

**GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at the Administrative Building, 451 Park St. W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chelsey Lackovic, Home and School Association
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario
Sarah 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
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
Vicki Houston, Director of Education
Marc Crundwell, Super of Psychological and Speech Language Services
Samantha Mulcaster, Behaviour Analyst, Behaviour Team Specialist

ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative
Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

REGRETS

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: Kim McKinley

Seconded by: Joanna Conrad

That SEAC approve the agenda for September 12, 2023

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Tim McCarthy

Seconded by: Kim McKinley

That SEAC approve the minutes for June 13, 2023

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

No business arising as a result of the minutes.

6. Director of Education – Entry Plan Discussion

Director of Education, V. Houston introduced herself to the committee and shared her connection to Special Education. She is proud of the work and model we provide in Special Education. She also shared some of the challenges we are facing. If we have any concerns as a SEAC committee she is open to hear them and continue to work to best serve our students.

7. Behaviour Team Update

S. Mulcaster, Behaviour Analyst, Behaviour Transition Specialist, presented the changes to the Behaviour Team model to best meet our students needs. We currently have 5 BCBA's including Samantha, who work in tandem with the ABA facilitators (5), who are newly aligned geographically to a selection of schools. There are 2 DMSW, who receive referrals for tier 2 level of need. The Tier 3 team consists of 2 teacher/DSW teams, who take a whole classroom approach predominantly in kindergarten and self-contained classrooms. 1 BMSW who responds to workplace violence and works with staff, leads BMS training and refreshers. These services are requested either by referral, through the Educational Coordinator, or through workplace violence incidents. Our staff do receive professional development. The BCBA & ABA are expected to service 100-125 students, BMSW 75+ and DMSW 100 students within the school year.

8. Camp Discovery

Superintendent C. Mills, presented on Camp Discovery which was a 14 day in-person camp targeting a wide range of learners with a focus on literacy, math, and STEAM. All students were identified students and the goal was to provide support and reduce the summer learning slide. 90 students were enrolled in Camp Discovery and 84% of the student's demonstrated growth. Our board also ran Camp Wonder, Camp Merveille, Camp Lingo, and Camp Migizi.

9. Summer Psychological Assessments

Dr. M. Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Services shared that they were able to complete 47 assessments throughout the summer, with only 1 cancellation. Majority of feedback was given and staff have until the end of September to complete the file. We did complete 300+ assessments throughout the school year. These summer assessments do help with the waitlists at schools and we tried to hit every area.

10. Special Education Survey Update

K. Sweet shared the survey from last year and would like to have it back up again this year.

Asking for any changes/suggestions:

- change date
- could the language be simplified
- It may be beneficial to ask what services their student receive or placement
- Include a link to the Special Education Plan
- Available in multiple languages through our website
- Will bring back to the October SEAC meeting

11. IEP Consultation Form

This was something that we hoped to have in place for the beginning of this school year, it will be rolling out for Term 2. Ministry of Child and Youth Services wanted to allow for students/youth to have input on their IEPs. Consultation form can be sent home upon parent request and consent given, to include community group input. This will save time with school-based team meetings. Consideration to include this in the Special Education Plan for next year.

12. New Business

- K. McKinley requested that SEAC compose a letter to the Ministry of Education advocating for more funding for summer camp. CC to other SEAC committees, members of parliament and OPSPA.
- Enrollment is up approximately 600 students in elementary, no change in secondary. Many new needs to our system. Our Educational Coordinators are very busy right now. Staffing numbers are in tomorrow.
- J. Conrad asked if there are plans to continue with the RDI program? We are reviewing the data and effectiveness of the program. We had a good meeting at the end of last year, with Paula Filangeri, around what worked and what didn't work.
- Inquiry with what to expect regarding communication with parents, there are frustrations around teaching staff and communication. M. Lowes, always encourage our teachers to have open communication with our families. Make sure parents are using Edbsy. For GAINS and RISE sometimes it's communication books/agendas. Classroom teachers are responsible, for ESS they need to go through the teacher. Would encourage parents to reach out to the teacher first, and then to administrators.

Recommendation

Moved by K. McKinley

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC compose a letter to the Ministry of Education advocating for additional funding for summer camp.

The motion was carried.

13. Association Reports

- J. Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association – some exciting news with Up About Downs, her daughter was selected by National Down Syndrome Society for their awareness campaign. She was featured on a billboard in Time Square in New York City to kick off their

annual Buddy Walk, raising awareness and funds to support people with down syndrome and celebrate differences, highlight the uniqueness and beauty of people with down syndrome.
<https://fb.watch/n04PXeGKhO/?mibextid=cr9u03>

- S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – September is FASD awareness month. A lot of information is being shared on their Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare social media pages. They are starting their first in-person care giver support group starting on September 21, 2023.
FASD Testimonial:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WU3Vs198R9Y>
FASD ALARMS (How to identify children & youth with FASD)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB-emEej4rs>
- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – the response from parents regarding the ASI Summer Program has been a positive experience this year.
- M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County – we offered 5 weeks of summer camps and are launching our fall programs mid week.

14. Distribution

Letter from the Waterloo Region District School Board regarding the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding to the Minister of Education, M. Fuduric read the letter to the SEAC committee. The letter requested that the Ministry fund school boards adequately to meet the needs of their vulnerable population.

What else can we do? Contact your MP, contact your representative for MACSE. There are quite a few vacancies for groups that represent students in Special Education, those folks are meeting with the Minister of Education. You can also reach out to the Regional Ministry office in London.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 2:35 p.m.



NEXT MEETING, October 10, 2023

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

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)