

Upper Grand District School Board  
**Special Education Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 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; Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada; Danielle Richer, FASworld Canada (Alternate); Monica Chamberlain, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County; Tina Danese, Easter Seals Ontario; Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children; Sharon Dills, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington; Mandi Naismith, Autism Ontario-Wellington County (Alternate); Kelsey Noseworthy, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (Alternate)(by web-conference); Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) (by web-conference)

**Present from Staff were:** Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program; Wendy Donaldson, Assistant to the Superintendent of Program; Hayley Warren, Secondary Vice-Principal; Chad Guyitt, Elementary Principal; Special Education Consultant, Dave Mesesnel, Jackie Speers

**Trustees Present:** Jennifer Edwards

**Regrets:** Robin Ross, Trustee; Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC; MaryAnn Schouten, Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Services; Audra Cook, Secondary Vice-Principal

**Absent:** Erin Knight, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) (Alternate)

Carrie Proudfoot, Chair called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Agenda of April 10, 2019**

Monica Chamberlain moved that the agenda of April 10, 2019 be approved. Sharon Dills seconded the motion.

**The motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2019**

Monica Chamberlain moved that the minutes of March 20, 2019 be approved. Danielle Richer seconded the motion.

**The motion carried.**

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**Action Items**

No action items.

**Correspondence**

Letter dated March 6, 2019, addressed to Minister of Education Lisa Thompson, from Valerie Adamo, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee of the Durham Catholic District School Board, expressing their concern about the recent changes to the provincial funding model for Autism services and the impact that it will have on children, families and school boards.

Carrie Proudfoot asked for feedback from the committee. It was decided that SEAC will wait until Ministry has released their budget information before drafting a letter.

**Open Forum – Best Practice and Good News**

**Monica Chamberlain**, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County – Seeking Board Members - please feel free to refer anyone who has an interest in Special Education. Reading Rocks has just wrapped up in Fergus and Guelph. An additional spring session may be run in Fergus before the school year ends. Programs will be running again in the fall.

Two workshops: 'Motivating Struggling Learners' scheduled for April 17, 2019 and 'UnderstandABILITY – Demystifying Psychoeducational Assessments' scheduled for May 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Community Living Guelph (8 Royal Road). Cost is \$15 and \$10 for LDA members.

\*subsidies available - contact [info@ldawc.ca](mailto:info@ldawc.ca)

**Tina Danese**, Easter Seals Ontario – ESO is accepting camp applications and applications can be accessed on the [www.easterseals.org](http://www.easterseals.org) site.

**Sharon Dills**, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington – Will be operating with and in collaboration with the school board to open a Section 23 class in the County for Grades 3 – 5. Referrals are being taken now. They hope to start with a small number of children by the end of April and offer 8 spots in the fall at Alma Public School. It will operate similar to the Gateway program and have the child, treatment, academic and mental health components. Parents will be involved and parent education will be available. Referrals will be specifically for County students first as there is no program available at this time for them and if spaces are available, then specific referrals from Guelph will be considered. The Gateway program serves Grades 6-8 and will be accepting referrals for the fall for the 8 spaces available. Requirements remain the same.

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Mental Health Week is in May. CMHA is busy with planning camps, end of school programs and transitions.

**Stacey Stevens**, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children – VOICE Annual Conference is scheduled for May 3-4 at Centennial College in Scarborough. Due to a generous donation from Sick Kids Children's Hospital, entrance fees for VOICE children/youth members, ages 3-19, are free. Register at [www.voicefordeafkids.com/event-information](http://www.voicefordeafkids.com/event-information)

**Don Richardson**, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) - IAI AGM planned for early June (exact date TBD) will be live streamed across the province. AGM will feature portions of the Intelligent Lives Toolkit; looking at experiences of "neurodiversity" in the classroom and the workforce, and person-centered planning for inclusive education, and inclusion in the workplace.

<http://iodbookstore.org/intelligent-lives-dvd-education-kit/>

- Intelligent Lives stars three pioneering young adults with intellectual disabilities—Micah, Naieer, and Naomie—who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. Award-winning actor and narrator Chris Cooper contextualizes the lives of these central characters through the emotional and personal story of his son Jesse, as the film unpacks the shameful and ongoing track record of intelligence testing in the United States.  
The Intelligent Lives Education Kit Includes:  
Intelligent Lives film (70 min.) with options for captioning and audio description.
- Mr. Connolly Has ALS film (32 min.) with options for captioning and audio description. A high school principal is embraced by his community as he continues to lead the school, despite rapidly losing his ability to walk and speak due to the effects of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).
- Four short films (16-20 min. each) capturing effective practices in post-secondary transition around the country, including - Person-centered planning - Self-determination strategies - Collaboration between schools, vocational rehabilitation, community organizations, and post-secondary schools - Family involvement - Inclusive education
- Film trailers
- Access to extensive educational materials and discussion guides for all of these films.

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**Laurie Whyte & Danielle Richer**, FASworld Canada – the Guelph FASD Caregiver support group received further funding from CMHA and FCS to continue their ‘Reach For It’ program until June. They will be applying for another grant in the fall to continue as there is considerable interest for this. The learning series are continuing with Series #3 scheduled for May 1, 2019 on Justice and Series #4 scheduled in June with Professor McLaughlin of University of Guelph.

On May 30, 2019 FASD is presenting a conference at the Hanlon Convention Centre in Guelph with guest speaker Dan Dubovsky. Dan has been involved in FASD for over 25 years as a parent and international speaker. He is offering a free evening for parents and caregivers on May 29, 2019. Poster was distributed to SEAC after March meeting.

Laurie Whyte has been featured on CBC: "White coat, Black Art" ['You're weird, you're different and nobody wants to be your friend': the loneliness of FASD | CBC Radio](#)

**Carrie Proudfoot**, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – Autism Ontario has a new webpage. Webinars are available on the website.  
<https://www.autismontario.com/programs-services/webinars>

### **Policy Review**

**Tracey Lindsay** – The Ministry of Education is asking for public feedback from boards, families, students, etc. all interested groups across the province regarding their draft Policy Program Policy (PPM) for service animals in schools and classrooms. When the Ministry releases a directive, school boards are required to develop their own policies following the requirements outlined in the directive. UGDSB reviewed their policy for service animals last year with input from SEAC and other stakeholders. Input for Ministry PPM will be received until May 4, 2019. Link for public feedback is posted on UGDSB website.

[www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-service-animals-schools](http://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-service-animals-schools)

*Ministry Memo and draft PPM was uploaded to the April SEAC folder on UGCloud.*

### **Annual LTAP Renewal Report**

Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning thanked SEAC for the opportunity to present the 2019 Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Annual Review Report.

She began her presentation by explaining that the LTAP was completed during the 2017/2018 school year. This is a strategic review of the UGDSB’s facilities, population projections, and enrolment forecasts. It is an important step in ensuring alignment of school facilities with the needs of the Board and the communities it serves.

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The LTAP was presented to the Board in June 2018. The LTAP included a schedule of short (1-5 years) and long term (6-10 years) priorities. The purpose of the annual LTAP Annual Review is for staff to ensure that the work plan priorities and timing remain appropriate.

Jennifer Passy explained that there were not many changes from last year. She detailed the scheduled projects within the five-year plan approved by the Board in 2018. Some of these have been put on hold or are pending due to Ministry delays. There is no option at this time to apply for capital funding from the Ministry.

In Dufferin and Erin, the International Baccalaureate (IB) survey and feasibility study is in progress - deadline of April 12, 2019. The data collected will help to determine interest and feasibility of an IB programme. Trustees will receive a report in June 2019.

French Immersion remains a priority for the Board and enrolment numbers have increased. Two new locations for FI programs were opened - Gateway Drive Public School in Guelph and Parkinson Centennial Public School in Orangeville.

Total enrolment numbers increased in 2018/19 year and board-wide school space is well utilized; total utilization in elementary is 91% and 100% in secondary.

Issues being monitored include class size changes and guideline changes from the Ministry. Staff were advised on March 15 of class sizes in secondary but are waiting for Ministry to respond regarding adjustments to capacities. Elementary class sizes were changed within the past two years – establishing lower class averages for Junior and Intermediate divisions and capping Junior and Senior Kindergarten class sizes. No capacity adjustments were made by the Ministry at that time. Classroom loading calculations may affect the utilization calculations in the LTAP. Staff will respond as needed to update facility utilization board-wide.

Carrie Proudfoot asked if class sizes were considered when giving us this information. Jennifer Passy responded that they were not. LTAP utilization numbers are a relationship between enrolment to capacity. Carrie Proudfoot asked if there would be capacity adjustments in secondary. Jennifer Passy responded that there is an indication from the March 15, 2019 Ministry memo that capacity changes for secondary were forthcoming but no information has been received.

Don Richardson referenced the current government's suggestion that high school students take a minimum of four online courses and asked what would be the impact. Jennifer Passy replied that this would change how our schools would be used and it may be a factor when considering the loading capacity to the classrooms. She added that it is not yet clear what the Ministry expectations are. Tracey Lindsay commented that the Ministry

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has not indicated how e-learning will occur, for example if it will be done at school or at home. Boards are waiting for more details.

Carrie Proudfoot thanked Jennifer Passy for her presentation.

*PowerPoint presentation was uploaded to the April SEAC folder on UGCloud.*

**Special Education Plan Review -**

**Transportation for Students with Special Needs**

Wendy Donaldson explained the process for reviewing the Special Education Plan. The changes from the last meeting are incorporated and highlighted (in green) for SEAC's review. New revisions from tonight's feedback will be highlighted (in yellow) and the previous highlights (in green) will be removed. She added that Program Leaders will be reviewing and updating their sections. These will be highlighted for SEAC's review. She asked SEAC to review the whole document and send their suggestions to her by April 26, 2019. Highlighted document will be sent to SEAC prior to the May meeting.

Tracey Lindsay explained to new members that this is a Ministry mandate document. School boards are provided with a template to follow. UGDSB has revised it to make it parent friendly and it is posted on the Board website. She added that SEAC has been reviewing the Plan section by section and providing input from the Special Education lens. Special Educations goals are also included in the Plan. She asked that representatives take it back to their organizations for feedback.

Wendy Donaldson distributed the SEAC brochure and asked the committee to review the suggestions that were added from a previous meeting. Brochure was uploaded to the folder. She suggested that anyone interested in setting a committee to work on the brochure meet prior to the May meeting at 6:30 p.m. Interested members are to contact Wendy Donaldson.

She asked the committee to form small groups to review 'Transportation for Students with Special Needs'. Input collected will be incorporated and highlighted on the Special Education Plan for the May meeting.

**SEISSC Monthly Update**

No update - meeting was cancelled.

**Updates from the Superintendent of Program**

- Tracey Lindsay commented that UGDSB is waiting for the budget information from the Ministry. The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) is usually known by the end of April. The layoffs that were announced are preventative and were issued now due

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to collective agreement timelines. More funding information will be available at May SEAC meeting.

- Empowerment Day will be held on May 2 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Sleeman Centre in Guelph.
- UGDSB Secondary students participated in Skills Canada on April 4, 2019 at the University of Guelph. The new athletic centre is an amazing space for the students participating in the events. It was a great day for everyone!

**Trustee Report**

Jennifer Edwards provided the following updates:

- ✓ Layoff notices of 54 elementary teachers and 56 secondary teachers were issued. Trustees are hoping to recall as many as possible.

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

**Other**

**Adjournment**

Laurie Whyte motioned for adjournment of meeting at 8:30 p.m. Sharon Dills seconded the motion.