

**UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

2011 05 11

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph.

The following Association Members were present: Kim Brenner, Parents for Children's Mental Health-Wellington County, Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Beth Haworth, Community Member at Large, Patricia Hlushko, Autism Ontario-Wellington County (Alternate), Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC), Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, and Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders).

Present from Staff were: Sue Adams, Special Education Consultant, Heather Boswell, Superintendent of Program, Lesley Anne Jordan, Special Education Consultant, Chris Kay, Elementary Principal, Martha Rogers, Director of Education, Sandra Szpular, Collaborative Projects Lead/Special Education Coordinator, Bonnie Talbot, Principal of Program, Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance as well as Trustees Linda Busuttil, Marty Fairbairn, and Jennifer Waterston.

The following SEAC members sent regrets: Pauline Busby, Community Living Guelph-Wellington, Heather Clemmer, Easter Seals Ontario, Stephen Gayfer, Secondary Vice-Principal, Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, and Katie Vanderyt, VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision.

Laurie Whyte called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Jennifer Waterston

That the agenda of the May 11, 2011 meeting be approved with changes in the order of items 3, 4 and 5 to be presented.

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sue Shaw requested the following addition under the Community Experience for Students in Secondary Developmental Disability Programs presentation. "That Sue Shaw inquired about the numbers of students taking part in community work experience placements."

Moved by Marty Fairbairn

That the minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 2011 be approved with this addition.

The motion carried.

### **COMMUNITY AGENCY FEEDBACK FROM THE DR. ROSS GREENE COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING PRESENTATION**

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Brenda Courtney, Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI) Liaison provided an overview of this initiative which is funded through the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Child and Youth Services and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, her role, the work that has been done through forums in Wellington and Dufferin counties and the key priorities identified.

The first phase of the SSLI provided the funding for the Dr. Ross Greene – Collaborative Problem Solving presentation in January 2011. The slide Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) outlines the strength and research based, school, home and therapeutic context items, as well as promoting a common language/approach and aligning with other therapeutic modalities. The Community Partners involved were referred to and one of the many counselling/intervention modalities reviewed. The model created showing Beyond Consequences, Collaborative Problem Solving and Strengths Assessment Inventory can be used to align the models used with approaches. The challenges and opportunities, next steps, in-services provided to school staff through the Upper Grand DSB and Dufferin Child & Family Services was shared as was webinars and lunch 'n learns that some school staff have attended.

Sue Shaw inquired whether parents had been consulted in the creation of this plan and asked for clarification as the model appeared very therapeutic. Brenda responded that parents were not consulted and explained that it is routed in the teaching of skills which supports the application by parents and teachers.

Following an inquiry from Jennifer Waterston, the schools involved to date and the training provided were referenced. Heather Boswell reminded SEAC of the *Lost At School* book purchased for elementary and secondary schools, the work done through the Behaviour Interventionist – Child & Youth Counsellors and, the data being gathered from CYC's following the Collaborative Problem Solving presentation.

Sharon Dills asked about any plans in place to measure the success. Brenda replied they felt it was a little early to be evaluated.

### **2011-2012 BUDGET**

Martha Rogers, Director of Education and Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance, attended the meeting to share the 2011-2012 budget information and began by explaining the timelines around the budget process. SEAC members were made aware that the Budget will be presented on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and an opportunity to delegate the Board may be provided on June 13<sup>th</sup>. This is two days prior to the June 15<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting date.

Janice Wright referred to the handouts provided this evening. The first is the March 31,

2011, 2011: B3 memo entitled "Education Funding for 2011-12" which provides information about the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The Ministry also provides a projection of the revenue to be allocated to publicly funded boards. Information is then provided to boards on how to calculate the funds each board will receive.

The Overview, Enhancements for Peace and Progress in Education which include the Provincial Discussion Table agreements (PDT), and Enhancements to Keep Up With Costs were reviewed. Attention was drawn to the Reforms and Refinements to the GSN which is based on the demographics of families in boards and how this translates into our grants on a per pupil basis to address this. Changes to the funding for students enrolled in Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) for 2011-12 were also noted as was the transportation for full day learning which is included in the GSN. The information outlined in the Efficiency and Savings Measures refer to the previously announced savings measures, as well as those starting in 2011-12.

The March 31, 2011, 2011: B4 memo entitled "Funding in addition to Grants for Student Needs" outlines the projected funding outside the GSN for initiatives provided for through Education Programs – Other (EPO). Janice shared the amount of EPO funding our board has been allocated for each of the initiatives contained in the memo. Noted were some initiatives that were previously EPO and have now been moved inside the GSN (i.e. the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Facilitator position).

Sue Shaw asked for clarification around 7-12 Differentiated Instruction Professional Learning Strategy. Bonnie Talbot and Martha Rogers responded that OFIP – Schools in the Middle for K-6 is funded through the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat (LNS) and Grades 7-12 Differentiated Instruction is funded through Student Success. Both have been incorporated into the Student Achievement branch of the Ministry of Education and are working toward similar ends. The principles outlined in *Learning For All* apply to all ministry initiatives K-12.

Laurie Whyte inquired as to how the funds allocated to aboriginal education are used aside from the information contained in the memo. Martha Rogers mentioned that we have added credit courses in Native Studies at the secondary level. Janice Wright will contact Donna Gerber, our Equity Officer, Aboriginal Focus for further information.

Janice Wright spoke about the allocation information compiled in the 2011-12 Projections/Comparisons – Neighbouring Boards and Boards of Comparable Size charts. It was noted that the Foundation Grant the Upper Grand DSB will receive, as well as the Special Education Grant, are both less than the provincial average. There are a number of components to these calculations which accounts for the difference, including historical allocations based on ISA. When reviewing the Foundation Grant, which is based on a per pupil amount, explanation was provided around the declining enrolment adjustment for boards.

Martha Rogers compared the number of students currently enrolled in the Upper Grand DSB to the projected number of students for 2011-12. We are expecting a decline of 338 students for 2011-12. This will result in less funding for the board since our revenue is based on our enrolment.

Martha Rogers explained that the information being shared this evening is still in draft form and will be shared with trustees on June 6<sup>th</sup>. They will then have opportunity for discussion. Delegations regarding the budget will be heard on June 13<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that trustees will give final budget approval at the June 28th Board Meeting.

The projected changes pertaining to special education for 2011-12 include: a decrease in the number of self contained classes at the elementary level and an increase in the number of secondary classes for students with a developmental disability. We will be hiring an additional Itinerant Technology Resource Teacher and an Itinerant Special Education Teacher - Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The number of Educational Assistant and Special Program Assistants allocated to special education has not been reduced. Superintendent Boswell has requested additional Educational Assistants for 2011-12 which will be considered following the review of the revenue and expenditures.

The number of Early Childhood Educators (ECE) will be increased as five more schools will be offering Full Day Kindergarten in the fall. There are no changes to the allocations for the Professional and Para Professional groups.

A budget proposal is also under consideration that would increase ESL support at the secondary level for students outside the Guelph area.

### **PROVINCIAL FULL DAY LEARNING, EXTENDED DAY – SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY FEE**

Trustee Linda Busutil referred to the correspondence distributed to SEAC members pertaining to the provincial full day learning, extended day - special education family fee that was first discussed at SEAC in September 2010.

The extended day before and after school program fees include a special education per diem for all families. Parents with children in not-for-profit recreation or child care programs could apply for funding through the Ministry of Child & Youth Services, however this funding is not available to parents of children in school board before and after school programs. The Upper Grand DSB has written to Premier, Dalton McGuinty, regarding the fact that our board does not feel there should be a special education fee included for before and after school programs.

Linda is going to be attending meetings with community agencies around this topic and will share further information pertaining to this at the June SEAC meeting. At that time, SEAC members can discuss whether this is an issue SEAC would like to address.

## **THE SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT**

Sandra Szpular, Special Education Coordinator/Collaborative Projects Lead reviewed the Special Education Report items which have been revised following review at the April meeting. The Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings is being revised and will be shared at the June SEAC meeting. The Transportation, the Board's SEAC and the Coordination of Services with Other Ministries or Agencies was reviewed this evening.

Attention was drawn to the memo from the Ministry of Education entitled *Instructions Regarding School Boards'/School Authorities' Reports on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services, 2011*. This memo outlines the items required to be part of the Report and made available for public and Ministry access by September 1, 2011.

Suggestions for changes to the Transportation and Special Education Staff information were noted and revisions will be made. The recent changes made will be incorporated into the draft Special Education Report before being forwarded to SEAC members and then posted on the website.

Laurie Whyte requested that SEAC Association members provide a summary of the past year on SEAC. This would include any items/issues pertaining to each association during the meetings this year. This information is to be forwarded to Donna Glodziak by June 7, 2011.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Patricia Hlushko noted that Autism Ontario is hosting a presentation for people with Social and Communication problems on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Oakville Conference Centre. The Autism Ontario website contains an active link to the Wellington Chapter.

Sharon Dills reported that the LDAO Newsletter is expected shortly and also reminded everyone of the DVD series that is continuing. LDAO is currently planning for their educational events for next year.

Kim Brenner spoke about the Parents for Children's Mental Health Convention that was recently held. This was partnered with the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention and featured Elizabeth Manley as a guest speaker.

Laurie Whyte reported on the Provincial Conference held in Toronto noting this was well attended. Laurie coordinated the youth panel. The Action Committee has put together a FASD Resource Booklet which has been distributed to community agencies. A few copies were provided to Sandra Szpular.

### **UPDATES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PROGRAM**

Heather Boswell referred to the article that was distributed this evening entitled "Celebrate, encourage and become learners together". This article was written by Sandra Szpular at the request of the Dufferin Parent Support Network (DPSN) and appeared in the May 4<sup>th</sup> Orangeville Banner.

Special Olympics is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> and will be held at St. James Catholic School in Guelph. The rain date is May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Special Olympics Pep Rally was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Staff from the Special Education Department attended the Pep Rally and Dr. Martha Rogers was one of the guest speakers.

Interviews will be held for the additional Itinerant Technology Resource Teacher. The Itinerant Special Education Teacher – Deaf and Hard of Hearing position is being posted.

Work is continuing around the Educational Assistant Allocations for 2011-12. Special Education Consultants are continuing to meet with schools to review their target allocations.

Due to March break, SEAC will meet on March 7, 2012.

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Marty Fairbairn reported that he and Trustee Bailey will be attending the Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health being held in Toronto on June 2, 2011.

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

The June SEAC Meeting agenda items will include: Learning Disability Technology Resource Program update, Shift in Service - Deaf and Hard of Hearing, School Food & Beverage Policy as it applies to secondary food school programs, further information from Trustee Busuttill regarding the Provincial Full Day Learning, Extended Day – Special Education Family Fee and the Special Education Report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Marty Fairbairn that the meeting be adjourned at 9:33 p.m.  
The motion carried.