



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday January 9, 2024, at the Administrative Building, 451 Park St. W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chelsey Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Nancy Armstrong, Trustee
Martha Vukov, Community Living Essex County
Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services
Jennifer Newton, Educational Coordinator
Lana Brode, Educational Coordinator

REGRETS

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Teresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative
Tina Szymczak, Inclusion Action in Ontario

RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

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), Lenni (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-ohme) 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 Agenda

Moved by: S. Yang

Seconded by: J. Conrad

That SEAC approve the agenda of for January 9, 2024.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: T. McCarthy

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC approve the minutes of December 12, 2023.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

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

6. Special Education Presentation

- J. Newton and L. Brode presented on Makers Making Change. Makers Making Change is part of the Neil Squire Program. GECDSB staff who sit as part of the SEA Coordinators Council had the opportunity to attend the ASET spring conference and were introduced to Makers Making Change. We partnered with them to offer an Adapt It workshop during the summer institute to teach teachers and support staff who support students who are switch users to adapt 2 toys and build 2 switches that they could then bring back to their classroom for student use. They also ran a “Hack the Holidays” for our GECDSB and JMCCSA families. The students of Mrs. St. Pierre’s grade 11 and 12 computer engineering class at Belle River DHS worked on adapting over 20 toys, the toys were generously donated by the Kingsville Optimist Club. On December 9th families were invited to attend the Hack the Holiday event. They were guided through the “how to’s” of building a switch, upon completion of their switch families selected a free toy. Their wheels are turning for additional adapt it opportunities to incorporate more switch adapted toys into classes.

7. Special Education Updates

- PD Updates

K. Sweet shared the professional development planned for January 2024. STEPS Administration PD will be held on January 10th, this series of workshops will aid administrators in understanding the evolving needs of our more complex learners as they transition to high school. Empower day 3 training for learning support teachers. January 19th we will host a number of workshops for our support staff: Structured

Learning for Educational Assistance, Support Worker for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing group will meet with Provincial School Staff to learn more about the demand control framework, Early Childhood Educators worked with their teaching partners, Child and Youth Workers will participate in Behaviour Safety Plan training and Developmental Service Workers will receive software support for Boom Cards and LessonPix.

- Special Education Survey

The results of the survey were shared with the committee for review. We received positive comments, constructive criticism, and criticism. The committee had some questions regarding some of the feedback, which were discussed as a group.

8. New Business

There was no new business to report.

9. Association Reports

- S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise – Their email and video conferencing is up and running. The FASD program at Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare offers FASD information sessions to schools, mental health professionals, and other service providers who want to know more about FASD. Please reach out to Sarah Yang at sarah.yang@hdgh.org to book these FASD information sessions. Our next support group is January 31st Transition to Adulthood.
- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario - Teen Social Night – Nerf Wars, this event will take place at the Autism Ontario office from 6 – 8 pm. Running shoes are required. Friday January 19th. Anthony P. Toldo Multi-Purpose Sensory Room is open for bookings and is free to families. It has openings during the day, evening, and a few weekends a month. Caregiver Pizza and Chat – Jan 18th 6:00 – Fogular Furlan Club – registration is required – 519-250-1893. We also have a few adult groups happening for individuals 18 plus – Feb 9th 6:00 – 10:00 – Dinner Dance \$15 Fogular Furlan Club. For more information any of the above families can connect with us via email, phone, Facebook and our website. Need support for your autistic child during March Break? The March Break reimbursement fund is available to Ontario families of autistic children or youth who retain the services of a one-to-one support worker or who have paid for their child to attend a March Break camp or program. Maximum reimbursements of \$350 per child or youth (up to 18th birthday) will be made to subsidize services purchased during the March Break week. A minimum of 1,007 families from across Ontario are expected to receive reimbursements. Reimbursements will be provided based on a random selection made from all eligible applicants who apply between December 20, 2023 and January 22, 2024. Note: Membership in Autism Ontario is not required to access the fund.
- M. Vukov, Community Living Essex County – Mycommunityhub.ca has a lot of information available.
- J. Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association – a number of activities were planned over the holidays for both older and younger groups. A Valentine's party and dance for all ages will be coming up.

10. Distribution

11. Adjournment at 2:09 p.m.



NEXT MEETING, March 19, 2024

Board Meeting Minutes available on [GECDSB website](#).

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)