

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)
Mary MacLauchlan, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Connie Buckler, Trustee
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society
Bette Turner, *Alternate* Windsor Council of Home and School Associations.
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association

BOARD PERSONNEL:

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education
Mike Wilcox, Principals, Special Education Programs and Services

REGRETS:

Beverly Clarke, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Melissa MacIntyre – OPC Secondary Representative
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County
Jackie Connelly – OPC Elementary Representative

Recorder: Marion Goyette

1. Call to Order

Lynn McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Election of Chairperson

L. McLaughlin declared nominations open for the position of Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2016.

Moved by: M. MacLauchlan

That Connie Buckler be nominated as Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2016.

C. Buckler declined the nomination.

Moved by: K. Wilson

That Kim McKinley be nominated as Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2016.

K. McKinley accepted the nomination.

L. McLaughlin called for any other nominations. There were no other nominations. L. McLaughlin declared K. McKinley as the Chairperson for the 2016 year.

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Kim McKinley assumed the Chair position.

Election of Vice-Chairperson

L. McLaughlin declared nominations open for the position of Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2016.

Moved by: K. McKinley

That Beth Cook be nominated as Vice-Chairperson of SEAC for the year 2016.

B. Cook accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations. B. Cook was declared the Vice-Chairperson for the 2016 year.

3. Attendance

L. McLaughlin reported regrets from Learning Disabilities Association Windsor/Essex and Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County.

4. Approval of the Agenda

That SEAC approve the agenda for January 12, 2016 with the addition of Indigenous Education Protocol by

B. Cook.

CARRIED.

5. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: C. Buckler

Seconded by: M. MacLauchlan

B. Cook requested to add that she had asked for the residential schools be added as part of a workshop in the mental health plan. A punctuation and spelling error were identified.

That SEAC approve the minutes for December 9, 2015 with the amendments.

CARRIED.

6. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

M. MacLauchlan updated the committee with information on the Therapeutic Learning Center. This is the organization that was mentioned at the December meeting. The Center is for children under the age of 18 and provides a variety of programming and respite for children with Autism. Families can pay privately or for those who receive funds through the Autism Ontario Intervention Program (AIP) have 2 options for directing the AIP funding:

Direct Service Option (DSO) – Children receive therapy directly from one of Ontario's regional service providers.

Direct Funding Option (DFO) – Parent and families receive fund directly from the government and then they arrange for services to be delivered from a private services provider using the funding.

M. MacLauchlan questioned the change from Modified Program and SERR to Partially Integrated on the Identified Students report from December. L. McLaughlin explained that Special Education is trying to be consistent in terminology used in information to parents.

L. McLaughlin updated the committee regarding new refugees. She explained that students are expected to come with medical cards. Location of ESL classes will depend on where the refugees are settled. A process is in place for students with special needs. Superintendent Dr. Sharon Pyke is part of the welcoming committee for the community. L. McLaughlin offered to invite a speaker to update SEAC.

SEA Equipment Process

Tammy Groulx, Education Coordinator, presented on the SEA process. The Special Equipment Amount (SEA) provides funding to school boards to assist with the costs of equipment **essential** to support students with special education needs where the need for specific equipment is recommended by a qualified professional. Students are trained on assistive technology by the Learning Disability Association Windsor Essex.

B. Cook asked if the FNMI worker could be present during the training for Indigenous students she works with. L. McLaughlin will look into this.

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7. News from the Classroom

Fouada Hamzeh, Consultant/Resource Teachers Secondary, Program Department and Mike Wilcox, Principal, Special Education Services, presented on Outdoor Education. Ms. Hamzeh explained the process of how schools apply for grant money.

The funds can be used for expenses associated with outdoor student learning activities such as:

- fees related to participation in outdoor education activities
- to enlist the expertise and/or facilities/resources of community agencies in outdoor learning activities
- transportation costs
- occasional teacher costs

Funds are used to support a variety of Outdoor Education field trips (generally related to Science, Geography, Phys. Ed., FNMI). Schools are encouraged to fundraise for these field trips to cover expenses over the amount of the grant as well as provided assistance for students that cannot cover costs. M. Wilcox presented on the STEPS and GAINS field trip excursions made available from this grant.

8. Psychological Assessments: Process and Procedure Pamphlet

P. Ricciardi presented the draft copy. The actual layout of the pamphlet will be similar to the other Special Education pamphlets available on the website. This pamphlet outlines the procedure leading to a psychological assessment. The responsibilities of the psychologist are to guide the parent/guardian through the process, by explaining the process and answering any questions the parents may have.

M. MacLauchlan asked to make it clearer in the information that when they have an IPRC the IEP is developed.

B. Cook is looking for ways to engage First Nation parents to reach out and request help for their child. L. McLaughlin and P. Ricciardi will work on revisions to the brochure to assist all parents with navigating, communicating and understanding the process.

9. Special Education Update

LD Steering Committee

L. McLaughlin attended an international congress to present with 2 other boards on the provincial project, Leading from the Middle. The LD Steering committee's meeting is the last week of January. The LD Steering Committee is focusing on elementary students and the LDCC Committee is focusing on secondary students.

The Empower Program is being piloted in 6 elementary and 3 secondary school classes. The schools for the pilot were chosen with specific criteria in mind. If the program is successful the hope is to expand to more schools next year.

M. Wilcox informed SEAC that the Locally Developed Credit Course (LDCC) Committee has organized a day long workshop for 50 secondary teachers who teach LDCC courses. Assistive technology training will be part of the workshop. M. Wilcox will invite the secondary FNMI worker to attend the training as well. L. McLaughlin reported on the LDCC credit success results for the 2014/2015 school year.

The IEP audit took place last week. The format for the audit has changed. Each school was asked to have the Principal, LST and a classroom teacher attend. The purpose was to present what a good IEP looks like and promote an IEP that is consistent across the Board.

L. McLaughlin reported that data on achievement was collected but based on self-identification for Indigenous students. Therefore the information may not be an accurate representation of the community. L. McLaughlin will collect what data there is and bring forward to the committee.

10. New Business

B. Cook distributed information on the Indigenous Education Protocol for Colleges and Institutes. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and other information for the committee. M. Goyette will forward via email to all members.

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B. Cook asked if the Board would set up an Ad Hoc Committee and develop a protocol for indigenous education. B. Cook was advised that this is outside of SEAC and the Director's Office should be consulted regarding the process. K. Wilson asked for a report back from B. Cook after the Ad Hoc Committee is formed
C. Buckler presented a hand out for the Summit On Children and Youth Mental Health in April and encouraged everyone to attend. M. Goyette will scan the information to the committee.

11. Association Reports

Canadian Hearing Society

No report.

Windsor Council of Home and School Associations

No report.

Parents for Children's Mental Health

No report.

Indigenous Community

B. Cook reminded everyone of the symposium on May 27th and the parent and community conference on May 28th

Up About Down

No report.

Community Living Windsor/Essex

Upcoming conference information:

Commence 2016; a conference hosted by Student Links

What does it take to have a good plan for leaving school? How do young people who have an intellectual disability discover their gifts, explore their passions and find the roles they can take on, that will make for an exciting life? Join others from across the province and get inspiration on developing a vision and plan for your future! This conference will bring you the experts, the movers and shakers, the visionaries, and people who are answering these questions for themselves. The program has a number of employment specialists, a panel of people who have developed vibrant networks, and renowned speakers John O'Brien and Tom Kohler. Come to Ryerson University's Student Centre March 1-2nd 2016 to learn, explore and network with us. You cannot afford to miss this event!

Check out the program and register online on our website:

<http://www.communitylivingontario.ca/>

<https://event-wizard.com/commence2016/0/welcome/>

Autism Ontario

Autism Ontario is very concerned with issues facing our families whose child turns 18 & loses all respite & SSAH funding. Provincially, Autism Ontario continues to have meetings with the ministry regarding these concerns and the crisis families are in. The Helou family has recently been highlighted in the news regarding the impact this has had on their family & son. However, this is happening all across the province & affecting all families with disabled children not just autism.

The Give Your Heart to Autism gala is Feb 27th, tickets are \$125 each.

Ontario is holding ongoing classes such as children's friendship training age 8-12, cooking classes younger & older groups, & circles program. Several social outings are coming up but have not been announced at this time.

Please visit our website for more information.

K. McKinley adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.

Kim McKinley, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee