

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018** at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Cheryl Lovell, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Judy Kraemer, Canadian Hearing Society
JoAnn Percy, Home and School Associations
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community – FNMI

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Lynn McLaughlin, Superintendent
Melissa Debruyne, OPC Secondary Representative
Tracey Rilett, OPC Elementary Representative
Mike Wilcox, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS:

Anna Jurak, Brain Injury Association, Windsor/Essex County
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Connie Buckler, Trustee

ABSENT:

Susan Smith, Community Living, Windsor/Essex County

RECORDER:

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda
Moved by: C. Lovell
Seconded by: M. Fuduric
That SEAC approve the agenda for March 6, 2018.

The motion was carried

3. Approval of Minutes
Moved by: K. McKinley
Seconded by: J. Kraemer
That SEAC approve the minutes of the SEAC meeting of February 13, 2018

The motion was carried

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes
There was no new business arising.

5. Special Education Presentation – MAPS Program – Karen Tompkins, Department Head, Westview Freedom Academy
K. Tompkins introduced herself, and let the Committee know that she has been with the board for 28 years and she is also a parent of a child with special needs.

When parents wish for their child to achieve a certificate (OSSC), they may be IPRC'd to the MAPS program in Secondary. This program recognizes student's strengths and builds on them. The goal is to build the student's independency and self-advocacy skills. Students in MAPS may have many IEP accommodations, and the program is set up with this in mind. It involves an educational team working together (teacher, educational assistant, developmental support worker, child and youth worker as required).

MAPS classes consist of up to 14 students, and the grade 9 year includes various "Knowledge" courses to ensure student success in the future credit courses.

The steps to getting into the MAPS program are: Psychological/Educational Assessment, IPRC with IEP. There are also certain characteristics of MAPS students but the only difference at their school, is that they are in classes with each other.

When the daily lessons are well-structured, the students' feeling of well-being will increase. The educational team shares ideas and strategies to help students become more successful.

K. Tompkins presented a PowerPoint which included the following key points:

- Questions posed to students in the program and their responses;
- The Co-op Prep Program assists in acquiring skills to become independent in the community. It looks to give students individualized challenges.
- The MAPS program looks at the whole student and peels away the layers to really know the student. Students are typically in the MAPS program from 5 to 7 years and big differences in growth are shown throughout these years.
- Students in MAPS are an important part of the school community and very active throughout the school.

J. Kraemer inquired about international students. K. Tompkins responded that these students are typically in the ELL program to begin as they have no English language skills. There may be an assessment completed which would recommend the student move to MAPS at some point, depending on the profile. Pathways in secondary school are: STEPS (Certificate of Accomplishment), /MAPS (Ontario Secondary School Certificate) or Diploma (Locally Developed, Applied, Academic in grade 9 and 10) depending on the student's learning needs.

L. McLaughlin explained that a new MAPS program was being considered at Leamington DSS. Parents have declined recommendation for placement this year for a number of reasons. The school in Leamington is brand new build with construction technology, auto shop, culinary, physical education, communication technology, arts, music and drama (examples). These are programs that parents want and may not have had in the community before. Parents have shared concerns about the distance to the school in which the program is currently offered and the new location which is further away. The bus ride will be even longer. Families want to stay as close to possible to community school.

The MAPS program at LDSS will only be open to gr. 9 students next year, through the IPRC process. Students from the Belle River, Lakeshore, Wheatley, Leamington and Kingsville areas would attend the program at LDSS. All other county students would attend MAPS at Western. City students have the MAPS program at Westview Freedom Academy.

MAPS/K-classes will be staffed with special education qualified teachers. The teachers must have their special education part II.

IPRC Reviews are held annually and IEPs are updated as is a regular process.

L. McLaughlin was asked what would happen if a MAPS program did not start at LDSS. Some parents are registering in other school boards. Students who remain in their secondary public school would have modifications/accommodations as outlined in their IEPs. They would not be in a special education program (with qualified teachers) and would take courses that are at the Locally Developed, Applied or Academic level. In addition, we have had families contact LDSS inquiring about a certificate program who are not currently students of GECDSSB. The program is expected to draw additional students.

6. New MAPS Program at Leamington DSS

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: K. McKinley

That SEAC support a new MAPS Program be opened at Leamington DSS.

The motion was unanimously carried

This will become a standing agenda item.

7. Special Education Update

- PD Update: Mar. 23 PD Day (FASD, Structured Learning, Functional Behaviour Assessment, Drug Presentation/Active Listening, Functional Communication, Make and Take, Transgender Issues, Anxiety), Apr. 14 Mindforce, Apr. 25 GECDSSB Learning Disabilities Symposium, Apr. 27 PA Day – Bd. Directed, Jun. 8 Assessment and Evaluation day, Jun. 29 PD Day – provincial priorities.
- R.I.S.E. (Reaching Individual Success and Excellence: Director's Council took input and agreed on a new title. R. Houle in our Media Department is creating a poster. A System announcement went out.
- Ministry of Education Research Project: OISE interviews continue. There is a Ministry of Education session in May. Only one year left in the research program.
- Special Education Plan: Proposed revisions, addition of MAPS, adding GAINS programs, staffing at May meeting.

8. New Business

K. Wilson – March 22 at Kennedy High School, Mental Health Seminar, and March 28 at the Roma Club in Leamington.

P. Russette on behalf of J. Matte-Gasparovic – Log in to www.autismontario.com for upcoming events.

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9. Association Reports

- M. Gilles (Down Syndrome) – March 21, Down Syndrome Awareness Day
- M. Fuduric (LDAWE) – Spring Program begins in April – flyer was distributed
- B. Cook (Indigenous) – Last week there was a session with Bruce George

10. Distribution

- K. Tompkins power point presentation will be posted with the minutes of this SEAC meeting.
- LDAWE 2018 Spring Program Guide will be posted with the minutes of this SEAC meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee