

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2015

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph.

The following Association Members were present: Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC, Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario)

Present from Staff were: Trudy Counter, Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Services, Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program, Cheryl Van Ooteghem, Principal of Program, Jacqueline Foster, Special Education Coordinator, Special Education Consultants; Lesley Anne Jordan, Mark Howe,

Trustees Present: Bruce Schieck, Linda Busutil

Regrets: Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada, Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Carole Craig, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Jeni Vaughan, Vice-Principal, Christine Kay, Principal, Carla Anderson, Special Education Consultant

Absent: Dr. Mary Susan Crawford, Chief Psychologist, Special Education Consultants: Jackie Speers, Carla Anderson, Naomi Theodor, Ben McCabe, Kathy Green

Carrie Proudfoot, Special Education Advisory Committee Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda June 10, 2015

Bruce Schieck moved that the agenda of June 10, 2015 meeting be approved. Sharon, Dills, seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2015

Jason Offer requested that the presentation material from Superintendent Talbot's presentation at the May SEAC meeting be uploaded to the SEAC folder as indicated in the minutes. Presentation uploaded to folder during meeting.

Bruce Schieck moved that the minutes be received with the requested change. Sue Shaw seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

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Action Items

Tracey Lindsay reviewed the Action Items chart and provided updates from the May 13, 2015 meeting.

- Guidelines for Integrated Transition Plans – the IEP Engine now contains a separate section for Integrated Transition Planning. Community Developmental Services Tables have asked for bi-annual reports on the number of Integrated Transition Plans created (e.g. Requirement by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services). This information will be gathered by Agencies doing Service Coordination for youth with developmental disabilities. As of April 2105, 100% of students 16 and over with developmental disabilities had transition plans. By the end of June, the number of Integrated Transition Plans as reported by Service Coordination Agencies should be available.
- Annual Review of UGDSB Special Education Plan – final draft of Plan and Report will be reviewed in tonight's meeting. Minor changes required. Final version will be posted on website and submitted to Ministry for July deadline.
- VTRA and Statistic Presentation will occur in September 2015
- Investigate Google Hangout for SEAC meetings – Tracey Lindsay has approached IT department with this request again. IT is looking at options and this Action Item will be revisited in fall 2015.
- Dispute Resolution – Staff has put together the process and shared it on Google docs. Once it is approved, it will be included in the IEP Guide and the Special Education Report which is being sent to the Ministry. Final version will be posted on Board website
- Pro Grant application has been completed and sign by Dr. Martha Rogers. Committee is waiting for approval notification.
- FASD Data collection mechanism to be researched

Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed and no action required at this meeting.

Student Success @ ODSS

Carlo Zen, Student Success Lead thanked the committee for the opportunity to present at SEAC meeting. He explained that there are a number of initiatives supported by Student Success that are available to students.

Darryl Kirkland Principal of Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS), introduced the presentation explaining that this is a snapshot of his school. There are 1,300 students attending school and 30% of the school population are identified students. He explained that Dufferin County has high mental health needs. Today, there are systems and programs in place to assist these students.

The Student Success goals are: for all students to learn to their potential; and to understand by design.

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Darryl Kirkland explained that a team works with the student and gathers their information. The family, the classroom teacher or anyone that works with the student is included in this process. They create a plan and build a support system. Once the plan is set, the team constantly checks in with the student adjusting strategies or making any necessary changes. Communication is important for everyone involved.

The COPE program which supports mental health issues or illness was initiated by an English teacher several years ago. In the COPE program, art based therapy helps the student to articulate how they are feeling. Sometimes a teacher will refer a student to this program if they feel it will benefit the student. Other programs available include Dual Credits (in partnership with Humber College and Georgian College), Re-Engagement Dual Credit Program (with Conestoga College) and the Dual Credit Program (with Conestoga, Georgian and Humber Colleges). Case studies were presented to SEAC indicating the success of the programs.

Power point presentation is available on UGCloud, in June SEAC meeting information folder.

Strategies for Inclusion

Tracey Lindsay introduced Kelly Meisner, of the Waterloo District School Board. She is also a member of the Integration Action for Inclusion Association (IAI). She thanked SEAC for the invitation to present. Kelly Meisner explained the definition of inclusion; it means to include everyone, everywhere, all the time. She commented that this is not easy to do.

Kelly Meisner was devastated when her daughter was diagnosed with Angleman's Syndrome. This is a complex genetic disorder that primarily affects the nervous system. Her daughter's motor and communication skills were delayed and she has complex needs. She uses a device to help with sentence organization which enables her to vocalize her thoughts.

Kelly Meisner joined IAI and has advocated for integration of these children into the classroom. Several school boards have joined to bring this forward. These students learn by modelling their peers and some behaviours change as they realize what is acceptable. The teacher's experience is enhanced as they learn new ways of relating to the students. Imperfect inclusion is better than perfect segregation.

Sue Shaw thanked Kelly Meisner for her presentation. Cheryl Van Ooteghem commented that she is looking forward to Kelly Meisner presenting to the elementary principals.

Special Needs Strategies

Trudy Counter provided a general overview of the Special Needs Strategy (SNS). The concept behind SNS was derived from stakeholder engagement work completed in 2012 between Tracey MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and parents/caregivers of young people with special needs as well as service providers. Their

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feedback identified that families of children and youth with special needs, including physical, developmental and/or communications needs, can have difficulties receiving services in a timely and coordinated way. Their feedback also informed recommendations about how to address the gaps and barriers they identified. This strategy, which involves province-wide systemic change for the provision of service delivery to children and youth with complex and multiple needs, was launched in 2014. This committee meets every Wednesday afternoon since November 7, 2014 in order to work towards accomplishing their required outcomes.

Dufferin-Wellington's upcoming Tasks:

- Given their imposed timelines, they have just begun to explore how they would conceptualize the integrated delivery of rehabilitation services and will continue to work on this through the upcoming months.
- They are awaiting further information from the Ministries with respect to the Developmental Screening Tool they are developing.
- Integrated delivery of rehabilitation services proposal development will be completed in the fall.

Don Richardson (IAI) questioned if there were outcome measurements. Trudy Counter responded that these have not been established. They are working as a local community to determine the measurements. This will be part of the implementation plan. Ministry has specific goals/deliverables that they are asking for UGDSB to provide.

Presentation material is on UGCloud, June 2015 meeting information folder.

Special Education Plan and Report

The draft Special Education Plan and Report were posted on Google Docs for SEAC's review prior to the meeting. Tracey Lindsay implemented the changes that were colour coded from the previous SEAC meeting into the Plan. Feedback from SEAC and topics from the Report were incorporated. Board Improvement Plan is still in draft form.

Tracey Lindsay outlined the Special Education Plan goals for 2015-16 that were referenced in the Special Education Report. The Report details what we accomplished this year and provides new items that will be completed next year. A new goal has been added: Review the UGDSB SEAC Meeting model and Mission to better reflect the Ministry of Education's Reg. 464. Don Richardson asked how do we know if we have accomplished the goals. Tracey Lindsay commented that while we have made significant changes and improvements on the goals there is still room for improvement as communication with parents continues to need improvements. Don Richardson asked if this could be built into a goal. How would this look like and how do we know it is working? Tracey Lindsay will be meeting with the Chair of SEAC through the summer to set goals. Previous survey did not generate anticipated results. Linda Busutil has met with University of Guelph for options. Tracey Lindsay suggested an Ad Hoc committee to bring this forward.

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Draft Dispute Resolution

Tracey Lindsay thanked Don Richardson for providing the team with examples of Dispute Resolutions. Other Boards in the province use similar wording. Parents will have a process to follow if there is discord. Links in the document are provided for additional information. Carrie Proudfoot asked if a line could be added to indicate contact name and number of the Special Education Consultant for the school. Tracey Lindsay responded that the number for the Special Education Department be added. This information will be put into the final format and included in the Parent Guide.

Sue Shaw questioned whether we could add more items to the SEAC Roles and Responsibilities in the Special Education Plan 2015-2016. Tracey Lindsay responded that we will work on this definition for the next Plan but would include this wording.

Ministry of Education wording:

Roles and Responsibilities

A SEAC

- May make recommendations to the district school board or school authority respecting matters affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board.
- Is provided with the opportunity to participate in the annual review of the board's [Special Education Plan](#).
- Participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to special education.
- Reviews the financial statements of the board as they relate to special education.

Open Forum

Don Richardson (Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario)) – AGM was well attended in Barrie. Association making plans for next year. Workshops are available.

No other updates.

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

- Special Olympics Track and Field day at St. James was a great success
- Guidelines for Integrated Transition Plans – the IEP Engine now contains a separate section for Integrated Transition Planning. Community Developmental Services Tables have asked for bi-annual reports on the number of Integrated Transition Plans created (e.g. Requirement by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services). This information will be gathered by Agencies doing Service Coordination for youth with developmental disabilities. As of April 2105, 100% of students 16 and over with developmental disabilities had transition plans. By the end of June, the number of Integrated Transition Plans as reported by Service Coordination Agencies should be available.

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Trustee Report

Bruce Schieck – Report cards will not be distributed due to Labour negotiations. Special Olympics Track and Field was well attended.

Meeting Summary, Recommendation(s), Motions(s) and Action(s)

- Add to the SEAC Roles and Responsibilities in the Special Education Plan 2015-2016 and if possible add measurement of success in the new goals
- Dispute Resolution – add a line to show number for parents to call
- Survey – Linda Busuttill to contact University of Guelph for options

Other

Tracey Lindsay thanked Jacqueline Foster for her hard work as Special Education Coordinator.

Adjournment

Jason Offer motioned for adjournment of meeting at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Bruce Schieck.

The motion carried.