

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Administrative Building, 451 Park St. W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Martha Vukov, Community Living Essex County

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association

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

Kim McKinley, Trustee

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services

Yvette Lehman, Consultant/Resource Teacher, Program Department

Tammy Wilcox, Consultant/Resource Teacher, Program Department

REGRETS

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

Tina Szymczak, Inclusion Action in Ontario

Chelsey Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative

RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

1. Call to Order

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

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), Leni (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 November 14, 2023.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: T. McCarthy

Seconded by: K. McKinley

That SEAC approve the minutes of October 10, 2023.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

- K. McKinley shared that the letter in support of funding for Summer Camp is no longer needed. Director Houston was on the call when the Minister announced re-establishing the funding.
- J. Conrad asked about the Reading Program, M. Crundwell is working on it, and it should be ready to be presented at our next meeting.

6. Special Education Presentation

- T. Wilcox presented a Science of Reading Update. The Literacy Team has been busy cleaning up book rooms in the system, Phase 1: Weeding, Phase 2: Repurposing and Phase 3: Rebuilding. She discussed the assessment and diagnostic screeners. The Literacy Team recently completed Acadience Screening at 10 schools and had voluntary participation from 52 LSTs. The Moon Dog Series and UFLI Foundations resources are now in our RISE rooms. Professional development is being offered to new to RISE, new to LST, LST, RISE, GAINS, ELL, Literacy Coaches, as well as, a Literacy Symposium being held on November 22, 2023, at Essex District High School.
- Y. Lehman presented on Math Resources for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Intervention. Their guiding questions are: What are the current 'Tiers' of mathematics intervention? And what students do they serve? What quality indicators define Tier 2 and Tier 3 support for students whose academic needs lie beyond the capacity of the classroom teacher alone to repair? What data sources does your school use to place students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 services and what 'cut-points' determine eligibility? What research-based resources are used to address significant gaps in student learning? She also shared the research-based resources of KeyMath 3 and JumpMath with the committee.

7. Special Education Updates

- PD Update

- K. Sweet shared the professional development planned for November 2023, which include, Blind/Low Vision, LSTs, STEPS and MAPS, GAINS, SWDHH, DSW, CYW and EA and a GAINS Teacher Shadow Day.
- ESS Staffing Update
 - C. Mills updated the group on ESS Staffing. We continue to face some challenges. We have less than 100 occasional ESS and a good deal of them are already working in long-term placements, which leaves our day-to-day jobs unfilled. We are working on a few things to help the system, including using occasional teachers when ECEs are away, redeployment of Behaviour Team and schools are realigning staff to most critical needs. We continue to interview. It is a challenge across the province. He encouraged the group to reach out if they know anyone who would be interested in becoming an emergency support staff. Emergency staff are paid positions and would have to go through Human Resources, be recommended by a Principal or Vice-Principal, have required documentation, and complete the required Health and Safety modules. We are contacting St. Clair College to see if students would be interested in working with us when they are not in school. We continue explore a lot of avenues.

8. New Business

There was no new business to report.

9. Association Reports

- K. McKinley, Trustee - shared the Organizational Meeting of the board was happening, but that shouldn't effect their seats on SEAC. She also thanked Mary-Ann Fuduric for her work in being chairperson for the committee this past year.
- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario - held their annual Holiday Party on November 12th at the Fogolar Furlan Club, there was music, crafts, and an opportunity to take a photo with Santa, lunch was included. It was very successful.
- M. Vukov, Community Living Essex County - virtual sessions continue to be offered at mycommunityhub.ca. Their annual Jingle Bell Run, and the Ruthven Apple Festival was very successful. The Ruthven Apple Festival helps fund agency vehicles.
- J. Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association - Holiday activities and parties are coming. Looking at ways to get the word out to connect students with Up About Down. Hoping to target new families, will share a flyer with Special Education to send out to schools and include in our Week-to-Come emails.
- M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County - we are moving to a new location, at the Maryvale Campus on January 1, 2024. The new space will allow us to focus on youth and good partnership with Maryvale. It will be great to have our own space for robotics, explore careers, STEAM and really offer social groups. They are working on the offices right now; the classrooms will take some time.

10. Distribution

There was no distribution.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.



NEXT MEETING, December 12, 2023

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

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)