

**GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
REPORT OF THE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, May 8, 2018** at the Administration Office.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community – FNMI  
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario

**BOARD PERSONNEL:**

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent  
Tracey Rilett – OPC Elementary Representative  
Mike Wilcox – Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

**REGRETS:**

Anna Jurak, Brain Injury Association, Windsor/Essex County  
Melissa Debruyne, OPC Secondary Representative  
JoAnn Percy, Home and School Associations  
Judy Kraemer – Canadian Hearing Society

**ABSENT:**

Susan Smith, Community Living

**RECORDER:**

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the agenda for May 8, 2018.

The motion was carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: K. Wilson

That SEAC approve the minutes of the SEAC meeting of April 10, 2018

The motion was carried

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no new business arising.

5. Special Education Presentation – PPM 140 Update – Tim McCarthy, Behaviour Management Specialist

T. McCarthy explained that he provides this information every year. The incidence of Autism is now 1 in 66. Males are identified more often. In the 2000-2001 school year, 121 students were identified with an ASD, while in the 2017-2018 school year, there were 449 students identified. Connections for students is a joint MCYS and MOE initiative, which started in 2007 in GECDSEB. This program supports the transition of students from Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) to school. Thames Valley Children Centre is the Autism Service Provider for all of Southwestern Ontario. GECDSEB also transitions students from other organizations such as the Summit Centre for Preschool Children and The Learning Center (TLC).

Ontario Autism Program (OAP) focusses on helping parent/guardians, students to learn and build skills for home and community. They do this through a Family Service Plan, which plans and delivers care that promotes collaborative partnerships between care providers, children and their families. OAP also provides family services and training, which includes workshops, groups and seminars about ASD, consultation, information on Applied Behaviour Analysis, and how services are provided in OAP. There are also evidence-based behavioural services, which can assist with discouraging behaviours that interfere with learning and well-being. This service also involves teaching parents/caregivers the skills they need to support their child's development.

There are two family options: direct service or direct funding. With the direct service option, families will work with their regional provider to identify their child's needs, strengths and goals to begin to develop a behaviour plan. The

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direct funding option is for families who choose to receive funding. The families are responsible for choosing their own provider to best support their child and family's needs.

This year, training was available in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Autism, for approximately 150 occasional teachers. There were many other professional development opportunities through the school year such as, system-based Applied Behaviour Analysis, Functional Behaviour Assessments and Structured Learning. Resources are available through the Lending Library, which is managed by students and staff in our STEPS program at Riverside Secondary School.

The Ministry reporting (PPM 140) was completed by sending surveys out to all schools, with 62 schools participating and 3 schools where there are no students with ASD.

Areas for reporting include:

- Principles of ABA are incorporated into the IEPs of students with ASD, as appropriate.
- Transition Plans are used to support students with ASD for a variety of transitions.
- Multidisciplinary teams are involved.
- School staff working with students with ASD are knowledgeable about ASD.

Our goal is to have 1 person trained in FBA in every school.

### 6. STRIVE – Tammy Groulx and Sharon Maxwell, Educational Coordinators

The STRIVE committee members are: J. Younan, S. Maxwell, T. Groulx, M. Cornies, J. Abbey, M. Freeman, M. Fuduric, K. Collins, J. Newman and A. Bondy. Many materials were provided to the system for grade 7 & 8 students, and grade 9 in secondary. The focus was on overall well-being. April 25<sup>th</sup> was our first STRIVE symposium, which involved 250 students 100 staff, 100 parents, and many volunteers and committee members. There were 5 sessions for students: Technology, Well-Being, Self-Advocacy, Pathways, and Information Booths. Self-advocacy was the most popular session and lead by secondary school students. The day for parents/guardians mirrored the students day but they had different guest speakers. Different food trucks were brought in to give the students a choice. The LST at Tecumseh Vista said that the students spoke more freely about their learning disabilities. The students felt comfortable sharing. It was very impactful! The students learned a lot from each other. Thank you to the STRIVE committee!!!! J. Younan will chair committee next school year. Parents were also invited by email to join a STRIVE group. A special thank you to one of our GECPIC parent representatives, R. Harris, who created the STRIVE booklet booklet.

In addition to the STRIVE symposium, GECDSB has created a self-advocacy video with our students and the video available on Youtube. The Board's website now includes a site specifically geared for parents/guardians with children having leaning disabilities. There are many links for information purposes. Members of the STRIVE committee will be presenting at the LD Summer Institute and we hope that other boards in the province will offer a similar opportunity to their communities.

### 7. SEAC Dates for 2018/2019

The dates for SEAC meetings during the 2018/2019 school year are as follows:

September 11, 2018  
October 9, 2018  
November 13, 2018  
December 11, 2018  
January 15, 2019  
February 12, 2019  
March 19, 2019  
April 9, 2019  
May 14, 2019  
June 11, 2019

Moved by: K. Wilson

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the date of the SEAC meetings for the 2018/2019 school year

The motion was carried

### 8. Special Education Update

- PD Update: Near end of school year but in the last month we have had: Mindforce, STRIVE, The Night of Champions and Elementary and Secondary Special Olympics. We do limited PD from now until the end of the year as it is important to have staff at their schools as we near the end of the assessment period for 17/18.
- MAPS: 9 students lined up for LDSS

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- Special Education Plan Revisions  
Changes (in red) were shared with committee to approve. The transition planning was completely updated. CCAC (Community Care Access Centre) changed to Local Health Integration Network LHIN. SEAC approved the recommended changes. The staffing allocation for 18/19, PD section and Connections Program (page 20) revisions will be brought to the June meeting. The proposed special education budget will also be shared at that time. Lunch will also be served for our final meeting of the year.

- Special Olympics  
The events are this week, Thursday elementary, Friday secondary, Monday rain date. It will be a very inspirational day with Anderdon P.S. band leading the parade. Thank you to T. Awender and his team for arranging this wonderful event.

- STRIVE  
Covered in presentation.

- Exclusion Information  
Dr. Pyke was not available but gave information to L McLaughlin.

Exclusion is almost always done because we must keep the student, other students and staff safe. For each exclusion, there are conditions which drive when the return to school. These conditions vary from student to student. We are committed to being in regular contact with the family. We provide instructional material or temporary instruction (3 hours per week) while the student is not attending. The number of students currently on exclusion as well as the numbers in 2016/17 and 2015/16 were shared with the committee.

If parents are unsure if their child has been excluded, they should contact the school principal. The school must explain what the circumstances were that lead to the student being excluded from school. The letter that is sent to the parent/guardian explains the conditions for return as well as the appeal process. Dr. Pyke shared the proposed Regulation on Exclusions at a prior SEAC meeting. This will be posted when it is approved by Trustees so that all can better understand.

K. Wilson shared her concern about the pressure that families are faced with in these circumstances. Information is shared with MOE annually. She shared that families are not allowed to use respite funding for support during the school day. Exclusion information does not get shared with MCYS. More supports are needed in our own community.

Moved by: K. Wilson  
Seconded by: Jan Matte Gasparovic

That SEAC write a letter to the local MCYS requesting that families be permitted to use respite funding to support their children when excluded from school.

## 9. New Business

L. McLaughlin is retiring at the end of August.

## 10. Association Reports

J. Matte Gasparovic – workshop for 18 and over – running again in Leamington – Safety for Independent Living – end of May, June. Areas of home safety, predators, first aid, online, passwords, etc.

M. Fuduric – STRIVE was wonderful, have opened up summer program, from gr. 3 to 6, 5 weeks, 3 sites, 1 week or 5 week, \$25 per week. Registrations are going fast. Can register online.

M. Gilles – annual Walk-a-thon in Harrow June 3<sup>rd</sup> to support programs

B. Cook – information from Special Needs Conference – on Walpole Island, autism was a big part of it. Awareness building in communities was good to see. Presentation on Special Needs with Indigenous. Presenter is now private contracting, will pass it on to FNMI team. Mental Health conference – good resources, should include on FNMI webpage. B. Cook will bring to Dr. Howitt/Tina. L. McLaughlin in consultation with the IEAC commitment: We are going to plan a 2-3 part series for indigenous families which will be offered next year.

B. Cook – different views on education, science, supports. Trying to bridge this gap. Diagnosis is a western perspective, which is different from indigenous perspective. Hopeful that FNMI students after graduating college can educate others.

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11. Distribution  
STRIVE Brochure and schedule
  12. Adjournment  
Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Committee

Lynn McLaughlin, Administrative Liaison  
Special Education Advisory Committee