JoAnn Percy, Home and School Associations
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community – FNMI (no longer on the SEAC committee)
Melissa Debruyne, OPC Secondary Representative
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health

ABSENT

Susan Smith, Community Living

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

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

C. Buckler informed the committee that there were vacancies for the Brain Injury Association and Indigenous Community on the SEAC committee.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Kim McKinley

Seconded by: Mary-Ann Fuduric

That SEAC approve the agenda for September 11, 2018.

The motion was carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Kim McKinley

Seconded by: Mary-Ann Fuduric

That SEAC approve the revised minutes for June 12, 2018.

The motion was carried

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

C. Buckler – reflective of the letter that we were waiting for K. Wilson to give us the go ahead to send. It now has to be sent as the issue has not been resolved. The letter was in regard to making the Ministry aware of the issues with keeping students out of class for violence/exclusion reasons. J. Matte-Gasparovic gave a copy of the letter to S. Kovac (alternate for K. Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health). C. Buckler read the letter to the committee. The committee had previously approved this letter.

Motion to send letter to Ministry

Moved: J. Matte-Gasparovic

Seconded: S. Kovac

The motion was carried

C. Buckler introduced M. Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services, and C. Mills, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services and welcomed them to their new positions.

5. Exclusion Information – Dr. S. Pyke

Dr. Pyke welcomed everyone back to another school year. She then handed out the draft Exclusion Information pamphlet to the members of the committee. Dr. Pyke asked for input from the committee. She left the pamphlet with them to read over and discuss at the next SEAC meeting. Dr. Pyke took suggestions from the committee but will wait until they have had time to read over the material thoroughly. The committee members will send their feedback to M. Wilcox and he will forward the information to S. Pyke.

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6. Special Education Update

M. Wilcox is waiting on further information from the Ministry of Education regarding Connections. We still have 3 students in the program. These students are getting full support from Thames Valley and they also have Board supports.

We are entering into our 3rd year of Reading Intervention, Ministry of Education Research Project. At the end of year 2, the Empower program has had significant direct and indirect impact on the students. We are seeing amazing results emotionally and academically. The program focuses on Grade 3 students. DRA scores are used in measuring progress. Each student receives 60 minutes per day (110 lessons). Students are taking the skills and strategies back to the classroom. Empower is in all of our elementary schools, supported by the LST. Training is provided to LSTs who are new to Empower. We are also piloting Lexia (computer based program). It tracks student progress and identifies when students are struggling. Lexia is targeted to grade 2 and 3 students. All elementary schools have Lexia licenses.

The STRIVE symposium has been approved again this year in April. We will continue using EQAO data in 2018/2019.

Professional Development Update

C. Mills let the committee know about our upcoming PD workshops

- ASD Training, Aug 29
- Clevr workshop, Aug 30
- IEP Workshop, Aug 30
- New Elementary LSTs, Sept 5
- Empower Training, Sept 12
- Empower Training, Sept 13
- Empower Refresher, Sept 14
- After school IEP Workshop, Sept 19
- Lexia Training, Sept 20
- Thrive in the Hive, Sept 21
- BMS Training – Sept 21
- Kindergarten – Self-Regulation and Well-Being, Sept 25
- Readtopia, Sept 26
- New to GAINS and RISE, Sept 26
- Kindergarten – Self-Regulation and Well-Being, Sept 27

C. Buckler asked how we are addressing kids and emotional literacy. M. Wilcox explained PD for Early Years staff where the Speech and Language Pathologist discussed emotional vocabulary for those teachers. They also provided resources and will be available to support in any way that they can in schools. J. Kraemer added that this is critical for newcomers.

J. Matte Gasparovic asked about Conscious Classrooms. M. Wilcox let the committee know about upcoming PD for STEPS teams, and then moving to the GAINS teams once the STEPS teams are trained. He also said that there may be people from Community Living involved. S. Kovac asked what Conscious Classrooms was. M. Wilcox will send out information electronically. It is about engaging parents and using strategies with students and staff, looking at the wellness of students and educators in the classroom. One of the goals is to decrease challenging behaviours.

7. New Business

There was no new business

8. Association Reports

J. Kraemer – the association went through the accreditation process and were accredited. They are planning for the next two years. It is a very busy time of year.

S. Kovac – had concerns regarding how many students were on exclusion, and not having enough representation for the appeal process. M. Wilcox invited her to provide feedback on Dr. Pyke's brochure. If someone asked for more to attend meeting, it is not likely to be turned down by the committee.

M. Fuduric – preparing for fall programs.

J. Matte-Gasparovic – over 400 attended camp. Autism Ontario will offer self-regulation programs for kids and parents.

K. McKinley – The first meeting of the school year is September 25th, before elections. We should have conversations with people so that they are aware of who the trustees are before they vote.

M. Wilcox – with trustee election, comes turnover in SEAC. As of December 2, 2018, the 2018-2022 SEAC committee will be in place. At the October SEAC meeting, packages will be ready to go electronically. We will also have paper copies on hand if needed. There is a limit of 12 associations on SEAC. Will provide more information in October.

S. Kovac – asked about how long members are committed for. They are not committed for the entire 4 year term, but ideally, they would fulfil the four years.

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M. Wilcox – The Brain Injury Association felt that since they had mostly adult clients, the SEAC committee did not fully represent this group.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee