

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, September 10, 2019** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Aimee Omstead, Trustee
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County
Bette Turner, Home and School Associations
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS:

Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Tracey Rilett, OPC Elementary Representative

ABSENT:

Kimberly John, Indigenous Community – FNMI

RECORDER:

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order
M. Fuduric called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.
2. Approval of the Agenda
Moved by: A. Omstead
Seconded by: B. Turner
That SEAC approve the agenda for September 10, 2019. The motion was carried.
3. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: B. Turner
Seconded by: A. Omstead
That SEAC approve the revised minutes for June 11, 2019. The motion was carried.
4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
M. Fuduric expressed concern regarding the review of various items at the June 2019 meeting. M. Wilcox replied that these items will be reviewed earlier in the school year to avoid this in the future. He also explained that because there were so many changes to the Special Education Plan last year, this took up more time than expected.
5. Behaviour Management Team Presentation
T. McCarthy, Behaviour Management Specialist, explained the tiers for students with special needs.
Tier 1: universal research-based supports for students (approximately 80% of students).
Tier 2: some students may need more targeted supports in addition to Tier 1 supports (approximately 15% of students).
Tier 3: few students may need intensive supports in addition to Tier 1 and 2 supports (approximately 5% of students).
He also explained the referral process to obtain these supports, and explained the different roles involved in the Tier'd support.

The question was asked if there has been an increase in students with special needs. M. Wilcox responded that there has been an increase over the past few years and this has been the case across the province. He added that the GECDSB has had much PD over the years for support staff and administrators.

6. Special Education Update

- Special Education Plan – moving forward
M. Wilcox let the committee know that the Special Education Plan will be reviewed earlier in the year.
- Ministry Professional Assessment Funding
The GECDSB received \$187,000. Half of this funding was used on assessments. We were able to do 69 additional assessments (students on wait lists) because of this funding. There has been very positive feedback from parents. The remainder of the funding went toward assessment tools for Speech and Language Pathologists, and for our I.T. department to produce an electronic tracking system.
- School Skills Development Program
There were 10 pilot boards last year involved in the program. We received \$280,000 spread over the next three years. The funds will be used to help students develop social and academic skills. The Lambton-Kent Board is currently using the program. We will visit their Board to see how the program is running.
- Professional Development Update
 - Make and Take, August 28
 - Robotics, August 29
 - Assistive Technology, August 29
 - Empower, September 11, 12
 - Empower Refresher, September 13
 - BMS Training, September 17
 - Readtopia, September 18
 - Boardmaker, September 23
 - New Lexia Lead Teachers, September 24
 - Structured Learning, September 24
 - New to GAINS, September 25
 - New to RISE, September 25
 - Coming in October
 - LST Workshop, October 1
 - Teachers New to Autism, October 9, 10
 - Hearing Awareness Workshop, October 10M. Wilcox let the committee know that Empower has extended the program to a fourth year.

7. New Business

M. Wilcox introduced, Kristie Sweet, Principal of Special Education Services, and Theresa Williams, OPC, Secondary Representative on SEAC.

8. Association Reports

Parents for Children's Mental Health

The first support group was held on September 5, 2019. The new location for Parents for Children's Mental Health is at the Community Living Windsor building. The next meeting will be held on October 3, 2019. K. Wilson handed out flyers to advertise the extensive resources that are available in their library.

Community Living Windsor-Essex County

- 40th Annual Ruthven Apple Festival, Sept 28,29 <https://communitylivingessex.org/events/ruthven-apple-festival/>
- Jingle Bell Run, Walk & Wheel, Nov. 10 <https://communitylivingessex.org/events/jingle-bell-run-walk-and-wheel/>
- Together We're Better Contest, deadline is Jan 28, 2020 <https://communitylivingontario.ca>
- Re:Action 4 Inclusion is a movement of young people and their adult allies that puts youth voice and experience at the center of social justice, community change and school culture.
www.reaction4inclusion.com
- Career Compass – Employment Services <https://communitylivingessex.org/services/employment-supports/career-compass/>

Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

October of Learning Disabilities Month. There will be a pasta fundraiser on October 2, 2019 at the Caboto. Fall evening programs have just opened up. Please visit the website for more information.

9. Distribution

10. Adjournment

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: A. Omstead

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING October 8, 2019

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECDSB Website

<https://publicboard.ca/Board/Meetings/Pages/default.aspx>

Erin Kelly
Director of Education

Mike Wilcox
Administrative Liaison

(Ministry SEAC Website) www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/