

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, May 10, 2022** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

Kelly Stack, Brain Injury Association, Windsor-Essex
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 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: C. Cooke

That SEAC approve the agenda for May 10, 2022.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 10, 2022

Moved by: S. Ruggaber

Seconded by: M. Vukov

That SEAC approve the minutes for April 12, 2022.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

No business arising as a result of the minutes.

5. Proposed SEAC Meeting Dates for the 2022/2023 School Year

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: M. Vukov

That SEAC approve the dates for the 2022/2023 school year

The motion was carried.

6. Changes to Special Education Funding – Shawn Maheux

S. Maheux shared information with the SEAC committee regarding SB08 Ministry of Education document dated March 25, 2022, *Special Education Grant Changes for 2022/2023*. This document was developed in conjunction with the GSN to guide the special education budget development. It highlights key funding changes to the Special Education Grant (SEG) for the 2022-23 school year, provides technical details regarding the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) Table amounts for the 2022-23, 2021-22 and 2020-21 school years and provides an update on the approval process for Education Programs in Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP) for the 2022-23 school year. The funding shown in the memorandum is for all school boards to share across the province.

- a) Introducing a new \$16.3 1 million Local Special Education Priorities Amount within the Special Education Grant's (SEG) Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA).
 - \$247,000 has been allocated to the GECDSB
- b) \$7.4 million funding increase for Assistive Technology into the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Per-Pupil Amount (PPA)
 - \$20,000 per board and \$39.46 per pupil amount
- c) \$1.4 million funding increase for the Northern Supports Component within the Special Education Grant's (SEG) Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA).
 - No change to GECDSB

M. Wilcox added that the funding we receive for support staff determines how many support staff we have and how they are deployed. Our Special Education Coordinators work with principals to create school profiles to determine existing and incoming special education needs. They visit homes, schools and daycares to help gauge the special education needs of students coming to us in September.

7. Special Education Plan 2022/2023 Review

The remainder of the Standards were reviewed with the SEAC committee.

Standard 12 – Special Education Staff

Standard 13 – Staff Development

Standard 14 – Equipment

Standard 15 – Accessibility of School Buildings

Standard 16 – Transportation

Input was received by the committee to be included in the area of Transportation, regarding the transportation of students presenting “high risk” behaviours. It was suggested to add what safety measures are provided such as vests, safety belt buckles, etc. The committee also suggested that we specify the employee groups that participate in various professional development. A request to add a link to the exclusion/suspension policies in the plan was also requested.

May 10, 2022

8. Special Education PD Update

Secondary PD Day – April 29, 2022

- Secondary teachers participated in subject specific professional development on differentiated instruction and destreaming.
- Learning Support Teachers joined either the English, Math, Science or Geography department to engage in discussions and planning for these destreamed courses
- MAPS Teachers joined their respective departments
- STEPS Teachers met with a presenter from Regional Children’s Centre to learn about programs and supports that are being offered. STEPS Teachers then received PD on Lesson Pix and Boom Cards software.
- All Educational Support Staff attended the session on “Compassionate Supports for Students with Challenging Behaviour”
- Support Workers for Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended a session on “Auditory Deprivation and the Auditory Brain”
- Dr. Natasha Williams will also be presenting 10 half-day sessions of professional development to our Psychology and Social Work staff, on Anti-Black Racism.
- 46 teachers completed the Autism Spectrum Disorder Additional Qualification course, with the cost of the course being completely funded by the Ministry of Education
- The Ministry has also provided funds for our Early Childhood Educators to take the Self-Regulation course from the Mehrit Centre. So far we have had 30 participants.

9. New Business

Definitions and Exceptionalities: M. Wilcox has reached out to the Ministry of Education office in London and they reported that they were looking at the definition for Learning Disability. The Ontario Human Rights Commission is also asking the ministry to review this definition.

J. Matte-Gasparovic requested that SEAC compose a letter asking the ministry to review the definition of Autism as the definition of a **severe** learning disorder may not apply to all students with Autism.

RECOMMENDATED ACTION

That SEAC approve composing a letter to the Ministry of Education to update the definition of Autism in conjunction with Autism Ontario.

Moved by: S. Ruggaber

Seconded by: B. Turner

The motion was carried.

10. Association Reports

B. Turner, Home and School Instruction – parents are happy with the children back to in-person learning and look forward to the next school year to be uninterrupted. Many student require remedial help due to remote learning during the pandemic. M. Wilcox added that we do have reading and math intervention programs in place for students who are struggling.

L. Coppola, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – hosting a day camp from July 11 to August 12, 2022. More information can be found on their website, www.ldawe.ca

M. Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County – please check website for upcoming events, www.clwindsor.org

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 10, 2022

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING June 14, 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/