

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Administrative Building, 451 Park St. W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

Tina Szymczak, Inclusion Action in Ontario

Jessica Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise

Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association

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

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

Kim McKinley, Trustee

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

Mathew Burkhart, Principal Anderdon Public School

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative

Martha Vukov, Community Leaving Essex County

REGRETS

Chelsey Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations

RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:11pm

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-ohme) 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 Agenda

Moved by: K. McKinley

Seconded by: J. Conrad

That SEAC approve the agenda for October 10, 2023

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Conrad

Seconded by: S. Yang

That SEAC approve the minutes of September 12, 2023

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

C. Mills shared that there was not an update at this point regarding the RDI program, he will speak with M. Crundwell and get back to the committee.

Letter regarding Summer Camp funding was discussed under Distribution.

6. Procedure for reporting and responding to human rights concerns impacting student

R. Salvador presented the DRAFT Procedure for Feedback: Reporting and Responding to Human Rights Concerns Affecting Students and shared the full DRAFT with the committee prior to the meeting, for review, and welcomed feedback. The areas that were discussed:

- What is the purpose? Processes staff must follow to respond to human right concerns involving or affecting students. To ensure responses meet human rights obligations and equity principles. One component of the Board's response to institutional discrimination. This is not a complaint model, rather an early response mode. Complaints fall under the Human Rights Regulation.
- Definitions of human rights concerns, involving or affecting a student and trauma informed approach
- Key principals – all human rights concerns are addressed, parties are treated with dignity and respect, address emotional well-being and needed support
- Prohibition against reprisal
- Report human rights concerns to any GECSDB staff
- Employees must act
- Mandatory Principal response
- Fulsome institutional response – investigation and additional responses
- Protocol for indigenous students and families
- Superintendent's action – development of institutional response

7. Special Education Updates

• Special Education Survey

- Asked for feedback. The survey was redeveloped and user friendly. We will add a new sentence for specific concerns they are encouraged to reach out to administrators. Added "optional", role, new pop-ups for "yes" and include the link for the Special Education Plan. Thank you to the LDAWE and their staff for making the Special

Education Plan AODA accessible, which will benefit all users. Our goal is to have the survey go out in November with the Special Education Plan.

- Special Education PD Update
 - K. Sweet updated the committee, there has been a lot of PD in September and planned for October. The PD includes Empower for New LST, Empower Refresher, IEP Audit for Elementary, New to Lexia, GAINS, New to GAINS, New to RISE, New to LST.
 - IEP Audit for Secondary is planned for later this year.
- ESS Staffing Update
 - C. Mills updated that staffing is now complete. All the moves took place as of October 10th. We did go up 18 ESS, we do face significant challenges on a daily basis. We are trying some new things to address staff shortages, including redeployment of the Behaviour Team and releasing Vice-Principals from teaching to work with identified students.
- Strive Update
 - M. Burkhart updated the committee. Strive is a symposium for grade 7 and 8 students. A day of fun events to engage, celebrate the strengths and self-advocacy to unleash their true potential. They have done this event in the past virtually and are excited to get back to in-person. They have swag bags and food trucks for lunch and are hoping to make that a reality again this year. The impact of the keynote speaker all ties back to self-advocacy and mental health. If the students are able to speak up, they will meet with success for secondary school.
 - Parents and school advisory have been invited to see what is happening. Mathew will keep SEAC updated on dates and times and provide invitations.

8. New Business

- N. Armstrong was doing some research that she would like to share with the committee. Will send it to Melissa Beaton for possible future agenda items.

9. Association Reports

- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – in Windsor we are starting this week with a TEEN Social Group (which they will provide one-on-one for individuals if needed). The 8-week caregiver program started last week. Music and Movement program – 3 classes: youth, teens and adults. We are having a holiday party in November other community events including a pumpkin patch outing and bowling.
- T. Szymczak, Inclusion Action in Ontario – will be putting on a high school event on November 8th “A Night of Inspiration: For Families Navigating High School & Beyond”
- S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise – FASD Caregiving Support Group October 18th discussing FASD Diagnosis
- M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – October is Learning Disability month. Our programs are starting on October 11th, we have a Halloween program and all the information is posted on our website.

10. Distribution

Draft letter to the Minister of Education was read by M. Fuduric. Some changes were suggested in wording, also would like to add data included, as well as visuals. We will revise and bring something back next month.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.



NEXT MEETING, November 14, 2023

Board Meeting Minutes available on [GECDSB website](#).

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)