

**GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
REPORT OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 8, 2021** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

BOARD PERSONNEL

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

REGRETS

Suzanne Kovach, Parents for Children's Mental Health

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: A. Omstead

That SEAC approve the agenda for June 8, 2021.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: A. Omstead

Seconded by: M. Vukov

That SEAC approve the minutes for May 11, 2021.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

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5. GECD SB 2021-2022 Special Education Budget Review – Shawn Maheux, Finance

S. Maheux, Manager of Financial Services, presented the proposed Special Education Budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Funding this year for Special Education is slightly lower than last year. S. Maheux explained the various grants and expenses that are a part of the Special Education Budget.

Ministry grants for 2021-2022 cover the following:

SEPPA, Special Education Per Pupil Amount

SEA, Special Education Equipment Amount

DSENA, Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount

SIP, Special Incidence Portion

ECPP, Educational and Community Partnership Program Amount

BEA, Behavioural Expertise Amount

SEA claims are submitted by LSTs and are usually 100% approved. Any ideas/suggestions for equipment/apps are always welcomed. SIP claims are submitted through our Education Coordinator.

Recommendation

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: A. Omstead

That SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees to accept the Special Education portion of the 2021-2022 budget.

The motion was carried.

6. ODA Plan 2021-2022 Review

M. Wilcox went over the ODA Plan 2021-2022 with the SEAC committee members. Requests are submitted by the school principal to the Facility Services Department. A visit to the school by GECD SB staff or JMCC staff will follow to determine what may be needed to support individual students.

7. Special Education Plan 2021-2022

M. Wilcox and K. Sweet revised the Special Education Plan 2021 according to Ministry guidelines. K. Sweet reviewed the final changes which included numbers for GAINS and STEPS classes. Princess Elizabeth will be adding a GAINS classroom in September 2021. There will be one less STEPS classroom at Leamington Secondary School, and one added at Massey Secondary School. The Board has temporary support staff available for any special needs changes during the school year.

The Special Education Plan 2021 is outlined with 16 Standards:

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

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

Standard 10: Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Transition Planning

Standard 11: Provincial Demonstration Schools in Ontario

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- Standard 12: Special Education Staff
- Standard 13: Staff Development
- Standard 14: Equipment
- Standard 15: Accessibility of School Buildings
- Standard 16: Transportation

Recommendation

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

That SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees to accept the Special Education Plan 2021-2022

The motion was carried.

8. New Business

- Letter from the Durham District School Board's SEAC

M. Wilcox reviewed the letter regarding needs-based funding for autism (pilot program) with the SEAC committee. The SEAC committee would like more information on this before sending a letter from GECDSB. J. Matte-Gasparovic will check with Autism Ontario for more information and M. Wilcox will contact the Superintendent of Special Education from the Durham District School Board as well.

9. Association Reports

J. Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario – guidelines regarding Raise the Flag for Autism. There are no guidelines specific to the individual schools/households. This event usually starts on April 2. Schools will be informed next year regarding this.

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – gearing up for summer programs, more information to come.

10. Distribution/Additional Information

A. Omstead – would be more than happy to convey any questions/concerns from the SEAC committee to the Trustees.

M. Wilcox – Return to School transfer payment agreement. A portion of these funds will be used to complete psychological assessments during the summer to help reduce the wait list.

We have received Ministry of Education funding to facilitate an Enhanced Transition Program for late August. This is the second year we have run this program. Secondary schools have scheduled a time where students with an LD or MID identification or students in our MAPS program, could tour in person at their secondary school (students going from grade 8 to grade 9), to help reduce stress and anxiety in students. Last year there was great feedback from students, parents and participating staff.

STRIVE Conference – held virtually this year welcoming students in grade 7 and 8, as well as their families. Participating students were able to take part in a variety of sessions focused on Learning Disabilities. Students enhanced their ability to effectively communicate their needs, know more about themselves as learners and increase their advocacy skills.

Summer camps were also offered this year. Camp Discovery included students from grade 3-6 with a RISE profile, and Camp Stride which included students who participated in virtual GAINS classrooms this past school year.

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The Brain Injury Association would like to join the SEAC committee in September 2021. We will follow the process for their agency to have representation on SEAC.

M. Wilcox thanked the committee for their continued support, dedication and insight into our Special Education Program.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING September 14, 2021

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECDSB Website

<https://publicboard.ca/Board/Meetings/Pages/default.aspx>

Erin Kelly
Director of Education
(Ministry SEAC Website)

Mike Wilcox
Administrative Liaison

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/