

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 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

Chelsey Lackovic, Home and School Association

Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological Services

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

REGRETS

Bette Turner, Home and School Association

1. Call to Order

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

*We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe (*Ah-nish-e-naa-bay*), Haudenosaunee (*Hoe-den-oh-show-nee*), Leni (*Len-eh*) Lenape (*Le-naw-pay*) and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy, Ojibwe (*Oh-jib-way*), Odawa (*Oh-dah-wah*), Potawatomi (*Paw-taw-watt-oh-me*) and Huron/Wendat (*Wen-dat*) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis*

3. Approval of Agenda
Moved by: K. McKinley
Seconded by: N. Armstrong
That SEAC approve the agenda for March 7, 2023 The motion was carried
4. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: T. McCarthy
Seconded by: S. Yang
That SEAC approve the minutes for February 7, 2023 The motion was carried
5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
M. Wilcox shared the draft letter regarding adjustments needed to funding for special education, with the SEAC committee. The committee will review the letter and provide feedback at the next SEAC meeting, before sending the letter to the Minister of Education.
6. Special Education Budget Review, Shawn Maheux
The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding is usually provided in late March, to help determine the funding formula. A summary of the Special Education funding will be presented to the SEAC committee at the June meeting. The GECDSB budget is posted on the Board's website. A budget survey link was provided to the SEAC committee members to provide input into the 2023-2024 budget. The survey link as well as the 2023-2024 Public Budget Consultation Presentation, can be found at <https://www.publicboard.ca/en/about-gecdsb/2023-2024-budget-consultation.aspx>. The SEAC committee members requested a copy of the draft special education budget prior to the meeting in June.
7. Review of the Special Education Plan (Standards 5 to 9)
The following standards were reviewed with the SEAC committee:

Standard 5: The Identification, Placement and Review Committee Process and Appeals
Standard 6: Educational and Other Assessments
Standard 7: Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings
Standard 8: Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities
Standard 9: Special Education Placements Provided by the Board

Feedback/revisions were collected to apply to the 2023-2024 plan.

Standard 10 to 16 will be reviewed at the next SEAC meeting in April 2023.
8. Special Education Update
 - PD for April/May/June is still in the planning stages. More information will be provided at the next SEAC meeting.
10. New Business

- A letter from the Near North District School Board regarding the Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding was shared with the SEAC committee.

The GECDSB SEAC committee had previously sent a similar letter to the Ministry.

11. Association Reports

J. Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association - On March 21st, we celebrate World Down Syndrome Day by advocating for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down syndrome around the world. Wear your mismatched socks in March to raise awareness and start conversations!

M. Vukov, Community Living, Windsor-Essex – please visit <https://mycommunityhub.ca/> to view programs offered.

S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise – held a support group discussion via zoom, with a guest speaker from Adopt for Life. FASD/ONE will be conducting an environmental survey to determine community knowledge of FASD as well as how good the services are.

T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – shared information and (GECDSB) links regarding the 'My Way' Program, with the recently hired Subject Matter Expert at Autism Ontario. If more information is required, she (Tanya Jewell) may be interested in reaching out to the Board's lead BCBA.

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – Wednesday, March 26, 2023, Transition to Post-Secondary, which will cover everything you need to know about going to post-secondary education. Information can be found at <https://www.ldawe.ca/> Spring programming information will be coming soon.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING April 11, 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/