

# **GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

## **REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, October 11, 2022** at the Administration Office, 451 Park St., West, Windsor, ON.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Aimee Omstead, Trustee  
Cathy Cooke, Trustee  
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County  
Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative  
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario  
Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario  
Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Robyn Hodges, Brain Injury Association of Windsor-Essex  
Bette Turner, Home and School Association

### **BOARD PERSONNEL**

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services  
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

### **REGRETS**

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services  
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

### **ABSENT**

### **RECORDER**

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

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 the Agenda

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: B. Turner

That SEAC approve the agenda for the SEAC meeting of October 11, 2022

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the revision to the September 13, 2022 minutes in the **Regrets** section to read: ***Bette Turner, Home and School Association (due to technical difficulties during Microsoft Teams meeting)***

The motion was carried.

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the revised minutes for the SEAC meeting of September 13, 2022

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. Ministry Math Pilot Project, presented by Tammy Bachmeier, Teacher Facilitator

The GECDSB math pilot focused on:

- Determining the impact of implementing evidence-based tier 2 and 3 high yield instructional strategies in mathematics on students with delays in their math skills to increase skills and decrease gaps
- Preparing students with delays in mathematics for de-streamed math programming in secondary school
- Increasing student engagement in mathematics, and preventing and/or closing learning gaps.

AimsWebPLUS is used to administer a pre-screener to the students. It collects student data on all strands of math. This screener creates benchmark data which is used to help select some of the students who would receive one of the two math interventions (Symphony Math or Key Math). This screener administered pre- and post will allow us to draw comparisons between the two interventions as well.

Intervention One: Symphony Math

- Schools are using this intuitive, blended online math program/resource that identifies learning gaps and provides teachers with intervention lessons and activities.
- Symphony Math is from the same creators as Lexia Core5 which is a Reading Intervention. Teachers have access to the same type of Dashboard and are alerted when students are struggling and need help.
- Students' first task is an assessment that identifies and places them in a grade level –from K-5. As they work through the stages of Symphony Math, students gain a strong conceptual foundation in mathematics.
- The program goes beyond rote drills and practice tests to provide students with rich, engaging visual and/or concrete content that produces confident, more capable students.
- 100 marker students across four schools have been provided with Symphony Math licenses and some additional iPads to access this online math program.

Intervention Two: Key Math3

- KeyMath3 Diagnostic Assessment is an individually administered measure of essential mathematical concepts and skills.
- It consists of three linked components: The updated KeyMath3 Diagnostic Assessment, ASSIST™ Scoring and Reporting Software, and the KeyMath3 Essential Resources instructional program.
- Approximately 40 Junior students are participating in the Key Math intervention at the fifth school.
- A teacher interventionist works with marker students in small groups using an in-person delivery system
- Students are withdrawn, like the Learning Support Model, for 3–30-minute learning sessions per week.

The two interventions are already showing progress in students during the short time that they have been running. When we initially received the funding for this pilot, it was open to junior students only. We continue to receive more pilot money which will enable us to run the interventions over a longer period of time to gather more data and determine how it impacts students.

## 7. Special Education Update

New Tier 3 Team to Support in Early Years:

We have added a team this year as many students are coming in with self-regulation issues in the early years classrooms. The team consists of a BCBA, Social Worker and ABA Facilitator. There is a referral process vetted through Samantha Mulcaster, Kristie Sweet, and Dr. Marc Crundwell. They will prioritize students and deploy the teams to the schools. The teams will go into schools one to two weeks to observe and provide support in early years. DSWs work with the team on putting strategies in place, e.g. structured learning environment, to help students be more successful at school.

Special Education PD Update:

- Symphony Math Ministry Pilot: Greenfield Learning presented a training session to junior teachers and school administrators who were involved in the Ministry Math Pilot.
- New to Rise: Teachers learned how to provide structure and organization in the RISE learning environment using effective strategies and resources.
- New to GAINS: Teachers learned how to provide structure and organization in the RISE learning environment using effective strategies and resources.
- New to LST: This session was spent exploring topics relevant to the position of LST who is new in the role.
- LST Workshop for all LSTs: This workshop was spent exploring topics and resources relevant to their role of LST. They were also provided opportunities to learn from one another and information about Board processes and protocols.

ESS Staffing Update:

- The Board is currently involved in assessing system needs.
- Staffing will take place in early October.
- ESS reorganization will take place on October 20, 2022 based on student numbers and needs.

## 8. New Business

There was no new business to report.

9. Association Reports

T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – There will be a Holiday Party in Windsor in November for sensory Santa time. Upcoming webinars include: “What is Autism”, “Understanding OAP”, “Ask the doctor pathways to receive a timely diagnosis”. T. McCarthy participated in an Autism Ontario SEAC Representatives virtual meeting. It was primarily an introduction meeting but there will be more meetings for various SEAC members across Ontario. T. McCarthy will share this information when it becomes available.

M. Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County – The Jingle Bell Run/Rock/Wheel event will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Ken Knapp Ford in Essex. The Jingle Bell Run, Walk & Wheel’s mission is to promote a healthy lifestyle and inclusive communities. The proceeds raised from this fabulous, festive event are directed to Community Living Essex County, a not-for-profit organization providing supports and services to over 700 children, youth, and adults with an intellectual disability.

B. Turner, Home and School Instruction – Was impressed by everyone who took part in the All Candidates meeting. People are paying attention to the selection of school board candidates.

A. Omstead, Trustee – reminded the committee to reach out to A. Omstead if there are any upcoming events that they would like shared at a board meeting.

10. Distribution

No distribution

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 pm.

**NEXT MEETING, November 8, 2022**

**Board Meeting Minutes available on GECDSB website at**

<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/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/)