

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2014

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph.

The following Association Members were present: Jennifer Waterston, Trustee, Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC, Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada, Beth Haworth, Community Member-at-Large

Present from Staff were: Trudy Counter, Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Services, Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program, Jacqueline Foster, Special Education Coordinator, Cheryl Van Ooteghem, Principal of Program, Christine Kay, Principal, Special Education Consultants; Carla Anderson, Mark Howe, Kathy Green

Present from Public: Carole Craig, John Potocska

Regrets: Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Pauline Busby, Community Living Guelph-Wellington, Sandra Roberts, Vice-Principal, Marty Fairbairn, Trustee

Absent: Special Education Consultants, Naomi Theodor, Jackie Speers, Ben McCabe

Laurie Whyte, acting Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Quorum was decided and Carole Craig was welcomed but will not have voting privileges.

Approval of Agenda

Jennifer Waterston moved that the Agenda of October 8, 2014 meeting be approved.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Don Richardson moved that the minutes of the meeting held on September 10, 2014 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

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Review of Action Items

The Action Chart was updated and there was discussion regarding open items, updated items, and new items. Refer to attached Action Items Chart.

Discussion regarding the following items:

- Guidance from Ministry regarding what the Board requires for the Special Education Report and Plan. Clarification: The Chair is to draft a letter to Ministry for guidelines.
- Planning of activities should support all students that do extracurricular activities. Plan field trips considering all accommodations and include the venues with these considerations.
- A question on the Parent Survey regarding Field trips will be added to monitor the concern about accessible field trips will be an ongoing item.
- IEP Information Meeting for Parents: Tracey Lindsay and Jacqueline Foster met with Brent McDonald, Superintendent of Information Technology to discuss the possibility of partnering with the Digital Saturday. Parents would be exposed to the technology that their students are utilizing. These workshops, in Dufferin and Wellington, would be held in the morning. Sharon Dills commented that bigger presentations may not work for families due to childcare issues. How would this be managed? Several possibilities discussed included volunteers providing child care. Volunteers could potentially be high school students using the hours for their volunteer time. Older students would participate in the workshop so they have the opportunity to learn about IEPs.
- Accommodations and modifications should allow parent feedback. Parents and teachers are the ones that work on the IEP. Sue Shaw commented that this is not what happens at the school. SERTS are the ones that do this. Jaqueline Foster is working to have the teacher complete this. Sue Shaw has concerns that the correct information is inputted into the IEPs. Tracey Lindsay responded that this will be an open item.
- SERT roles draft document will be provided to SEAC for review
- Safety forms were introduced at the Family of Schools meeting. The message is very clear; no behaviour contracts.
- Tracey Lindsay and Jaqueline Foster will be attending the Ministry meeting regarding direction and guidance of PPM8. Any information gathered will be brought to the next SEAC meeting.
- Jason Offer indicated that he has compiled half of the survey data into a comprehensive report. Tracey Lindsay thanked Jason for his quick attention.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education (FNMI)

Colinda Clyne, Curriculum Leader, Equity and FNMI thanked SEAC for their invitation. In her introduction she gave thanks to the first peoples on UGDSB land. She provided some history regarding the territory that the Upper Grand District School Board resides on. Part of our provincial funding was used to design a FNMI logo for our Board. It signifies motion - moving forward.

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The Upper Grand District School Board has developed an Implementation Plan for Ontario First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework. It lists the ministry and school board implementation strategies and actions in four areas:

- Using data to support student achievement
- Supporting students
- Supporting educators
- Engagement and awareness building

A key element is self-identification. In October 2014, 340 students have self-identified as FNMI. This is important as funding is tied to the number of FNMI students and also for completion of the individual. There is a lot of stigma related to FNMI and this will help to break the stereo-type of Métis, First Nations and Inuit. Posters are hung in schools to start interest in FNMI and start the conversation. Colinda Clyne will be taking a few students to the Dream Walkers conference on October 15 and 16. This is the first time that the Upper Grand District School Board has participated.

Trends are being examined based on the number of students with IEPs. There are 34,295 students in the Board with 5,185 with IEPs which is 15% of students. For FNMI, there are 340 students and 93 with IEPs which is 27% of the students. EQAO results of Grade 6 writing show that 70% of the board meet the provincial standard while the FNMI show 47% that meet the provincial standard.

There are two new courses being offered this year for FNMI: Grade 9 Art and Grade 11 English Aboriginal Voices. We are building capacity in teachers by providing traditional teachings with visiting Elders at University of Guelph, sharing of best practices and resources, holding Elementary PD sessions October 21 & 28 and using a new resource, Turtle Island Voices in class. The FNMI Advisory Committee has been restarted. This supports bringing elders and traditional knowledge keepers into the classroom on ongoing basis. Michael Cywink, an Aboriginal Artist interacted with Ottawa Crescent students in painting five murals. This activity was used to engage students and build awareness of FNMI.

The Board Improvement Plan will include culturally relevant materials to increase understanding of aboriginal cultures and strengthen community ties. Provincial grant money is available and Colinda Clyne will partner with the Wellington Catholic School Board and Upper Grand District School Board for this funding.

Plans for 2014-2015 include:

- Resources in schools with higher FNMI populations
- Support for Grade 10 history field trip to Mohawk Institute
- Two day First Peoples' Heritage Festival with art show
- Anti-oppression training, including some training time for administration
- Elders and traditional knowledge keepers in the classes regularly, especially schools with higher FNMI populations
- PD sessions including how to support art show
- Joint NS teachers PLC with Wellington Catholic in semester two

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Teachings encompass the mind, body, spirit and heart connections. In two feather teaching, you gift the person you spend time with. We are not always the teacher; we are learning as much from the student.

Carrie Proudfoot questioned why you would tell parents to self-identify. What are they being told about self-identifying? Colinda Clyne responded that we do not. The conversation is usually started with the posters in the schools. Self-identification helps students to connect with their heritage.

Sue Shaw asked if the new courses offered were only for First Nations. The Ministry is working to have courses available at other schools but at the present they are at Centennial CVI. Cheryl Van Ooteghem expressed her excitement at listening to the presentation again. It is a great opportunity to learn. Jennifer Waterston reiterated that she was very appreciative of the presentation.

Don Richardson has questions regarding Colinda Clyne's introduction and that the Upper Grand District School Board should recognize the First Nation traditional territories present across the Board's catchment area. Laurie Whyte asked that this discussion is for another table and it was not for discussion at SEAC.

Please go to www.ugcloud.ca, Google Drive, "Shared with Me", SEAC folder – October SEAC meeting information for presentation.

EQAO Results 2014

Cheryl Van Ooteghem introduced Andrew Cloutier and Heather Dyer for Elementary results and Laura Beal and Ian MacPherson for the Secondary results. Results do not reflect the hard work that the Board and teachers have put in.

Please go to www.ugcloud.ca, Google Drive, "Shared with Me", SEAC folder – October SEAC meeting information to view the results.

We are working hard at putting a plan in place to improve results. Tracey Lindsay commented that we are reviewing the data to find new ways to do learning. Sue Shaw asked if there was a better way to accommodate the levels and a more detailed explanation of the EQAO results. Sharon Dills responded that parents were questioning the IEP and if the accommodations were adhered to.

Sue Shaw commented that she has seen a very effective tool for improving literacy. The test is written one year prior and then in Grade 10. Laura Beal responded that EQAO is experimenting with a digital test for Grade 9 which will be optional for students.

The use of accommodations throughout the year and for EQAO was discussed. Sharon Dills asked why did students decline the accommodation on the test? How would this have

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affected the results when not using the accommodation? Ian MacPherson responded that secondary students do not want other students to know that they are using accommodations. Sharon Dills asked if there was a guideline for using accommodations when writing this test. Laura Beal responded that there is no time limit and they could write for the whole day.

The test is administered to all students. A goal of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement is to have special needs students score over 50%.

EA PD

EA training sessions will be on October 24, 2014:

- Behaviour management systems training
- Google for education UGCloud
- Retirement
- Nutrition
- Livescribe pens and iPads (Jen Apgar)
- Autism Syndrome Disorder (Kerry Wells, Elizabeth Benedetto will bring case studies)
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (Laurie Whyte)

Open Forum

Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, October is Learning Disabilities month. Learning Disabilities and Anxiety presentation is scheduled for October 20, at 7:00 p.m. Storm game tickets are being sold for learning disabilities.

Carrie Proudfoot (Autism Ontario-Wellington County) There is an Autism webinar, The Science of Making Friends on October 24, 2014.

Don Richardson (Integrated Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario)) Re launching website and holding workshops in spring 2015.

Laurie Whyte (FASworld Canada) LCBO held an awareness campaign on the FASday-September 9. Locally, Kitchener-Waterloo CBC held interviews with various social groups, police offices and support people to bring the awareness to the public.

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

FOS/HUB

New documents were distributed at the meetings.

- How Do We Support Students Who Struggle (teacher resource)
- Student Support & Program Services (overall department information)
- Policy, Process & Best Practices – Special Education (staff resource)
- Effective In-School Team (IST) & Consultant Supported Team (CST) Meetings (staff resource)

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Documents are available on the staff portal.

Carrie Proudfoot asked if a link to these documents could be published on the Board website and note the link to Facebook and Twitter. Tracey replied that we have asked for them to be on the new website.

Feedback to the booklets has been very positive. Sharon Dills asked who would attend the CST meetings? Is it possible for parents to be included? What are guidelines for parents to attend if we are looking for consistency? Jacqueline Foster responded that the SERTS are having meetings with the teacher and the teacher would have discussed the issues with the parents prior to these meetings. Tracey Lindsay commented that when the parents are invited to the meeting, this is a case conference. Sue Shaw responded that the parents are to be part of the CST meeting. This was discussed prior to Tracey Lindsay and Cheryl Van Ooteghem's involvement with SEAC. Parents want to be involved with the student needs for equipment. Tracey Lindsay responded that the equipment will not be part of the CST meeting.

Sandra Ellis and Trudy Counter will be representing the Board at the Ontario Special Strategy meeting on October 23, 2014. Trudy will provide a report at the November SEAC meeting.

Trustee Report

Reports are being done at the end of the term. Jennifer Waterston commented that the Mental Health update regarding suicide prevention at the Program meeting was very informative.

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

Jason Offer requested that the information from presenters be available before the meeting.

Adjournment

Jennifer Waterston moved that the Committee adjourn at 9:35 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.