

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2010 12 08

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph. The following were present:

Association Members

Kim Brenner, Parents for Children's Mental Health-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
Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders)

Staff

Heather Boswell, Superintendent of Program
Chris Kay, Elementary Principal
Sandra Szpular, Collaborative Projects Lead/Special Education Coordinator
Bonnie Talbot, Principal of Program

Trustees

Linda Busuttil
Jennifer Waterston

Other

John Potocska, OSSTF District 18

Regrets

Sue Adams, Special Education Consultant
Bonnie Burgess, Coordinator of Speech & Language Services
Pauline Busby, Community Living Guelph Wellington
Stephen Gayfer, Secondary Vice-Principal
Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County
Katie Vanderyt – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

Superintendent of Program, Heather Boswell, presided and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Kim Brenner
That the agenda of the December 8, 2010 meeting be approved.
The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Laurie Whyte
That the minutes of the meeting held on November 10, 2010 be approved.
The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEMBERS

Action

At the organizational meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board held on December 7, 2010, the following motion "THAT the following representatives of associations and the community be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee effective December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2014" was reviewed and carried.

Heather Boswell read the names of the representatives of associations and the community as well as, the names of the Trustees of the Upper Grand District School Board - Special Education Advisory Committee for the four-year term ending November 30, 2014 listed below:

Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC); Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Patricia Hlushko (Alternate); Pauline Busby, Community Living Guelph Wellington; Heather Clemmer, Easter Seals Ontario; Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders); Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County; Kim Brenner, Parents for Children's Mental Health-Wellington County; Katie Vanderyt, VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision; Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Greg Parker (Alternate); Beth Haworth, Community Member at Large - Community Care Access Centre; Trustee Marty Fairbairn and Trustee Jennifer Waterston.

ELECTION OF CHAIR OF SEAC

Sandra Szpular and Bonnie Talbot were named as scrutineers, if required.

Heather Boswell called for nominations for the position of Chair of SEAC for the period of December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011.

Kim Brenner nominated Laurie Whyte as Chair of SEAC. The nomination was seconded by Stacey Stevens.

Jennifer Waterston moved that nominations for Chair be closed.
The motion carried.

Laurie Whyte was declared Chair of SEAC for the period of December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011.

Laurie Whyte took over the Chair position and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF SEAC

Laurie Whyte called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of SEAC for the period of December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011.

Jennifer Waterston nominated Jason Offer as Vice-Chair of SEAC. The nomination was seconded by Kim Brenner.

Laurie Whyte moved that nominations for Vice-Chair be closed.
The motion carried.

Jason Offer was declared Vice-Chair of SEAC for the period of December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011.

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Sandra Szpular, Coordinator of Special Education referred to the feedback received and revisions made to the Special Education Placements provided by the Board and the Supporting Transitions sections of the Special Education Report. The changes made were included in the handout that was distributed this evening. These changes will be posted on the Upper Grand DBS website.

To provide greater clarity, a few of the revisions highlighted were the inclusion of the five categories of special education placements and additional information added to the requirements for placement (gifted and developmental disability programs). The information under Other Specialized Supports has been reviewed and minor changes have been made. Stacey Stevens commented that perhaps information regarding placements for Upper Grand DSB students who are deaf or hard of hearing that are currently attending the Waterloo Board could be added to this section. Clarification was provided about the supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders noting that students are reviewed on an individual basis. The Supporting Transitions section has been revised to include the transition team members who are typically involved in transition meetings at each level. Transition planning was an area of focus at the December 1, Resource Teacher Inservice.

Jason Offer noted that a glossary and links to the Ministry of Education's website in the Special Education Report would be helpful.

Member feedback was requested regarding the Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities, as well as, the Educational Assistant Staffing information contained in the Special Education Report.

The Ministry of Education's definitions of exceptionalities were reviewed. Also reviewed were the Guidelines for Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) used by our board and the required documentation schools are to provide to the special education department prior to the student being presented at an IPRC meeting.

Following discussion about information or documentation that parents may like presented as part of the IPRC package, suggestion was made to add wording which

outlines the process that takes place prior to a student being put forward for an IPRC.

Laurie Whyte commented on the fact that children diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are often identified as behaviour under the Ministry's definitions of exceptionalities and recommended that an explanation be added to the IPRC notes.

The Educational Assistant Staffing for Special Education information has been reviewed and minor revisions have been made for clarity. A link to the Educational Assistant/Staffing for Special Education Policy is contained in the Special Education Report. Heather Boswell commented that Educational Assistants (EA) are allocated to schools after reviewing the needs of each school keeping in mind the finite resources we have available. The EA Allocations are reviewed formally three times per year. We try to make as few changes as possible throughout the year.

Following questions of clarification from Laurie Whyte and Sue Shaw, it was suggested that the role of the Educational Assistant and the Transitional Educational Assistant be outlined in this section of the report.

The suggested changes to these sections will be incorporated and presented at the January SEAC Meeting prior to being posted on the website.

CARING AND SAFE SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO – SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS THROUGH PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE, KINGERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 DOCUMENT

Sandra Szpular provided background about the *Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario* document that was distributed at the September SEAC Meeting and the summary provided this evening.

This document is intended to be a resource document to assist school leaders with supporting students with special education needs in a "caring and safe school culture". It was presented at the Principal/Vice-Principal meetings in November at which time four different scenarios were presented to groups. Questions pertaining to the approaches/resources recommended, approaches used in the Upper Grand DSB schools and issues raised by each scenario were discussed

Sandra referred to the recommendations and examples of practices and resources (found in Chapter 4) that are being promoted in the Upper Grand DSB (i.e. direct teaching of social skills). Sandra Szpular also noted that Dr. Ross Greene will be presenting to staff in our Board on January 6, 2011. This is being funded through the Student Support Leadership Initiative.

As a follow-up to the roll out session of the *Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario* document Sandra Szpular attended, she will be providing a report to the Ministry indicating how our board is using this document.

OPEN FORUM

Kim Brenner mentioned that Parents for Children's Mental Health was featured in the November issue of Today's Parent magazine and voted one of the top resource sites for parents raising children with mental health issues. Rise Up for Boys & Girls (ages 8-12 yrs old) is being offered on January 29, 2011 (boys session) and February 12, 2011 (girls session).

Jason Offer referred to a book he picked up at the Learning Fair from Planned Lifetime Advocacy Networks entitled *Safe and Secure - Six steps to creating a good life for people with disabilities*. A copy of this book can be obtained through plnwwow@gmail.com

Patricia Hlushko requested feedback about the committee set up around Autism Spectrum Disorders last year. Sandra Szpular noted that the recommendations made by that committee were presented at the SEAC meeting last spring and have been implemented.

Beth Haworth reported that they are planning for Margaret Abbink's retirement party at the Community Care Access Centre which will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2010.

Laurie Whyte read a thank-you card she received from Margaret Abbink. Laurie has copies of Educational Practices Summaries from FASD and Respite Summaries for anyone interested. Laurie thanked the board staff who travelled to attend the Nathan Ory presentation. Although the presentation was cancelled, there were handouts provided for those interested.

UPDATES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PROGRAM

Heather Boswell spoke about the clarification requested around parental attendance at Consultant Support Team (CST) meetings following the *Obtaining Verbal Consent for Consultant Support Team Meetings* information presented at the November meeting. This has been discussed with some principals and it has been decided that if parents would like to attend the CST meeting, they would be included. Noted was that the CST meetings are meant to be short capacity building type meetings with staff (i.e. a brainstorming session) and therefore differ from a Case Conference type meeting. The Case Conference meeting would include discussion about the plan of care for the child.

The Kiwanis Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for December 9, 2010. Heather referenced a video created by the staff from J.F. Ross CVI. She will bring this to a future SEAC Meeting.

The Special Education Class Placement day is scheduled for January 11, 2011.

Laurie Whyte referred to the DVD she received from the Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee (PAAC). She will review this and bring it to a future meeting. Stacey Stevens will forward PAAC on SEAC information for distribution to the members.

Stacey
Stevens/
Donna
Glodziak

TRUSTEE REPORT

Jennifer Waterston referred to the Organizational Meeting of the Upper Grand DSB held on December 7, 2010. Bob Borden was acclaimed Chair and Linda Busuttil was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Board for the period of December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011. Marty Fairbairn is Chair of Business/Operations Committee and Susan Moziar is Chair of Program Committee.

Our SEAC Trustees for the four-year term are Jennifer Waterston and Marty Fairbairn.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kim Brenner that the meeting be adjourned at 9:04 p.m.
The motion carried.

:dg