

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 14, 2022** via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cathy Cooke, Trustee
Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County
Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Bette Turner, Home and School Instruction
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Robyn Hodges, Brain Injury Association of Windsor-Essex

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

REGRETS

Aimee Omstead, Trustee

ABSENT

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: S. Ruggaber

Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

That SEAC approve the agenda for June 14, 2022.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

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Moved by: S. Ruggaber

Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

That SEAC approve the minutes for May 10, 2022.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

No business arising as a result of the minutes.

5. ODA Plan 2022-2023 Review

M. Wilcox went over the ODA Plan 2022-2023 with the SEAC committee members, to show renovations done this school year and proposed renovations for the next school year. Requests are submitted by the school principal to the Facility Services Department. A visit to the school by GECD SB staff or JMCC staff will follow to determine what may be needed to support individual students.

6. GECD SB 2022-2023 Special Education Budget Review – Shawn Maheux, Finance

S. Maheux, Manager of Financial Services, presented the proposed Special Education Budget for the 2022-2023 school year. Funding is broken into various grants and expenses that are a part of the Special Education Budget.

Ministry grants for 2022-2023 cover the following:

SEPPA, Special Education Per Pupil Amount

SEA, Special Education Equipment Amount

DSENA, Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount

SIP, Special Incidence Portion

ECPP, Educational and Community Partnership Program Amount

BEA, Behavioural Expertise Amount

SEA claims are submitted by LSTs and are usually 100% approved. Any ideas/suggestions for equipment/apps are always welcomed.

SIP claims are submitted through our Education Coordinators once per year. These claims pay reimburse approximately \$28, 000.00 of an EAs wage which does not cover the cost of the support required to support the student in school.

M. Wilcox also added that the Jordan's Principle supports (EAs) are funded through a federal fund to which Indigenous parents/caregivers apply directly for the funding. The cost of the EAs is 100% covered by the federal funding source. The board has had staff available to support parent/caregiver applications and we will continue to support moving forward.

Recommendation

Moved by: S. Ruggaber

Seconded by: M. Gilles

That SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees to accept the Special Education portion of the 2022-2023 budget.

The motion was carried.

7. Special Education Plan 2022/2023

M. Wilcox and K. Sweet went over the final revisions for the 2022/2023 Special Education Plan, with the SEAC committee members and made revisions from suggestions by SEAC committee members.

These areas of revision included:

- Consultation process

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- Delaying formal identification of Primary students to support the Ministry of Education's philosophy of de-streaming and reducing the use of IEPs in primary
- Update on the Science of Reading initiative in the GECDSB
- Staff professional development
- Definitions to the Stepping-In classroom and the ASD classroom

Recommendation

Moved by: M. Vukov

Seconded by: J. Matte-Gasparovic

That SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees to accept the Special Education Plan 2022-2023.

The motion was carried.

8. Special Education PD Update

June 10, 2022 PD:

- *Today's ABA - An Introduction of Practical Functional Assessment and Skill-Based Treatment of Severe Problem Behavior* - a compassionate version of applied behavior analysis for consideration when working with autistic persons or those with intellectual disabilities who routinely engage in severe problem behavior.
- *Cultivating Mental Health Daily* - participants will be introduced to PERMA, a framework for happiness and well-being developed by UPenn professor Dr. Martin Seligman, the founder of positive psychology
- *How Can the Schools Provide Better Service to our Indigenous Deaf Students and Their Families?* - provides an understanding of Indigenous ways of doing interpretation and in educational settings.

Summer Learning Special Education Sessions:

- Science of Reading Series of Workshops
- Oral Language at your Fingertips – Book Talk
- LessonPix – Creating Visual Supports for the Classroom
- Literacy Skill Development for Students with Special Needs including students with Autism and Down Syndrome
- Bringing Words to Life, Second Edition: Robust Vocabulary Instruction 2nd Edition – Book Talk
- Special Education for Administrators
- New to GAINS
- Make-and-Take: File Folder and Hands On Activities
- Robotics in STEPS/GAINS Classroom
- IEP Writing
- BoomCard Learning
- Assistive Technology in the classroom – Laptops and Accessibility
- The Special Education Referral Process – Tiered Intervention
- Preparing for Students with Special Educations Need in Your Kindergarten Classroom

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Association Reports

J. Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario – T. McCarthy will be the main representative for Autism Ontario starting September 2022 and J. Matte-Gasparovic will be the alternate representative.

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M. Vukov, Community Living – Was unsure whether she would remain the association representative for Community Living. She would update us closer to September 2022. Please visit www.communitylivingessex.org for resources, events, services, and more.

M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor/Essex – offering in-person camp at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel from July 11 to August 12, 2022. Please visit www.ldawe.ca for more information.

Robyn Hodges will be the main representative for the Brain Injury Association of Windsor-Essex. Anna Jurak will be the alternate representative.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Aimee Omstead, Chairperson Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison, Special Education Advisory Committee

NEXT MEETING September 13, 2022

Board Meeting Minutes Available on GECDSB Website

<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/speced/seac/