

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, January 11, 2022** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS

Aimee Omstead, Trustee
Suzanne Kovach, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

M. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 1:00 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*

Elections for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Election of Chairperson:

We have always alternated years (trustee one year, association next year, for chair of SEAC)
M. Wilcox established that quorum was obtained and declared nominations open for the position of Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2022. M. Wilcox explained the job description of the chairperson.

M. Wilcox declared nominations open for the position of Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2022.

Moved by: M. Fuduric

That C. Cooke be nominated as Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2022.

C. Cooke declined the nomination.

Moved by: C. Cooke

That A. Omstead be nominated as Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2022. Although A. Omstead could not attend the meeting, A. Omstead accepted the nomination remotely.

M. Wilcox asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

M. Wilcox declared A. Omstead as the Chairperson for the 2022 year by acclamation.

Election of Vice Chairperson:

M. Wilcox declared nominations open for the position of Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2022.

Moved by: C. Cooke

That J. Matte-Gasparovic be nominated as Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2022.

J. Matte-Gasparovic declined the nomination.

Moved by: S. Ruggaber

That M. Fuduric be nominated as Vice Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2022. M. Fuduric accepted the nomination.

M. Wilcox asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

M. Wilcox declared M. Fuduric as the Vice Chairperson for the 2022 year by acclamation.

In the absence of Chairperson A. Omstead, M. Fuduric then took her position as Vice Chairperson of SEAC and continued with the remainder of the SEAC Agenda items.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: S. Ruggaber

Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

That SEAC approve the agenda for January 11, 2022.

The motion was carried.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: L. Cervini

Seconded by: S. Ruggaber

That SEAC approve the minutes for December 14, 2021.

The motion was carried.

3. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

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

4. Special Education Presentation

Update on Special Education/Covid-19, M. Wilcox and K. Sweet

Moving to In-Person for our Students in GAINS and STEPS

- Students in GAINS and STEPS classes were given the option to return to in-person learning starting January 6, 2022. All other students were directed to remote learning by the Ministry of Education, until Monday, January 17, 2022.

- Transportation was set up for GAINS and STEPS students to return on January 6, 2022.
- Additional safety precautions were put in place such as N95 masks being delivered to schools that have GAINS and STEPS classrooms.
- If families opted out of in-person learning, they were provided with the short-term option of having a remote learning package provided.
- Approximately 86% of GAINS students and 80% of STEPS students have chosen in-person learning.
- Our Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBAs) are supporting in-person for those students who require it.
- Our Itinerant teachers for Blind/Low Vision and Deaf/Hard of Hearing are supporting students both virtually and in-person.
- Behaviour Management Team members are support students virtually.
- Speech and Language Pathologists and Psychological Services Staff are focused on writing reports and case notes, and will continue to support students virtually and in-person.

Special Education Plan, M. Wilcox and K. Sweet

- The Special Education Plan will be reviewed with SEAC in sections
- The entire Plan will be provided for SEAC members to review prior to the next meeting
- SEAC members may request paper copies of the plan to review and it will be mailed to them
- Some sections will have to wait until after the new budget is released to provide accurate information

5. New Business

M. Wilcox shared a letter from the District School Board of Niagara with SEAC, regarding the nursing shortage in the province.

Moved by: L. Cervini

Seconded by: S. Ruggaber

That SEAC will draft a letter to send to the Ministry regarding the nursing shortage in the province.

The motion was carried.

6. Association Reports

J. Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario – Delivering family activity cook and craft kits to families.

L. Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative – Kids Help Phone and the GECDSB have teamed up with IEAC and are running a program called *Brighter Days*, with Indigenous students in our board. We have a Wellness Specialist Appointment February 8, 2022 with Kids Help Phone and then will begin our first sessions with Jordin TooToo on February 17, 2022.

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – Started with 1:1 tutoring on January 10, 2022. Reading Buddies will begin on January 17, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

M. Fuduric, Vice Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING February 8, 2022