

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, October 6, 2020** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Aimee Omstead, Trustee
Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Suzanne Kovach, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Martha Vukov, Community Living 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

REGRETS

Kimberly John, Indigenous Community Representative
Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: C. Cooke

That SEAC approve the agenda for October 6, 2020.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: C. Cooke

Seconded by: M. Vukov

That SEAC approve the Minutes for September 15, 2020.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

The Special Education Plan was approved by the Trustees and is on our Board Website.

October 6, 2020

5. Special Education Update

- Professional Development Update – K. Sweet
 - September 30th, New Teacher to Lexia PD. This year we are offering Lexia to all students in grades 1, 2, 3, 5 (to help prepare for EQAO) and RISE. Teachers in the virtual world, offering paper packages and in school, participated in this half-day workshop.
 - October 6th, New to GAINS workshop. This workshop is facilitated by our team of Special Education Coordinators. It is specifically for teachers new to GAINS classrooms. Participants will learn to structure and organize the learning environment. Effective strategies and resources were highlighted. The goal of the workshop is to support teachers in programming for their students.
- ESS Staffing Re-organization Update – K. Sweet
 - Staffing is complete for this quadmester. During this time we added additional support to the virtual MAPS program and made a few changes to address needs across the system. We will have to re-visit staffing again when the model changes to ensure support is placed where it is needed as students move between in-person learning and virtual learning. The survey opens October 14th and will close at 4 p.m. on October 19th. This gives us time to gather a system view again to see where the needs are and allow us to have all staffing changes completed by the start date for elementary on November 9th and the new quadmester for secondary on November 12th.
- M. Wilcox shared information from Summer Learning (Camp Discovery). He agreed to share a more detailed report that went to the Ministry as part of our report.
- Update on Reading Intervention Pilot Project – M. Wilcox
 - Focus in year four was on creating supports for students in French Immersion.
 - The Program Department has received funding to help readers who are struggling in French Immersion. SLP, Psych and Ed Coordinators will be sharing their Spec Ed insight with the Program Department.
 - M. Fuduric – this year included gr. 2 students, she thought this was a good idea in terms of early intervention
 - M. Wilcox explained that we felt that early intervention is very important and this year we have chosen to pilot in Grade 2.
 - School involved include Marlborough and Herman. There will be a maximum of 32 students (2 groups of 8 from each school). This will allow us to gather data on the reading development progress of both English and French Immersion students.
 - There will be a socio-emotional component/support being developed in partnership with LDA-WE.
 - M. Wilcox said he would bring back updates through the school year.

6. New Business

M. Wilcox shared the Durham District School Board's letter to the Ministry regarding SIP claims. He explained the process of applying for the claim. They are usually submitted mid-December or at the beginning of January. He noted that there may be changes to the process coming from the Ministry of Education, we are waiting on further clarification from the Ministry. The SEAC committee were in favour of drafting a similar letter to the Ministry.

Draft a Letter Regarding SIP Claims to the Ministry

Moved by: C. Cooke

October 6, 2020

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve to send a letter to the Ministry re: SIP Claims. The motion was carried.

7. Association Reports

M. Vukov, Community Living Essex/Windsor:

The on-line version of our Annual Ruthven Apple Fest was a big success – baskets were all sold out prior to the event. The CLEC is providing Community Participation supports via Zoom. Career Compass Employment Services has adapted our pre-employment curriculum jobPath to be able to be offered online. Once we have the capacity staffing wise, we will be resuming online sessions for job seekers across the county. We hope to be able to work with local schools – joining in virtually, EAs/teachers, etc. WE Youth Network - CL Essex County and CL Windsor are working together to reach out to a core group of students interested in forming a small working group. A Student hired by CLEC is helping to get students together to form a bit of a student network of student change makers from across the county to develop and coordinate awareness campaigns at your school and others across the county about authentic inclusion, and what community means. Queen's University is looking for family caregivers of students with disabilities enrolled in K-12 in Ontario to participate in a study that is looking to see how Covid-19 has affected their partnership with their student's teacher. Participants will be entered in a draw to win one of 30 Amazon gift cards valued at \$15.

S. Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario:

On Friday, November 6, 2020, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm, you are invited to join us live virtually for our 34th Annual Gala! The cost for this event is \$25/household, which includes live entertainment and digital swag bags. Please visit <https://epilepsyswo.ca> for more information.



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M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County:

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. 1 in 10 people are impacted. 35% of students with a learning disability drop out of school. October is also ADHD Awareness Month. This has gone to a virtual format in partnership with the Faculty of Education at the University of Windsor. There is also a Reading Buddies program offered for students from grade 1 to 6. Another program being offered is 1:1 tutoring for students in grade 2 to 9.

8. Distribution

No distribution

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 6, 2020

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee
Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory

NEXT MEETING October 6, 2020