

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2020

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 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; Danielle Richer, FASworld Canada (Alternate); Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC; Monica Chamberlain, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County; Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada; Mandi Naismith, Autism Ontario-Wellington County (Alternate); Michelle Barrett, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired (Alternate);

Present from Staff were: Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program; Wendy Donaldson, Assistant to the Superintendent of Program; Audra Cook, Secondary Principal

Trustees Present: Jennifer Edwards

Regrets: Denise Helm, Canadian Mental Health Association Wellington Waterloo; Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children; Chad Guyitt, Elementary Principal; Hayley Warren, Secondary Vice-Principal; Robin Ross, Trustee

Absent: Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario); Tina Danese, Easter Seals Ontario; Kelsey Noseworthy, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (Alternate); Shelley Marks, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired; Erin Knight, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) (Alternate)

Carrie Proudfoot, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda of January 8, 2020

Laurie Whyte moved that the agenda of January 8, 2020 be approved. Jennifer Edwards seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2019

Laurie Whyte moved that the minutes of December 11, 2019 be approved. Jennifer Edwards seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

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Action Items

Tracey Lindsay provided the following updates:

- Progress Reports in Secondary Schools – Superintendent Zen will keep SEAC updated.
- Inclusive Education – Don Richardson is working to bring a presentation to SEAC

Open Forum – Best Practice and Good News

Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada - We have applied for a few grants for Reach For It which we should find out about in next 2 months. CMHA has committed to providing funding for Reach For It for 2 months so group will run January, February and March. Dufferin Wellington FASD will be having a conference - likely in May - will let you know date as soon as it is finalized.

Monica Chamberlain, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County – updates from LDAWC have been uploaded to the SEAC folder on UGCloud. The monthly newsletter includes the following information:

SOAR (Some Assembly Required) program which prepares LD and ADHD students for high school will begin January 20th – March 9, 2020. Presently need three youth to run the program.

Reading Rocks, a one-on-one tutoring program for students aged 6-12, starts in Guelph on January 20th and still has space available.

Peer support network will be held in Fergus starting January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Parent Workshop on Resilience & Self-Regulation: Resilience as part of Learning and Building Self-Regulation will be held Thursday, January 23rd, 2020, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This workshop for parents is Part One of a two part series. Part Two will be held in February for parents and youth.

Other topics include: Helping your child set and keep resolutions; Tips on handling the transition after the holidays; Conquering the clutter; Storm tickets for sale; Right to Read Ontario Human Rights Inquiry; LDAO Courses.

Michelle Barrett, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired (Alternate) – Braille Challenge on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the CNIB GTA Community Hub at 1525 Yonge Street in Toronto for braille-using students in grades 1-4.

Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – Autism Community – change in timeline as to when the OAP will be fully implemented, possibly 2021. March Break funding is open for applications.

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Policy Review

Service Animals for Students – Policy was reviewed in light of PPM 163: School Board Policies on Service Animals: All school boards in Ontario are required to develop, implement, and maintain a policy on student use of service animals in schools. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide direction to school boards on the development and implementation of their policy.

The main change is changing the word “dog” to “animals”. It is difficult when an animal is something other than a dog as there is no formal training or certification. The process is generally the same. Boards will need to look at each situation individually. The Ministry has asked boards to collect data on requests in this area

Staff PD

Tracey Lindsay informed the committee that the PowerPoint presentation was uploaded to the folder on UGCloud. She explained that this is what was planned for this year and may be impacted by sanctions. Sanctions are around anything to do with Ministry initiatives and the BIPSA (Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement).

She added that the professional development is broken down into categories. Much of the trainings is done yearly and updated for staff. She reviewed the highlights from the list and discussed how trainings can be cross curricular.

The difference between school and requested PD versus targeted staff PD was discussed. Questions arose around how we monitor implementation. Are we proactively training staff who have students with specific diagnosis? How are we ensuring that all staff are able to access training who are working with specific populations?

PowerPoint presentation was uploaded to January SEAC folder on UGCloud.

Special Education Plan

Wendy Donaldson asked the committee to form groups to discuss their feedback from the items that were shared last month.

Feedback received:

- Page 36: Take out the number of BI-CYC we have in case we have a change in budget
- Do we have somewhere how a parent navigates conflict with the school/principal
- Would it be appropriate to access the names of the schools CST team member by the public
- Parent friendly language for services
- Add a flow chart or visual to the staff and their services

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- Parents would not understand full-time equivalent
- Have a list of the acronyms in the training and staff lists

SEISSC Monthly Update

No update.

Trustee Report

Jennifer Edwards – no updates since December meeting

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

1. Good news story – Student at Kenilworth PS lost his cochlear implant in the school yard. Parent council got together and using social media asked parents to help in the search. More than 50 community members helped and found the implant. After it warmed up, it was back in working condition.
2. News from the Ministry – funding through the Geneva Centre for training in Autism. There is \$32,000 worth of online training available for staff to sign up. Wendy Donaldson showed the online sign up. This training is available to a wide range of staff: psychology, EA, teachers, administration etc. We will need to look at the logistics of what this will look like and we will share back.

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

Questions for Action Item - Progress Reports in Secondary Schools:

- Is there a window of time that schools are to send them home?
- How do they go home? Kids? Mail?
- Is it consistent from school to school?

Adjournment

Michelle Barrett motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Jennifer Edwards seconded the motion.