

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, February 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

Bette Turner, 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

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: J. Conrad

That SEAC approve the agenda for February 7, 2023 The motion was carried

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Conrad

Seconded by: K. McKinley

That SEAC approve the minutes for January 10, 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. Student Demographic Census, T. Turner and J. Canty

T. Turner presented to the SEAC committee, the GECDSB Student Census 2023. The census was created from the Anti-Racism Act in 2017 to the Anti-Racism Data Standards in 2018 which required all public sector organizations to report on identify-based data by 2023. Data collected will be analyzed to identify where the GECDSB policies and programs may be creating barriers to the educational outcomes of students.

The confidential census will consist of a short voluntary survey to gather demographic and well-being data information about each student. Parents of students in JK to grade 8 will complete the survey on behalf of their child(ren) and students in grade 9 to 12 will complete the survey themselves, in class.

The timeline for completing this confidential student census is April 2023.

The Draft Census was distributed to the SEAC committee for feedback/suggestions.

7. Feedback on Multi-Year Accessibility Report

The draft of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan was sent out a week before the meeting so that SEAC members could review and bring edits and suggestions for the plan to the meeting. M. Wilcox went through the GECDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Report with the SEAC committee. Comments/revisions were gathered to fine tune the report. SEAC members were also given time in the week after the meeting to provide further suggestions that might arise.

8. Review of the Special Education Plan (Standards 1 to 4)

The following standards were reviewed with the SEAC committee:

Standard 1: The Board's Consultation Process

Standard 2: The Board's General Model for Special Education

Standard 3: Roles and Responsibilities

Standard 4: Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies

Feedback/revisions were collected to apply to the plan.

Standard 5 to 9 will be reviewed at the next SEAC meeting in March 2023.

9. Special Education Update

- December 2022 – Reading and Language Intervention for GAINS teachers of students with Down Syndrome.
- January 2023 – Empower Day 3 Training for new to the LST role
- January 2023 – Elementary PD Day which provided the following presentations:

- Simply the Best, for all Educational Support Staff except ECEs – raising achievement for all learners.
- Pronouns, Identify & Expression, for all Educational Support Staff except ECEs – discussing basic language and terminology related to gender identify, expression and pronouns.
- Science of Reading, for all Early Childhood Educators – provided the ECEs with a half-day of professional learning focused on the Science of Reading.
- February 1, 2023 – Secondary PD Day, for all secondary Educational Support Staff – Pronouns, Identify & Expression - discussing basic language and terminology related to gender identify, expression and pronouns.
- February 17, 2023 – Professional Development Day for all Educational Support Staff - presentation on Human Rights Training and the Duty to Accommodate. Working through scenarios that involve Human Rights and Accommodation issues that occur in school settings.
- February 8, 2023 – New to GAINS Workshop Series - Teachers will have the opportunity to spend half a day in GAINS classrooms to observe programming following by a half-day session to debrief the classroom visit followed by a session on writing effective IEP goals.

10 New Business

- Update Board website with past SEAC Agendas and Minutes.
- Will draft a letter to the Minister of Education regarding allowing students with an IEP to remain in secondary school past the age of 21 years.
- Discussion took place around returning to in-person meetings and it was decided that we will strive to return to in-person meetings going forward.

11. Association Reports

B. Turner, Home and School Associations – parents are getting more involved in the schools now that things are getting back to normal.

M. Vukov, Community Living, Windsor-Essex County – lots of fabulous virtual offerings (many are free) – music, art, chat, science, exercise, virtual field trips and much more! Please visit www.mycommunityhub.ca for more information.

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association, Windsor-Essex – ADHDe project, a joint project between the LDAWE and the University of Windsor, is a student-led initiative to assist in destigmatizing ADHD and neurodiversity, providing students with resources and support and promoting a welcoming and inclusive environment in postsecondary.

S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise - Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare FASD program holds a caregiver support group on a bi-monthly basis on Zoom. The support group is a collaboration between HDGH FASD program, Adopt4lifeOntario, and local FASD advocate Susan Smith. Last support group (Feb 2nd 2023), we invited Karen Wilson to speak about FASD & School, and IEP development. Next support group we will be inviting a representative from Adopt4lifeOntario's Aggression towards Family & Caregivers in Childhood and adolescence program. The next support group will take place on March 9th at 11-1 on Zoom. Please visit www.hdgh.org/FASD for more information.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING March 7, 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/