



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 9, 2024, at the Administration Building, 451 Park Street W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mary Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Chelsea Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association
Martha Vukov, Community Living Essex County
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario
Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise
Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Schools/Special Education Program and Services
Laura Bates, Supervising Principal of Special Education
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services
Samantha Mulcaster, Supervisor of Behaviour Support Services

REGRETS

Kim McKinley, Trustee
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Teresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

ABSENT

Louis Cervini, Indigenous Representative

RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1:02 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), 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-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: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC approve the Agenda for October 9, 2024.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: C. Lackovic

Seconded by: S. Yang

That SEAC approve the Minutes of September 11, 2024.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

- Discussion - What are the numbers like for students with special needs?
C. Mills – we stayed status quo. Our Education Coordinators went out to the schools, identified the needs, met with the Supervising Principal, Human Resources and our Union partners.

6. Special Education Presentations

- The Role of SEAC – Education Officers, A. Elliott & V. Rutledge
V. Rutledge joined the Ministry of Education in 2015 after serving as a Learning Services Supervisor with the London District Catholic School Board. Her responsibilities included Speech and Language, Autism and Behaviour, Psychology, School Health Support, and a variety of other Special Education related portfolios. She spent eight years as the clinical supervisor with a children's mental health agency in London and ten years with the Kativik Regional School Board in Nunavik as a teacher and Pedagogical Counsellor.
A. Elliot has been with the Student Support and Field Services branch since 2022 as an Education Officer. She comes from the Thames Valley District School Board where she spent twenty-two years as a teacher, literacy coordinator and administrator. She is also the Provincial Lead for Curriculum and Co-lead in the West Region for Special Education.
A copy of this presentation will be available for review.
The Education Officers presented on the Roles and Responsibilities of SEAC.
Education Act – Regulation 464/97 requires all school boards and school authorities to establish a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).
They are required to provide an opportunity to be heard by the District School Board (DSB)/School Authority (SA), obtain advice, provide its members with information and orientation, make available personnel and facilities, provide an opportunity to participate in the annual review of its special education plan, provide opportunity to review/participate in the DSB/SA annual budget process and financial statements of the board as it relates to special education, make recommendations to the DSB/SA authority with respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and

delivery of special education programs and service for exceptional students of the board, provide information to parents as requested, and consultation.

The ministry welcomed questions for discussion and take back to the Special Education Branch.

- Changes to the Role of BCBA - S. Mulcaster

The Board currently has 5 Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBA) that work in tandem with an Applied Behaviour Analysts Facilitator (ABAF), 2 Development Management Systems Workers (DMSW), Tier 3 Team which consists of 2 teachers and 2 Development Support Workers (DSW) and 1 Behaviour Management System Worker (BMSW). On July 1, 2024, the Ontario College of Psychologist became The Ontario College of Psychologist and Behaviour Analysts.

To remain in compliance, all referrals are screened by BCBA, documented in consultation note as part of their service and they can refer support to DMSW or ABAF if the learner does not need a behaviour intervention plan. The DMSW role, is specifically brought in to enhance the environment, follow social skills curriculum and support the use of reinforcement, they do not gain consent to assess and design intervention plans. The ABAF role can go in for staff directed coaching on best practices. The new regulation outlines that direct service can only be offered when there is supervisory capacity by the behaviour analyst over the implementors (or teaching and support staff). As a result, consent had to be adjusted to be more informed about the specific outcome.

7. Special Education Updates

- Professional Development Updates

M. Crundwell shared the Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP) professional development has included: ADOS Training, MASP 2023 Fall Conference, Feedback to Empower Every Child, So you only have eight sessions: What do you do? Integrating evidence informed practices into time-limited psychotherapy, Principles for Managing a Child with ADHD, Meaningful Speech and Gestalt Processing; AAC for Language Processors Course and Using Natural Language Acquisition to Support Language Development in Gestalt Language.

L. Bates shared the following professional development for September and October 2024: In September all staff engaged in learning to support a positive school climate. For October, schools focused on implementation of the 2023 Language Grade 1-8 curriculum and the 2023 de-streamed Grade 9 English courses. Training on the principles and requirements related to early reading screening as described in PPM168. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Differentiated Instruction (DI), focus on capacity building with elementary and secondary staff. This encompasses all members of the school team including educational support staff, teachers, and administrators. Keynote for all Staff: Mat Bergman – Universal Design for Learning-Embrace Inclusion, Ignite Potential. System and school-based learning around the Principles of UDL and

implementing it into all components of learning. Educational Support Staff members will also engage in learning around how to use clevr software to create Safety and Behaviour Plans for students.

- Special Education Plan Feedback Survey
C. Mills welcomed feedback and suggestions on the survey. The Special Education Plan will be out to the community very soon and was shared with the Ministry of Education. The survey will be shared with SEAC, to share with their organizations. It will be promoted on the Board's website and social media.

8. New Business

There was no new business to report.

9. Association Reports

- M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County – October is Learning Disabilities Awareness and ADHD Awareness Month.
- M. Vukov, Community Living Essex County – October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), there are many campaigns across the province promoting disability inclusion in business and the workplace. The third Thursday of every October, businesses and communities are encouraged to “light it up (blue)” in support of NDEAM. November 10th is CLEC's Annual Jingle Bell Run, Walk and Wheel hosted by Ken Knapp Ford in Essex. This event promotes healthy lifestyles and building communities, supporting over 700 children, youth, and adults with intellectual disabilities through Community Living Essex County.
- S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise – Our next Caregiver Support Group is November 6 from 10-11:30, there is a virtual option, the topic will be FASD and Sexuality.
- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – Parents/Guardians/Caregivers, supporting children/students with Autism may find these new resources valuable. Links will be shared with the Special Education Department to share with staff.
 - [The Individual Education Plan \(IEP\): A Plan for Student Success](#)
 - [The Identification, Placement and Review Committee \(IPRC\): 5 Steps to the IPRC Meeting](#)
 - [The Identification, Placement and Review Committee \(IPRC\): What it is and Why it Matters](#)
 - [Tips for Better School Communication and Collaboration](#)
 - [Steps to Navigating School Communication: Who to Talk and When](#)
 - Transform Your Classroom: Tips for Creating a Neuro-Affirming Learning Environment (*coming soon!*)

The 2023-2024 Annual Report: <https://www.autismontario.com/about-us/annual-and-financial-reports>.

Webinar: Aligning Communication IEP Goals for Academic Success is available on-demand at <https://bit.ly/3M6LxQh>.

10. Distribution

There was no distribution.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.



NEXT MEETING, November 13, 2024

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

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)