

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Beverly Clarke, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)
Bette Turner, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations (*Alternate*)
Mary MacLauchlan, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education
Melissa MacIntyre – OPC Secondary Representative
Jackie Connelly – OPC Elementary Representative
Mike Wilcox, Principals, Special Education Programs and Services

REGRETS:

JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County

ABSENT:

Beth Cook, Indigenous Community

Recorder: Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

Bev Clarke called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Attendance

Regrets were received from Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County and JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: M. Johnson

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the agenda for September 15, 2015.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: C. Buckler

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the minutes of June 9, 2015.

CARRIED.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising.

6. SEAC 2015-2016

B. Clarke reviewed the role of SEAC. L. McLaughlin will check with the new members who were not in attendance to see if they would have an interest in inviting someone from the regional office to attend a meeting for a question and answer on the role of SEAC. L. McLaughlin noted that we will follow PAAC on SEAC schedule again this year. She asked if each committee member could give a short presentation on their organization. L. McLaughlin will contact MaryAnn Fuduric to see if the Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County would like to make a presentation at a future meeting. S. Smith stated that Community Living presented last year. C. Buckler stated that when organizations present it allows the opportunity for members to learn what each other does.

L. McLaughlin introduced to the committee Mike Wilcox, the new Principal, Special Education Programs and Services to the committee.

Every month there will be a Good News Piece as an agenda item. M. Wilcox will be arranging this item each month.

L. McLaughlin informed the committee that Clara Howitt, Superintendent of Program, will be requested to speak to SEAC regarding the FNMI supports in the GECD SB.

7. Special Education Update

LD@ School Conference

The six people from the board that attended this conference are part of the LD Steering Committee. Between the six attendees a great number of workshops were covered. The conference was an exceptional resource of information.

L. McLaughlin will send the slide show from Dr. Daniel Ansari's presentation to the committee.

Special Needs Strategy

The Consolidated Service Working group met over the summer. Mike Wilcox and Lynn McLaughlin were not able to attend the presentation on the Co-Lead plan. The Rehabilitation Services table met weekly most of the summer. In June all the Speech and Language Pathologists and CDAs were brought together for input on services and gaps. Another survey was done over the summer on the website and distributed. Hopefully next month there will be something clearer to share with you. In October it will be a year since the Special Needs Strategy came together.

Thames Valley Children's Center/IBI

L. McLaughlin reported that on August 15th the Board received a letter that stated Thames Valley Children's Center was changing their schedule for students in the IBI Program to 4 days a week, 6 hours a day, instead of 5 days a week. The Board is now receiving requests from parents for their children to attend school one day a week. The Ministry of Education was consulted and we will be welcoming the students in our schools for the one day a week. Thames Valley is working on scheduling the students for different days to help our ability to provide support. Thames Valley will be working with Tim McCarthy on the transitions for the students. M. MacLauchlan asked if there will be a different criteria for suspension for the students coming from Thames Valley. L. McLaughlin replied that T. McCarthy will be closely involved in these transitions in order to make them successful.

Professional Development

M. Wilcox reported that there are a number of Professional Development events scheduled for this year. Dr. Shankar presented September 11th on Self Regulation. BMS Training and recertification will continue. ASSIST training for CYWs will occur. Vision Workshop, Reaching Every Learner and LDCC Workshops for all teachers who are currently teaching LDCC courses are also scheduled.

8. New Business

K. Wilson stated that parents associated with PCMH attended the last IEP Workshop hosted by Windsor Essex Family Network and were questioning the trend of getting away from IEPs for students that have ADHD. L. McLaughlin responded that it is always a challenge to present with the Windsor Essex Catholic DSB since they follow different procedures and information is misunderstood. She added that 90% of our students that have an IEP have been formally assessed in our Board. If a student requires support or accommodations on a regular basis in order for

them to access the curriculum, the student receives an IEP even though they may not be on the road to identification. J. Connelly and M. DeBruyne added their schools both teach a differentiated model in the classrooms or in smaller groups. L. McLaughlin stated that accommodations used to be indicated on the report card but because accommodation is a common practice we no longer make this statement.

S. Smith asked if there will be professional development on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. M. Wilcox responded there was none planned but will look into it. L. McLaughlin added that the Ministry is looking at the definitions of exceptionalities. FASD currently is not a separate identification but falls under one of the current definitions. L. McLaughlin will ask Dr. Ricciardi to organize an FASD PD for teachers that are teaching students diagnosed with the disorder.

K. Wilson asked for clarification on LDCC courses. She is hearing from parents that some schools offer more classes than others. Students with a severe learning disability in schools with fewer courses are struggling. She is hearing that courses are being cancelled because of low numbers yet parents are still being told that their home school can accommodate them. L. McLaughlin replied that it may depend on the number of students taking LDCC courses in the school. When we look at the profile almost 50% of students in these courses are not identified students. People are choosing that pathway for a variety of reasons. Some schools combine grade 9 and grade 10 level in a classroom. J. Connelly added that sometimes parents choose the academic course for the opportunity in the future. Parents think an LDCC course is limiting. There are no LDCC courses in grade 11 and 12. Students are offered Workplace courses in these grades.

9. Association Reports

Canadian Hearing Society

No report.

Windsor Council of Home and School Associations

No report.

Trustees

No report.

Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)

Over the summer Autism Ontario Windsor Essex Chapter provided \$425 in funding to support families who have a child/adult with ASD. They also held their free family picnic with lunch & carnival games. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

For information regarding our upcoming events & classes please go to our website.

Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)

No report.

Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

No report.

Parents for Children's Mental Health

We have been training for the last 6 months with the Lead agencies. The Lead Agencies are expected to provide in-service training to the service providers. Every agency that receives funding from MCYS are to attend a full day of training in Parent Facilitation on October 1st. The location has not been determined. RCC is the lead for training. An invitation will go out shortly to the providers.

Centre for Addiction - K. Wilson has been on the panel for 2 years and it has finally come to an end. Each community had to identify a service gap in their community. It started with a hundred people now it has been narrowed

down. The community has decided that it will be on concurrent mental health and addictions services. The community is divided as to who provides what treatment and where to send clients for care/treatment. Every door needs to be the right door. There will be a 2 day workshop for service providers. Seats are limited for each agency. This will take place November 12 and 13th. Invitations will be out shortly.

Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

LDAWE has been offering full day camp for years. It started as a couple of hours a day a couple days a week. Parents said they wanted a full day opportunity. LDAWE developed and intake process. Focus of these camps is on assistive technology training. Families are allowed to select the week based on the theme. Many parents chose all 5 weeks. The students that attended the 5 weeks showed many more gains than the student in the one week block. The intake process is going to be reviewed to better assess whether the camp is appropriate for the needs of the children applying.

The Gala and Conference on ADHD are approaching soon.

10. Distribution

There was no discussion on the correspondence.

11. Adjournment

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: B. Turner

That SEAC adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm

CARRIED.

Bev Clarke, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee