

# GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REPORT OF THE

### SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, February 8, 2022** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

#### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Aimee Omstead, Trustee  
Cathy Cooke, Trustee  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario  
Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario  
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

#### BOARD PERSONNEL

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

#### REGRETS

Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction  
Suzanne Kovach, Parents for Children's Mental Health  
Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

#### ABSENT

Kelly Stack, Brain Injury Association, Windsor-Essex

#### RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

#### **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*

February 8, 2022

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: C. Cooke

That SEAC approve the agenda for February 8, 2022.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: M. Vukov

That SEAC approve the minutes for January 11, 2022.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

A letter was drafted on behalf of the Special Education Advisory regarding the nursing shortage. The SEAC committee was in agreement with the letter and it will be sent to the Ministry.

5. Presentation

Introduction of Ros Salvador – Human Rights and Equity System Advisor

K. Sweet introduced and welcomed Ros Salvador to the GECDSB. Ros is an experienced human rights lawyer and will work with the board to strengthen equity-minded policies within the board.

Board Improvement and Equity Plan Draft

K. Sweet outlined the GECDSB Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP) with the SEAC committee. The BIEP establishes educational priorities, goals and performance indicators to support continuous quality improvement as to achievement, equity and well-being for all students.

Domains of the BIEP are:

- Emergent Priority: Learning Recovery and Renewal
  - Mental health and well-being
  - Re-engaging students
  - Early reading and math
- Provincial Priority: Achievement
  - Improve math achievement
  - Improve literacy achievement
  - Improve conditions for learning
- Provincial Priority: Human Rights and Equity
  - Build human rights and equity capacity through representative accountable and ethical leadership
  - Support the implementation of de-streaming
  - Reduce discretionary student discipline
  - Address human right complaints and hate-based incidents
- Provincial Priority: Mental Health, Well-Being and Engagement
  - Improve student mental health and well-being
  - Improve student, parent and community engagement
- Provincial Priority: Pathways and Transitions
  - Improve graduation rate
  - Improve readiness for future success

K. Sweet welcomed questions and feedback from the SEAC committee.

February 8, 2022

Review of PPM No. 81

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide expectations on the delivery of evidence-based health services, rehabilitation services and other community-based clinical services in schools and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of school boards and community partners as they relate to the provision of these services in school settings in Ontario.

Delivery of health supports and services is shared between organizations funded by the Ministry of Health or Ontario Health and school boards.

K. Sweet discussed the framework for the delivery of health services in schools. Questions and feedback were welcomed.

Recommendation that SEAC draft a strongly-worded letter regarding concerns about PPM No. 81

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

The motion was carried.

6. Special Education PD Update

- Exploring the Fundamental Right of Learning in a Bias-Free Environment, presented by Chris D'Souza (January 14, 2022 for Elementary Education Support Staff, and February 2, 2022 for Secondary Educational Support Staff)  
This interactive workshop explored the fundamental right of students to learn in a bias-free environment and the role that ECEs, EAs, DSWs and CYWs should play in fostering equitable classrooms in partnership with the school community.

7. New Business

- Letter from Algoma DSB Re: Bill 172 (FASD). A letter regarding Bill 172 was emailed to S. Lecce on behalf of the GECDSB SEAC and IEAC on November 26, 2021.
- Letter from Ottawa Carlton DSB Re: Draft of PPM No. 81 – will be deferred to a future SEAC meeting.

8. Association Reports

There were no association reports.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee

**NEXT MEETING March 8, 2022**

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