GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at the Administration Office, 451 Park St. West, Windsor, Ontario. This meeting was held in-person and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
Nancy Armstrong, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Bette Turner, Home and School Association
Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise

BOARD PERSONNEL
Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological Services

REGRETS
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County
Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

1. Call to Order
   The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Introductions of New Members
   M. Wilcox welcomed our new SEAC members:
   Nancy Armstrong, Trustee
   Kim McKinley, Trustee
   Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise
   Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association

4. Elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
   Election for Chairperson: We have always alternated years (trustee one year, association next, year, for Chairperson of SEAC). M. Wilcox established that quorum was obtained and declared nominations open for the position of Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2023. M. Wilcox explained the job role of the Chairperson.

Moved by: K. McKinley
That M. Fuduric be nominated as the Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2023. M. Fuduric accepted the nomination. M. Wilcox asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations. M. Wilcox declared M. Fuduric as the Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2023 by acclamation.

M. Fuduric then took her position as Chairperson of SEAC and continued with the election for Vice Chairperson. M. Fuduric declared nominations open for the position of Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2023.

Moved by: T. McCarthy
That K. McKinley be nominated as the Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2023. K. McKinley accepted the nomination. M. Fuduric asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations. M. Fuduric declared K. McKinley as the Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2023 by acclamation.

5. Approval of Agenda
Moved by: B. Turner
Seconded by: J. Conrad
That SEAC approve the agenda for December 13, 2022 The motion was carried

6. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: T. McCarthy
Seconded by: K. McKinley
That SEAC approve the minutes for November 8, 2022
The committee approved the minutes with one small revision to add under Board Personnel, the name of Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological Services, who attended the November 8, 2022 meeting. The motion was carried

7. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

8. Expected Practices for Responding to Discrimination, S. Querbach, Superintendent of Education, Student Well-Being
S. Querbach presented a four-page DRAFT pamphlet to the committee outlining the expected practices for responding to discrimination and welcomed feedback from the committee. Some of the areas discussed were:
    - What is discrimination?
        - Discrimination is when people are treated unequally and unfairly based on their race, disability, sex, creed, sexual orientation or any other personal characteristic protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.
    - How should I respond if I witness discriminatory language or behaviour?
        - Stop and interrupt, name the discriminatory act, support the affected individual(s), report and/or document what occurred, examine, restore and educate.
    - Definitions.

S. Querbach included that this information was for students in both elementary and secondary school. He also let the committee know of the PD that was held for GECDSB staff. This DRAFT document has already been vetted through IEAC, Unions and Student Senate. The committee's feedback will be used to further fine-tune the document. M. Wilcox suggested that SEAC members email any suggestions to either him or Peggy Russette and that any suggestions would be forwarded to Superintendent Querbach.

9. Special Education Survey Results (continued from November's SEAC meeting), M. Wilcox

   The survey information was distributed to the committee members to share the responses from staff/students/parents/community. All responses were followed up with through either the school principal, Special Education Coordinator or M. Wilcox. The committee offered feedback and suggestions to help make the survey easier to complete.

10. Special Education Update

    Reading and Language Intervention Pilot Program:
    M. Crundwell explained to the committee that initial RLI training occurred in the summer and was facilitated by GECDSB Speech and Language Pathologist Melinda Hinch. The training was based on the work of Dr. Sue Buckley, one of the leading researchers and interventionists in the area of Down Syndrome. Seventeen teachers participated in the summer session. The RLI program is being piloted in nine GAINS classrooms. Nine teachers are participating in this training. Paula Filangeri, GECDSB Speech and Language Pathologist, has taken the lead on this this project. The PD is spread over 3 sessions, two occurred in December and the final session is slated for January 2023. Staff participating in the PD will begin implementation of the reading intervention in early January. Feedback from both staff and parents will be used to enhance the program in the future.

    PD Update:

    - Acadience training for all Learning Support Teachers – This is a two day training session covering curriculum-based measures for reading that assesses student development as a reader.
    - New to GAINS Workshop #2 – GAINS teachers will meet members of our multi-disciplinary teams within our school board and from our community partners at the John McGivney Children's Centre. This PD has been paused and will resume at a later date due to high rates of absenteeism.
    - New to RISE Workshop #2 – RISE teachers will learn how to effectively plan and schedule daily math activities to reach a broad range of learners. This PD has been paused due to high rates of absenteeism and will resume at a later date.

11. New Business

    Letter from the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board asking for special education students to be able to continue secondary school beyond the age of 21 – K. Sweet read the letter to the SEAC committee and welcomed feedback. The committee agreed that it is very important to offer this to students so that they can continue their education past

the age of 21 if needed. Further discussion on this item will be covered in our January 2023 meeting.

Letter from the Durham District School Board regarding the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Claim Funding – K. Sweet read the letter to the SEAC committee and welcomed feedback. The letter requested an increase in funds to help support our high needs students. It was suggested that our SEAC committee draft a letter in support of a SIP funding increase.
Moved by: N. Armstrong
Seconded by: T. McCarthy
That SEAC prepare a letter to the Ministry requesting that SIP Claim funds be increased to better support our high needs students. The motion was carried

This DRAFT letter will be reviewed at the next SEAC meeting in January 2023.

12. Association Reports
    - M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – preparing for January 2023 and Winter programs. Visit https://www.ldawe.ca/ for more information.
    - B. Turner, Home and School Association – they continue to work with families as school continues to get back to normal.
    - S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise – refers caregivers to services for children with FASD. They provide support with diagnosing the FASD process and provide FASD education. Support groups for families and caregivers are also provided. The next support group is on February 2, 2023. For more information please visit https://fasdontario.ca/

13. Adjournment
    The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING January 10, 2023 1:00 p.m.

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/