

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction
Suzanne Kovach, Parents for Children's Mental Health

BOARD PERSONNEL

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

REGRETS

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative
Aimee Omstead, Trustee
Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County
Kelly Stack, Brain Injury Association, Windsor-Essex

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: S. Ruggaber

That SEAC approve the agenda for March 8, 2022.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

Seconded by: S. Ruggaber

That SEAC approve the minutes for February 8, 2022.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

No business arising as a result of the minutes.

5. Presentation

Right to Read Inquiry (Executive Summary) Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC)

The committee has decided to defer this presentation until next month's meeting. There was PD in the spring with Elementary Administrators around the Science of Reading. Empower and Lexia are aligned with the Science of Reading for tier 2 and tier 3 interventions. Program and Special Education worked together to develop PD for Early Years, Primary, LST and RISE teachers. We purchased the Heggerty curriculum for all LSTs and they are piloting this in Early Years and Primary grade classes. Science of Reading (SOR) kits were created for Early Years and Primary classrooms. T. Wilcox, Special Education Coordinator, and M. Hinch, Speech and Language Pathologist, have been going out to schools to work with teachers to build capacity around teaching students to read. Our board's response to the Right to Read Inquiry is on the Board website.

6. Special Education PD Update

- Autism AQ (teachers) about 18 teacher signed up for this course. We had previously had over 50 teachers who participated in this course when it was offered.
- Self-Regulation Certificate (ECEs) about 20 ECEs are participating – focuses on how the body and brain stress system works in children. The funding for ECEs to participate in this course has come from the Ministry of Education.

7. Special Education Plan Review – Standards 1 to 6

K. Sweet went over the revisions in Standards 1 to 6 and welcomed feedback from the SEAC committee. The Standards covered were:

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

Standards 7 – 12 will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

8. New Business

March 8, 2022

Several letters from Ontario School SEAC Committees were reviewed.

- Renfrew County Catholic District School Board – Nursing Shortage
- Waterloo Region District School Board – Support of Bill 172 Fetal Alcohol Disorder
- Halton District School Board – Feedback on PPM 81 Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings
- Durham District School Board – Definition of a Disability and Support of Bill 172

M. Wilcox shared the DRAFT GECDSB letter regarding Feedback on PPM 81 with the SEAC committee. This letter will be sent to the Minister of Education as well as the Minister of Health.

9. Association Reports

- J. Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario – World Autism Day is April 2, 2022. We will be flying flags in recognition of Autism.
- M. Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association – World Down Syndrome Day is March 21, 2022. People are encouraged to Rock Their Socks for Down Syndrome awareness and post it on social media.
- S. Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario – March is Epilepsy Awareness Month which includes the Purple Door 2022 Campaign, 1 in 100 Challenge to raise funds for epilepsy awareness, Tropical Togetherness Day, March 15, 2022, Colasanti's, Virtual Epilepsy Awareness Month Party, March 14, 2022, Mad Hatter Tea Party, April 2, 2022, Hellenic Community Centre. For more information, please visit www.epilepsyswo.ca
- B. Turner, Home and School Instruction – Stressed the importance of the Science of Reading and mentioned that it would be beneficial to have a similar program for Math.
- Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – STEM pilot program is full. The spring programs will start March 21, 2022. The final session of Virtual Tutoring 1:1 will be at the end of March. Reading Buddies Program will be winding down by April 8, 2022. Focusing on a return to in-person programs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm.

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING April 12, 2022

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/