



## GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at the Administration Building, 451 Park Street W., Windsor, ON.

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

### BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Schools/Special Education Program and Services  
Vicki Houston, Director of Education  
Laura Bates, Supervising Principal of Special Education  
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services  
Jennifer Newton, Education Coordinator

### REGRETS

Martha Vukov, Community Living  
Nancy Armstrong, Trustee  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County  
Teresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

### 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: K. McKinley

Seconded by: C. Lackovic

That SEAC approve the Agenda for March 19, 2025.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: C. Lackovic

Seconded by: J. Conrad

That SEAC approve the minutes of February 12, 2025.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

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

6. Special Education Presentation

- High School Students with Intellectual Disabilities Integration Project  
Presented by J. Newton. The High School Students with Intellectual Disabilities Integration Project (HSSIDIP) is an employment-training program designed to help students with intellectual disabilities or autism transition into the workforce. The program addresses the high unemployment rate among these students by providing structured work placements in federal organizations. Students participate in two 24-week placements, performing authentic tasks and receiving support from support staff. The program aims to demonstrate that with adaptive measures, these students can integrate into the workforce and contribute meaningfully to society. Eligibility criteria include between 16 and 21 years old, having an Individual Education Plan, and demonstrating potential for workplace autonomy. The goal is to expand the program to more candidates in the coming years, with hopes of full-time employment for participants.

7. Special Education Updates

- Update on Restructuring Supports for Special Education by C. Mills.  
Since our last meeting, several developments have occurred rapidly. We have consulted with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) Educational Support Staff regarding the revision of the DMSW role. A consultation with Superintendent J. Bell focused on student well-being and next steps, as identified in parent phone calls. In February, we met with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) to discuss key themes from their members. Following that meeting, we held a consultation with the Learning Support Teachers. Principal consultations were also conducted in early March. Our next steps include:
  - Consulting with stakeholders
  - Continuing to review school profiles
  - Reviewing our current resources
  - Exploring other resources and community partnerships
  - Consulting with other school boards
  - Applying for professional development for Year 2 of Universal Design and Differentiated Instruction
- Professional Development Updates  
L. Bates shared they received good feedback from the presentation with Dr. Angela Burke. Coming up next month the focus is not necessarily on Special Education, but will include

Vaping and Cyber Security. Our team met to discuss future professional development with a focus on Ableism and the importance of that message.

- Update SEAC Committee Members List

The list was shared with the members, feedback was taken, and the list will be updated and posted on the Board's website.

8. New Business

There is no new business.

9. Association Reports

J. Conrad - Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association, Friday, March 21, 2025, is World Down Syndrome Day – Rock Your Socks Day to celebrate differences. Up About Down has a sign outside of Huron Lodge at 1881 Cabana Drive, you can also download/request information from Up About Down, they have classroom information and education for personal use. Over the last month Canadian Capture Photography has been taking photos in preparation for World Down Syndrome Day. Stacey Bakes and Forget the Flour are donating proceeds from their sales to Up About Down. A Taylor Swift Theme Dance-A-Thon is being held on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Was also asked by ETFO to speak at a press conference in Toronto regarding my personal experiences, which can be viewed on YouTube.

10. Distribution

There was no distribution.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



NEXT MEETING, April 9, 2025

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

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)