

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

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The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, December 10, 2019** at the Administration Office.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cathy Cooke, Trustee  
Aimee Omstead, Trustee  
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health  
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario  
Kimberly John, Indigenous Community  
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario  
Bette Turner, Home and School Associations

**BOARD PERSONNEL**

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

**REGRETS**

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

**ABSENT**

**RECORDER**

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

M. Fuduric called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: B. Turner

That SEAC approve the agenda for December 10, 2019.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: A. Omstead

That SEAC approve the Minutes for November 12, 2019.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

J. Matte-Gasparovic asked about partnering for BMS training. We are looking into this. Looking at having Brian Elecker come down to do the training.

5. Coding and Robotics in GAINS/STEPS – Dr. Christine Daigle, Jennifer Newton, Amanda Laforet

- Robotics Pilot Project in Self Contained Classrooms in Partnership with JMCC School Authority
- Research piloted in 2018/2019 at Riverside Secondary and King Edward
- Trends found were more focus, more time on task, more eye gaze
- This school year 2019/2020 study at Talbot Trail for bigger sample size
- JMCC School Authority assisting with implementation of project, devotes one day a week to the project
- Superintendent has reached out to other school boards to see what they are doing with robotics and complex special needs students
- Why use Robotics?
  - Exciting
  - Allows students to demonstrate their learning
  - Keeps pace with Coding to Learn Project
- Elementary and Secondary Robotics Lending Libraries for STEPS/GAINS classrooms
- JMCC School Authority also has a lending library that both STEPS/GAINS can utilize with different equipment
- Ongoing after school PD session occurred once a month , 5 more this school year
- Presentations at ASET, SERCC, RSEC
- Pursue partnership with Code to Learn

Following the presentation, SEAC members and visitors were invited to test out and play with some of the technology that is being used in our schools.

6. Special Education Update

PD Update:

- December 11, Gifted Experiential Learning Camp at the University of Windsor
- Secondary STEPS IEP Audit coming in January
- After school IEP workshops are being held once a month
- Planning for PD for the remainder of the school year

OnSIS Reporting Data:

M. Wilcox went over the statistics from our October 31, 2019 Ministry reporting. Included in these statistics were the number of Special Education students (both elementary and secondary), exceptionalities and placements. The largest identification across the board is Learning Disability, which is consistent with school boards across the province.

M. Wilcox reviewed the Autism category for the elementary panel, and shared that of the 174 students formally identified with Autism in the GECDsB, 98 are in the regular classroom with indirect support, 6 are in the regular classroom with withdrawal support, 20 are in the RISE programs (partial support) and 50 are in our GAINS programs. He also shared that of the 759 who are formally identified as Multiple, 170 of those students have Autism as their comorbidity and many of these students are receiving programming through our RISE and GAINS programs.

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7. New Business

There was no new business to report.

8. Association Reports

K. Wilson – next meeting is January 9, 2020 at Community Living, Windsor.

S. Ruggaber – there was an open house Christmas party for epilepsy. The next meeting is in January 2020.

J. Matte-Gasparovic – 370 in attendance at Christmas party. Requested information on guidelines for exclusion.

M. Vukov – “Fit Together” workshop will be held December 13, 2019. This workshop is geared toward secondary students.

K. John – the Indigenous Community meets 4 to 5 times per year. The next meeting is in January 2020.

M. Fuduric – there is a 13 – 18 year old youth social recreation group at LDA, and they are expanding to another group for 19 – 25 year old youth. In January, there are plans to start a 7 – 12 year old youth recreation group at one of the school sites. The Winter Program Guide will be available in January.

9. Distribution

10. Adjournment

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: A. Omstead

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee

**NEXT MEETING January 14, 2020**

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECD SB 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/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/)