

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Lucie Lombardo, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children’s Mental Health
Bette Turner, Alternate, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education
Mike Wilcox – Principal, Special Education Programs and Services
Tracey Rilett – OPC Elementary Representative
Melissa DeBruyne – OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County
Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society
Trudy Richards, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)

ABSENT

Beth Cook, Indigenous Community

Recorder: Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

C. Buckler called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Attendance

C. Buckler gave regrets from Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County, Canadian Hearing Society and Windsor Community Living.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: L. Lombardo

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the agenda for March 7, 2017.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: K. McKinley

That SEAC approve the minutes for February 14, 2017.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

L. McLaughlin stated that the Shared Solutions document from the Ministry covers information on the concern that K. Wilson had about parent advocates at school meetings. The information in this document is comprehensive and has been posted on the Special Education website. The committee was asked to suggest any other resources or information that can be considered to add to the site.

6. Special Education Presentation

Itinerant Team for the Blind and Low Vision Students

Sheldon Duncan and Cheryl Townsend, Specialist Teachers of the Blind, explained the range of visual conditions of the students that require their services. They reviewed some of the accommodations for students and the technology that is available.

The amount and type of service provided by a Vision Itinerant Teacher is based on the student's individual needs which may include any of the following:

- ❖ collaborate with school staff, parents and community agencies to develop a program to meet the specific needs of the student;
- ❖ review and interpret current eye reports;
- ❖ provide in class and individual resource support;
- ❖ contribute to the Individual Education Plan;
- ❖ provide teacher/school support staff in-service;
- ❖ attend team and IPRC meetings;
- ❖ address compensatory skills necessary for daily living and vocational needs;
- ❖ provide support materials such as specialized work books, tactile materials etc.;
- ❖ provide advocacy and assistance for students;
- ❖ Consult Safe Travel Teacher to determine recommendations and or obtain service to ensure student's safety in and around the school as appropriate.

L. McLaughlin informed the committee that she attended an OSAP information meeting. She learned that on the OSAP application there is a disability application for assistance in the cost of equipment required for learning at the post secondary level and a \$2000 Grant. Post-secondary students that have visual conditions can also contact community agencies for support.

Itinerant Team for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Kim Dugal and Barb Dion, Specialist Teachers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing presented on their services.

Roles and responsibilities:

- ❖ Provide a range of support and services both direct and indirect to over 200 students identified with a hearing loss or Auditory Processing Disorder;
- ❖ To collaborate with both board and community;
- ❖ Assist in the development and monitoring of Individual Education Plans;
- ❖ Provide support in a withdrawal setting, regular classroom and/or small group setting;
- ❖ Fostering the development of auditory or sign language skills;
- ❖ Deliver written language programming;
- ❖ Promote the development of self-advocacy skills;
- ❖ Complete informal assessments to determine goals, expectations and assessing learning outcomes as well as itinerant services;
- ❖ Determine, in conjunction with audiologists, the type of FM equipment;
- ❖ Submission of SEA claims and amplification management;

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- ❖ Provide system in-services to educational team members, student and classrooms;
 - ❖ Assist in developing strategies in conjunction with classroom teachers to enable students to access the curriculum.

7. Special Education Presentation – Belle River DHS STEPS Program

Dana DiVincenzo, Educational Coordinator, reported on the activities in the STEPS programs at Belle River DHS:

- ❖ The students in STEPS are an integral part of the school community – they participate in all school wide activities and are integrated into many classes;
- ❖ Students participate in the Horticulture and Environmental Clubs and classes around the school;
- ❖ The students in STEPS integrate into Physical Education and Foods and Nutrition classes;
- ❖ The students in the STEPS class cook once a week – they shop for all of their ingredients and follow recipes to create a weekly meal or treat;
- ❖ The students often have excursions into the community;
- ❖ Several students have co-op placements in the community businesses.

8. May SEAC Date

Both L. McLaughlin and M. Wilcox are required to be out of town the day of the May SEAC meeting. L. McLaughlin will arrange for another Superintendent to attend the meeting.

9. Special Education Update

Professional Development

M. Wilcox reported the PD is winding down for this school year. Coming up are sessions on Math for SERR teachers, Zones of Regulations, and teachers of the Locally Developed Credit Courses for Math and English.

SEA Claim Process Review

March 24th is the next meeting for the SEA review Process.

Ministry of Education Research Project

On March 22nd the classroom teachers using the Lexia program will be meeting to discuss the results they are finding. Lexia is preparing a report for L. McLaughlin that she will be able to share with SEAC. Thank you to LDAWE for the training that they took part in.

Special Education Plan

L. McLaughlin and M. Wilcox have reviewed the plan and there are few changes for this year. Staffing allocations are not until June. Proposed changes to the plan will be reviewed at April's meeting with the staffing numbers updated in June.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Association Reports

Trustees

C. Buckler has been researching and is proud that for secondary school proms within the Board include all students. She found that staff are always conscious about including the whole school population in events and providing support for clothing.

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Parents for Children's Mental Health

The presentation at the hospital has been cancelled and will be rescheduling in March. The Executive Director will be visiting the area in May and would like to speak to our committee.

Windsor Council of Home and School Associations

The Association's convention will be held in April.

LDAWE

The Learning Disabilities of on Ontario has a new website for families, parents and students dealing with LDs. The launch of www.LDatHome.ca can be found on the LDAO website as well.

Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

M. Gilles reported that March 21st is Down Syndrome day. The University of Windsor is participating in a walk-a-thon for Down Syndrome on March 19th. Funds raised will go to the Up About Down organization.

T. Rilett reminded the committee of the Mental Health Seminar Series March 23rd at the Caboto Club and March 29th at the Roma Club.

B. Turner expressed concern about the opiate epidemic and the number of teenage suicides in this area. L. McLaughlin replied that the schools are aware and are working with the police. The police community liaison officer keeps the schools up to date. The Mental Health nurses in our schools are working with these problems as well.

The meeting ended at 2:50.

Connie Buckler, Vice - Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee