

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022** at the Administration Office, 451 Park St., West, Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Aimee Omstead, Trustee

Joanna Conrad, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association

Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

Robyn Hodges, Brain Injury Association of Windsor-Essex

Bette Turner, Home and School Association

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

REGRETS

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

ABSENT

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

Cathy Cooke, Trustee

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe ([Ah-nish-e-naa-bay](#)), Haudenosaunee ([Hoe-den-oh-show-nee](#)), Lenni ([Len-eh](#)) Lenape ([Le-naw-pay](#)) and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy, Ojibwe ([Oh-jib-way](#)), Odawa ([Oh-dah-wah](#)), Potawatomi ([Paw-taw-watt-oh-me](#)) and Huron/Wendat ([Wen-dat](#)) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: B. Turner

That SEAC approve the agenda for the SEAC meeting of November 8, 2022

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: T. McCarthy

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the minutes of the SEAC meeting of October 11, 2022

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

6. Special Education Presentation

STRIVE Conference, Mat Burkhart, Principal, J.A. McWilliam Public School

The STRIVE conference is an annual student symposium for grade 8 students who are formally identified with a learning disability. Students and families were invited to spend the day learning about learning disabilities as well as learning about self-advocacy. The goal for students is to learn more about themselves and hear from other students about their experiences in school and to hear about their challenges and successes. Parents will have the opportunity to participate in sessions geared to their learning about learning disabilities and how to support their child as they transition to secondary school.

Special Education Plan 2022 – Community Feedback

Feedback from the first four standards were discussed showing feedback received from the survey. It was noted that some of the comments were very general and very brief. M. Wilcox noted that we would use the input for possible changes to the Plan for 2023-24 when it was reviewed over the winter and into the spring of 2023. It was noted that parent concerns/feedback would normally be followed-up with the child's school through the normal communication protocol. External psychological assessments were brought up and it was shared by Dr. Crundwell that they were provided to schools and once parent consent was received. The Board's psychologist/psychological associate reviews the assessment and provides consultation to the school including recommendations to support the student's learning.

It was noted in this part of the meeting that there were issues with the audio and it was very distorted when people were speaking. M. Wilcox suggested that they end the survey feedback component of the meeting due the audio issues and bring it back for completion at the December SEAC meeting.

7. Special Education PD Update

PD Updates

- Gifted field trip to University of Windsor - We have approximately 23 grade 5 and 6 students who will be visiting the Faculty of Engineering. There will be about 21 grade 7/8 students who will be visiting the Faculty of Nursing.
- Acadience Training for all LSTs - Currently on hold. *Acadience Reading* is a set of curriculum-based measures for reading that assesses student development as a reader.

Each assessment is designed for a specific grade level ranging from K-6 and measures critical skills for early readers.

ESS Staffing Update

- We continue to hire staff. We are attending open houses at St. Clair College and will join the EA Program table to encourage students to join this profession. Absenteeism continues to have a high impact on getting students into school. We continue to work on getting all learners into school as soon as possible.

8. New Business

M. Wilcox – SEAC elections will be held at December’s meeting. The role of representatives follows the four-year term from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2026. Associations are to submit their application and nominations forms to Peggy Russette no later than November 25, 2022. There will also be a vote for a new chair and vice-chair at the December 13, 2022 SEAC meeting. Meetings will resume to in-person starting December 13, 2022.

9. Association Reports

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

Webinars (free to families and professionals)

- Introduction to Autism and Autism Ontario for Caregivers
- Introduction to Autism and Autism Ontario for Professionals
- Home for the Holidays, *Tuesday, December 13th 12 pm – 1pm*
- Diversity of the Autistic Brain: from genes to brains, to interventions and lived experience perspectives with Dr. Anagnostou, *Wednesday, November 23rd, 1:30-2:30pm December 13th 12 pm – 1pm*

Workshops

- Let’s Talk Teen Mental Health
 - Part 1: Workshop for parents: November 9, 7-8 pm
 - Part 2: Workshop for teens: November 16, 7-8pm

10. Distribution

No distribution

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

A. Omstead let the SEAC committee know that this would be her last meeting and thanked the SEAC committee for all their support and guidance. The SEAC committee appreciates A. Omstead’s commitment, kindness and compassion with our students.

NEXT MEETING, December 13, 2022

Board Meeting Minutes available on GECDSB website at

<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/spced/seac/

