

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph.

The following Association Members were present: Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC (teleconference); Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County; Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada; Sharon Dills, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington; Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children; Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County (Alternate); Member-at-Large, Monica Chamberlain

Present from Staff were: Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program; Wendy Donaldson, Assistant to the Superintendent of Program; Audra Cook, Secondary Vice-Principal; Chad Guyitt, Elementary Principal; Special Education Consultants, Mark Howe

Trustees Present: Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy, Martha MacNeil

Regrets: Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario); Member-at-Large, Michelle Watterson; MaryAnn Schouten, Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Services; Hayley Warren, Secondary Vice-Principal, Special Education Consultants, Kim Cozzolino, Erin Leslie, Debbie Snow, Jacqueline Weresch, Kathy Green, Jackie Speers, David Mesesnel, Andrea Moyer

Carrie Proudfoot, Chair of SEAC called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda of November 14, 2018

Sharon Dills moved that the agenda of November 14, 2018 be approved. Laurie Whyte seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2018

Laurie Whyte moved that the minutes of October 10, 2018 be approved. Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

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Action Items

Tracey Lindsay welcomed everyone and provided the following updates:

- Letter of support for Bill 44 – draft letter was presented at SEAC and approved. Final version was sent out to SEAC Chairs. Action completed.
- Progress Reports in Secondary Schools – Carlo Zen gathered feedback from SEAC and will return at a later meeting. This item will be put together with the Communication Strategy
- Communication Strategy – Letter of concern will be discussed tonight. The progress reports will be included in this agenda item as the emphasis is also on communication
- Definition of Inclusive Education – will be deferred to the December meeting

Correspondence

Letter dated October 4, 2018, from Kelly Smigielski, Chair, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee, writing in support of the findings contained in the Auditor General of Ontario's Annual Report, 2017. "Specifically, we would like to address the information contained in Chapter 3 – Reports on Value-for-Money Audits, Section 3.08, entitled Ministry of Education: Ministry Funding and Oversight of School Boards. Further we would like to address the impact of the recent changes in the Special Education funding model on our school district, which were made by the Conservative government, as outlined in the August 24th, 2018 memo received from Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister of Education.

Carrie Proudfoot asked what had changed with the funding. Tracey Lindsay responded that last June we had reported that the SIP funding was going to increase from 27K to 38K. In August, the Ministry notified us that we would only receive the 27K. The SEPPA amount was also going to be increased but that did not occur. Therefore, the difference between the SIP and SEPPA amounts that were not received is significant.

This correspondence does not benefit our Board. No action required.

Open Forum – Best Practice and Good News

Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada – Guelph Support Group had applied for a Provincial grant which they received. This funding will be used for a pilot program for children and youth with FASD. The program will run for total of three Saturdays one each in January, February and March. Funding is to be spent at the end of March and in the process of hiring a coordinator. They are looking for staff that will support the kids with a high ratio; the maximum is 20 children minimum 10 staff. A half day of training will be provided for the staff. CMHA and FCS supported the grant with some funding. FASD Support Group facilitators are also doing training for F&CS foster parents in December.

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Monica Chamberlain, Member-at-Large – held their Family conference on October 20th. It was a great success. 140 people registered with 100 attending. The guest speaker, Dr. Peg Dawson, gave a presentation about Executive Function issues titled ‘Beyond Lazy and Unmotivated’ as well as breakout sessions in the afternoon. There was collaboration with UGDSB to bring Dr. Dawson to Guelph and she presented a half-day seminar to Board employees the day before the conference.

The Reading Rocks program wraps up at the end of the month. It has 19 students and tutors in Guelph and 7 in Fergus.

The organization received an Ontario Trillium Grant to run Reading Rocks for the next three years with five sites planned for the new year; seven sites the second year and nine sites for the third year. The goal is to develop a sustainable program that can run for many more years to come.

Upcoming events include: Peer Support Network Meeting for Guardians on November 15th; a workshop on November 28th, on ‘The Myth of IQ’; a workshop on December 6th, on ‘Non-Medication and Medication Interventions for ADHD. <http://www.ldawc.ca/events/>

They are selling discounted Guelph Storm tickets for Friday December 28, January 4, January 20, February 10. The next board meeting is December 5th. Contact Monica for further details.

(Alternate) Autism Ontario-Wellington County – attended the AGM; had great breakout sessions on training.

Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – New webinars on website <https://www.autismontario.com/>

Policy Review

Martha MacNeil – no report

Election Information for December’s Meeting

Tracey Lindsay reminded SEAC that the inaugural meeting is in December. The Board is sworn in and at that time committees are struck. Trustees are selected for the various committees. Appointment letters are to be submitted to the Board and addressed to Dr. Martha Rogers. Please send your letters to Tracey, Krystyna or Dr. Martha Rogers. If you are interested, put your name forward or if you wish to nominate anyone, please be prepared. Elections are done on a yearly basis for Chair and Vice-Chair and will be held at the December meeting.

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Communication Strategy

Tracey Lindsay, with Hayley Warren's help, collected letters of concern from secondary schools to bring to SEAC. Three letters were selected. She commented that not all schools have the same. She asked SEAC to review the letters and decide what they liked, disliked and to add any other information to be added. A standard letter will be drafted from the feedback.

Carrie Proudfoot asked if consent forms could be reviewed by SEAC. Tracey Lindsay replied that these are done by community agencies. This can be added as an agenda item for a future meeting.

The committee gathered in small groups to review and provide input. The committee shared their suggestions and the feedback was recorded by Tracey Lindsay and uploaded to the November SEAC folder on UGCloud.

IPRC Letter

Wendy Donaldson addressed SEAC and explained that much work was done on the IPRC Central letter with the Special Education Review Committee, the Special Education department, especially Mark Howe and SEAC's feedback. She distributed copies of the draft Central IPRC letter to the committee.

Mark Howe explained that when the new Special Education document came out from the Ministry last year, it presented the opportunity to address the new language in the document and review some of our practices. Since the annual IPRC Review letter was standardized across the board, there have been many requests to have a standard Central IPRC letter. The guidelines from the document were applied to the draft as they interpret the legislation well around this invitation letter and make it easier for everyone to understand. The approved Annual Review letter was used as a template for the Central IPRC letter.

SEAC discussed the draft and provided input. Wendy Donaldson made changes to the letter and the draft will come back to SEAC next month.

Inclusion Definition

This agenda item is deferred to the December SEAC meeting.

SEISSC Monthly Update

Next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2018.

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

- Digital Saturday is being held at Montgomery Village Public School on November 17, 2018. This is an opportunity for students to show their technology skills.

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Special Education booth is set up with consultants who are available to speak with parents regarding resources and supports.

- Yearly holiday lunch for DD students sponsored by the Kiwanis Club will be held at the Italian Canadian Club in Guelph on December 13th. A Dufferin chapter was established last year and is scheduled for December 7th at the Orangeville Agriculture Centre.
- Today is Bring Your Kids to Work Day
- Your Future, Your Choice Career and community resources fair was held at Centennial CVI today.

Laurie Whyte asked if more information about transiting could be brought to SEAC. Tracey Lindsay replied that this could be added as an action item.

Trustee Report

Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy and Martha MacNeil have been re-elected to the board along with Mark Bailey, Linda Busuttil and Lynn Topping. Trustees will be sworn in at the December inaugural meeting. New Trustees are: Jolly Bedi, Jen Edwards, Mike Foley, Robin Ross and Gail Campbell.

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

- Inclusion item deferred to December
- Transition presentation for SEAC
- Bring Consent form to SEAC
- Class placement application shared with SEAC on Google Drive
- Letter of Concern feedback – Sharon Dills asked if feedback will be shared. Tracey Lindsay replied that this will go with the other work that Carlo Zen is doing. He will take it back to secondary.

Other

An email address for SEAC has been set up and will go live in December. This will be managed by the SEAC Chair. Communication will be clear of SEAC's role.

Adjournment

Monica Chamberlain motioned for adjournment of meeting at 9:10 p.m. Sharon Dills seconded the motion.