

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at the Administration Office.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Connie Buckler, Trustee
Suzane Kovac, Parents for Children's Mental Health
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Jan Matte-Gasparovic, Autism Ontario
Judy Kraemer, Canadian Hearing Society

BOARD PERSONNEL

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent
Tracey Rillet, OPC Elementary Representative
Chris Mil2 y, Home and School Associations
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association
Beth Cook, Indigenous Community – FNMI (no longer on the SEAC committee)
Melissa Debryne, OPC Secondary Representative
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health

ABSENT

Susan Smith, Community Living

RECORDER

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

C. Buckler informed the committee that there were vacancies for the Brain Injury Association and Indigenous Community on the SEAC committee.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Kim McKinley

Seconded by: Mary-Ann Fuduric

That SEAC approve the agenda for September 11, 2018.

The motion was carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Kim McKinley

Seconded by: Mary-Ann Fuduric

That SEAC approve the revised minutes for June 12, 2018.

The motion was carried

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

C. Buckler – reflective of the letter that we were waiting for K. Wilson to give us the go ahead to send. It now has to be sent as making the Ministry aware of the issues with keeping students out of school for safety/absence/exclusion reasons. J. Matte-Gasparovic gave a copy of the letter to S. Kovac (alternate for K. Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health). C. Buckler read the letter to the committee. The committee had previously approved

Motion to send letter to Ministry

Moved: J. Matte-Gasparovic

Seconded: S. Kovac

The motion was carried

C. Buckler introduced M. Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services, and C. Mills, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services and welcomed them to their new positions.

5. Exclusion Information – Dr. S. Pyke

Dr. Pyke welcomed everyone back to another school year. She then handed out the draft Exclusion Information pamphlet to the members of the committee. Dr. Pyke asked for input from the committee. She left the pamphlet with them to read over and discuss at the next SEAC meeting. Dr. Pyke took suggestions from the committee but will wait until they have had time to read over the material thoroughly. The committee members will send their feedback to M. Wilcox and he will forward the information to S. Pyke.

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6. Special Education Update

M. Wilcox is waiting on further information from the Ministry of Education regarding Connections. We still have 3 students in the program. These students are getting full support from Thames Valley and they also have Board supports.

We are entering into our 3rd year of Reading Intervention, Ministry of Education Research Project. At the end of year 2, the Empower program has had significant direct and indirect impact on the students. We are seeing amazing results emotionally and academically. The program focuses on Grade 3 students. DRA scores are used in measuring progress. Each student receives 60 minutes per day (110 lessons). Students are taking the skills and strategies back to the classroom. Empower is in all of our elementary schools, supported by the LST. Training is provided to LSTs who are new to Empower. We are also piloting Lexia (computer based program). It tracks student progress and identifies when students are struggling. Lexia is targeted to grade 2 and 3 students. All elementary schools have Lexia licenses.

The STRIVE symposium

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M. Wilcox – The Brain Injury Association felt that since they had mostly adult clients, the SEAC committee did not fully represent this group.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Connie Buckler, Chairperson
Special Education Advisory Committee

Mike Wilcox, Administrative Liaison
Special Education Advisory Committee