

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023** at the Administrative Building, 451 Park St. W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Bette Turner, Home and School Association
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological Services
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 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](#)), 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

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: K. McKinley

That SEAC approve the agenda for June 13, 2023.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: M. Vukov

Seconded by: J. Conrad

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That SEAC approve the minutes for May 9, 2023.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

No business arising as a result of the minutes.

6. ODA Plan 2022-2023 Review

Superintendent S. Armstrong reviewed the ODA Plan 2023-2024 with the SEAC committee members, to show renovations done this school year and proposed renovations for the next school year. Requests are submitted by the school principal to the Facility Services Department. A visit to the school by GECDSB staff or JMCC staff will follow to determine what may be needed to support individual students.

Some barrier-free accommodations are washroom sink height, the way doors open, automatic door openers.

Ministry funding during covid helped complete more items. The Facility Services Department keeps track of items completed and outstanding items.

The Board has also been working on document accessibility by upgrading the Board's website and revising documents to make them accessible. Many documents are also available in several different languages.

7. GECDSB 2023-2024 Special Education Budget Review – Shawn Maheux, Finance

S. Maheux, Manager of Financial Services, presented the proposed Special Education Budget for the 2023-2024 school year. Funding is broken into various grants and expenses that are a part of the Special Education Budget.

Ministry grants for 2023-2024 cover the following:

SEPPA, Special Education Per Pupil Amount

SEA, Special Education Equipment Amount

DSENA, Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount

SIP, Special Incidence Portion

ECPP, Educational and Community Partnership Program Amount

BEA, Behavioural Expertise Amount

SEA claims are submitted by LSTs and are usually 100% approved. Any ideas/suggestions for equipment/apps are always welcomed.

SIP claims are submitted through our Education Coordinators once per year although they did not have to be submitted to the Ministry this year. The Ministry funded the SIP claims this year by taking an average of the previous five years and did not require the formal paperwork. The funds are used for current students and may not account for the new high-needs students coming in September.

The Board's Jordan's Principle supports are funded through a Federal fund and parents apply directly for this through the Federal government.

With the large deficit in the Special Education budget, different envelopes of the Board's budget may be used to offset some of these costs.

The preliminary budget is usually set in March with the revised budget in September.

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Recommendation

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees to accept the Special Education portion of the 2023-2024 budget.

The motion was carried.

8. Special Education Plan 2023/2024

K. Sweet reviewed the final revisions for the 2023/2024 Special Education Plan, with the SEAC committee members and updated from suggestions by SEAC committee members.

Recommendation

Moved by: K. McKinley

Seconded by: T. McCarthy

That SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees to accept the Special Education Plan 2023-2024.

The motion was carried.

9. New Business

- C. Mills introduced Melissa Beaton who will be taking over for Peggy Russette starting June 26, 2023.
- Bette Turner will be stepping down as the association representative for Home and School Association and Chelsey Lackovic will be the new association representative in September 2023.

10. Association Reports

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

- We are extremely busy with the Anthony P Toldo Multi-Sensory Experience (sensory/snoezelen room). We are adding some additional weekends to try to meet the demand.
- Planning the summer picnic for families in Essex County.
- Over the summer, a lot of drop-in activities for families – games day, craft activities, princess parties, BINGO all social opportunities for families.

Bette Turner, Home and School Association

- We are busy with field day, sports day and fun fairs at the schools. Budgets are being set for next year.

Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise

- The FASD support group is off for the summer. September 9th is FASD awareness day. Please check HDGH social media for more information.

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

- Join us for a free screening of “Unloved, Huronia’s Forgotten Children” at the Chrysler Theatre, June 17th at 2pm and 7pm.
- Essex Fun Fest “Sip and Shop” will be held on Thursday, July 6th from 7:30 to 11:30 pm, in support of Community Living, Essex County. \$10 from every ticket sold by Community Living Essex County and \$5 from every ticket sold by ESSEX BIA & Essex Fun Fest will support Community Living Essex County.
- Charity Golf Classic, Thursday, July 13th at Sutton Creek Golf Club to help support Community Living Essex County.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

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- The Summer Enrichment Camp (5 weeks) still has spots available.
- October is LD awareness month.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

NEXT MEETING September 12, 2023

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECDSB Website

<https://publicboard.ca/Board/Meetings/Pages/default.aspx>

Erin Kelly, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

Ministry SEAC Website

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/