GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at the Administration Building, 451 Park Street W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario
Amanda Denhartogh, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association
Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

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
Christine Daigle, Psychological Services

REGRETS

Chelsey Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services

ABSENT

Martha Vuckov, Community Living Essex County
Teresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

1. Call to Order
   Chairperson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement
   K. McKinley read the approved GECDSB Land Acknowledgment.

3. Approval of Agenda
Moved by: M. Fuduric
Seconded by: J. Conrad
That SEAC approve the Agenda for April 9, 2025. The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: K. McKinley
Seconded by: A. Denhartogh
That SEAC approve the Minutes of March 19, 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
- Brain Computer Interface in the Classroom
Dr. Christine Daigle presented on the use of Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) in the classroom, highlighting their potential to enhance meaningful function, independence, socialization, inclusion, and mobility for students with severe disabilities. BCIs collect brain signals and translate them into functional outputs, allowing users to control devices through mental imagery. The presentation detailed a case study of an 8-year-old nonverbal girl with a chromosome disorder who successfully used BCI technology to drive a remote-control bike and make choices. Future steps include integrating BCI into Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and exploring more commands for independent wheelchair use. Challenges such as teacher comfort, staff resources, capacity building, and funding were also discussed.

7. Special Education Updates
- Update on Restructuring Supports for Special Education
C. Mills shared an update on restructuring supports for special education, including changes to programming and the introduction of new GAINS rooms.
We will be opening five new GAINS room in September to address increased needs, particularly in the Amherstburg area. The HUB model, a structured teaching environment, will be piloted next year to enhance skill development. He also highlighted the use of student support funds to provide LST positions, with a focus on supporting student transitions. Consultations with students revealed a desire for harder work and a better understanding of their IEPs. The importance of developing learning profiles and self-advocacy skills was emphasized. Next steps include continued visits, resources exploration, and professional development, with a goal to finalize plans by the end of April.

- IEAC – SEAC Member
C. Mills reached out so Superintendent Howitt, should there be something specific that comes up they would be amenable to join.

- Professional Development Updates
L Bates shared upcoming professional development planned for May. Secondary Support Staff are working on ministry mandates regarding vaping and cyber security. Some

exciting plans for June. Ableism with Rick Hansen and Holland Bloorview will update further in May.

- Special Education Plan review – Standards 3, 5, 11, 15 & 16
  Standard 3 – Roles and Responsibilities
  Standard 5 – The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Process and Appeals
  Standard 11 – Provincial Demonstration Schools in Ontario
  Standard 15 – Accessibility of School Buildings
  Standard 16 – Transportation
  Feedback/revisions were collected to apply to the 2025-2026 plan.

8. New Business
There was no new business.

9. Association Reports

- M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County – There are online workshops on April 29th Equip for Success this workshop is open to anyone using assistive technology in post secondary, what funding is available and training. 6th Annual Chapter Parent Conference, LDAs across the province, Effective use of Assistive Technology, Empowering Parents to Support Children with Learning Disabilities: A Framework for Social Anxiety, Stigma, and Emotional Well-being and ADHD and alternatives to medication, please visit the LDAWE.ca website for more information. Some cool new programs include Parent Support Group 3rd Tuesday of the month, childcare is provided, you can register on the website. BEST Junior program, a social emotional learning course for grades 1-3, running from April until June.
- T. McCarty, Autism Ontario – two workshops available: Understanding Special Education: A workshop for caregivers of autistic learners April 23rd, May 20th and June 4th, 2025. Pathways to Special Education Supports: meet and greet for families April 29th and May 28th, 2025, helping families to navigate special education supports, an opportunity to share and connect. National Autism Day is April 2, 2025.

10. Distribution

- LDAO – Open Letter to SEACs

11. Adjournment
Chairperson McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING, May 14, 2025

Board Meeting Minutes available on GECDSB website.
Vicki Houston, Director of Education
Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison
Ministry SEAC website