

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at the Administration Office, 451 Park St. West, Windsor, Ontario.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

Kim McKinley, Trustee

Bette Turner, Home and School Association

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

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

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological Services

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 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: B. Turner
 Seconded by: S. Yang
 That SEAC approve the agenda for May 9, 2023 The motion was carried

4. Approval of Minutes
 Moved by: B. Turner
 Seconded by: K. McKinley
 That SEAC approve the minutes for April 11, 2023 The motion was carried

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

6. Introductions – New Superintendent of Special Education Programs and Services
 Superintendent Chris Mills introduced himself to the SEAC committee and introductions went around the table.

7. Special Education Presentation – We Speak, Heather Anger, Program Department
We Speak is a language access initiative allowing users to access scheduled or on demand professional interpreting services in-person, by telephone or video. Access to this program is through a central telephone number that allows providers to register their organization and then use the service for a very reasonable fee.

 This on-demand service can be used to support translation during IPRC meetings, Parent-Teacher interviews, or during conference calls.

We Speak would be used on occasion when a translator is not available through SWIS (Settlement Worker in Schools) and/or if the Special Education Coordinator requires a professionally trained translator to support a meeting.

 Staff who may use *We Speak* are Administrators, ESL Coaches, ESL Itinerant teachers, ESL/ELD Department Heads, Guidance, LSTs, Special Education Coordinators and staff at the Newcomer Welcome Centre.

8. Approval of SEAC Meeting Dates for the 2023/2024 School Year
 The proposed SEAC meeting dates for the 2023/2024 school year are:

9/12/2023	2/13/2024
10/10/2023	3/19/2024
11/14/2023	4/9/2024
12/12/2023	5/14/2024
1/9/2024	6/11/2024

 Moved by: J. Conrad
 Seconded by: T. McCarthy
 That SEAC approve the meeting dates for the 2023/2024 school year.

The motion was carried.

9. Special Education Plan 2023-2024 Review

The remaining sections C, D and E and Appendices were reviewed and revised.

The Special Education Plan will be made accessible and the final accessible version will be reviewed for approval by the SEAC committee at the June meeting.

10. Special Education Update (Professional Development Update)

The following professional development workshops will be held during the summer months:

- Teachers New to GAINS
- Make and Take: Boom Cards for GAINS/STEPS Teachers and Developmental Service Workers
- Robotics in the GAINS/STEPS Classrooms for all GAINS/STEPS Staff
- Make and Take Structured Learning Activities for GAINS Teachers and Developmental Service Workers
- Make and Take Structured Learning Activities for Kindergarten Teachers and Developmental Service Workers
- Adapt It for GAINS/STEPS Teachers
- Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities in the Classroom
- Positive Behaviour Supports in High School for MAPS Teachers

11. Special Olympics

Superintendent Mills attended the Elementary school Special Olympics at Essex High School on Monday, May 8, 2023. The students, staff and families enjoyed the day. The Secondary school Special Olympics will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023 also at Essex High School. Feedback from the SEAC committee was welcomed to take to the Special Olympics committee for next year. Superintendent T. Awender is the lead for this event along with a large committee of staff.

12. New Business

There was no new business to report.

13. Association Reports

S. Yang, FASD/ONE – The HDGH FASD caregiver support group has finished their support group funding from this year, which was funded by Health Nexus. This support group was held on a bi-monthly basis on Zoom for this year from April 2022-March 2023. We will be re-applying for Health Nexus funding for April 2023-March 2024 funding year. It is our hope to transition the support group session from virtual to in person for the next funding year.

B. Turner, Home and School Association – schools are busy and are back to normal. Home and school has raised funds for school fieldtrips.

M. Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County – May is Community Living Month in Ontario. Community Living Month is a province-wide awareness campaign to recognize the accomplishments of the Community Living movement. Communities across the province are celebrating inclusion in many ways.
#inclusionmatters

J. Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association - has feedback for Superintendent J. Canty, from families who have completed the student census.

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – Scholarships are available for college/university for students with a learning disability. Applications are due May 18.

The Summer Camp has been designed specifically for students entering grades 2 to 6 in September 2023 with a diagnosed or suspected learning disability. An IEP is required. This camp is run in partnership with the Greater Essex County District School Board and the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board.

14. Distribution
There was no distribution.

15. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING June 13, 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

Chris Mills
Administrative Liaison

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