

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

**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, February 12, 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; Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children; Kelsey Noseworthy, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (Alternate); Michelle Barrett, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired (Alternate); Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario); Shelley Marks, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired; Erin Knight, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) (Alternate)

**Present from Staff were:** Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program; Audra Cook, Secondary Principal

**Trustees Present:** Jennifer Edwards; Robin Ross

**Regrets:** Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada; Mandi Naismith, Autism Ontario-Wellington County (Alternate); Denise Helm, Canadian Mental Health Association Wellington Waterloo; Wendy Donaldson, Assistant to the Superintendent of Program; Chad Guyitt, Elementary Principal; Hayley Warren, Secondary Vice-Principal

Carrie Proudfoot, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda of February 12, 2020**

Danielle Richer moved that the agenda of February 12, 2020 be approved. Monica Chamberlain seconded the motion.

**The motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2020**

Michelle Barrett moved that the minutes of January 8, 2020 be approved. Danielle Richer seconded the motion.

**The motion carried.**

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

**Action Items**

Tracey Lindsay provided the following updates:

- Progress Reports in Secondary Schools – Human Resources is working with Teacher Union (OSSTF) on a consistent process for distribution. Tracey Lindsay will keep SEAC updated.

**Correspondence**

1. Letter dated December 11, 2019, addressed to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, from Fulvio Valentinis, Chairperson and Joanna Zeiter, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, writing in agreement with the letters from Durham District School Board (dated June 3, 2019) and the Greater Essex County District School Board (dated July 5, 2019) SEACs regarding their concern about the recent changes to the provincial funding model for class size averages and with the announcement of mandatory e-learning courses and asking the Ministry to reconsider the changes.
2. Letter dated December 20, 2019, addressed to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, from Eva Kyriakides, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee of the Durham District School Board, expressing their concern regarding the inactive status of MACSE; a mandated committee outlined in the Education Act. The last time MACSE met was in the spring of 2017, and the last annual report filed to the Minister was for the 2014-2015 school year.  
They are also questioning the effectiveness and responsiveness of the current structure of MACSE to fulfill its mandate and have included a suggestion for filling vacancies.
3. Letter dated November 25, 2019, addressed to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, from Tracy Lynn Atkinson, Special Education Advisory Committee Chair, of the Bluewater District School Board, acknowledging and adding their support to the letter from the Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence dated September 23, 2019. They share concerns around the proposal for secondary students to take a minimum of four mandatory e-learning credits and the impact this might have on students with special education needs.

Correspondence was reviewed by Carrie Proudfoot.

Jason Offer recommended that UGDSB SEAC write a letter of support for Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board asking the Ministry to reconsider the changes to the provincial funding model for class size averages and mandatory e-learning courses.

Carrie Proudfoot and Jason Offer will draft letter on behalf of UGDSB SEAC.

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

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

**Danielle Richer**, FASworld Canada – Pizza/Movie Night will be held in Orangeville. No diagnosis required and all are welcome. Contact Laurie Whyte for more details.

FASD Info Sessions: Understanding FASD (open to anyone, including professionals) on Tuesday February 25, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the DCAFS office.

REACH FOR IT in GUELPH and REACH FOR IT in DUFFERIN

FASD Learning Series (open to anyone)

- FASD Grief and Loss - February 19, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Sexuality and FASD- March 11, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Brain Development and FASD - April 6, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Monica Chamberlain**, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County – Monica Chamberlain is teaching “Advocacy in Study Skills”. There are two peer support networks coming up. For further information, contact Monica.

Part 2 of the parent workshop on Resilience and Self-Regulation will be held in February. In April there is a workshop with Second Chance to help you find out what you need to know about your first job.

**Shelley Marks**, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired – Shelley Marks has been nominated to the VIEWS Board. Workshops offered are on the VIEWS website. Added to VIEWS is OPVIC (Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children). They are reaching out to School Boards to inform them about the Canadian National Standards (this information is on the website) and also letting them know about the Vision Conference in Toronto.

**Carrie Proudfoot**, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – Autism Community – more reports of new teachers using Google classroom!

**Policy Review**

Service Animals for Students – Policy 517 – Service Animals for Students – draft was previously shared with SEAC. The policy has been passed at Board and is now posted on the Board website.

**Upper Grand Learning Foundation**

Jennifer Edwards outlined the information conveyed on the new Upper Grand Learning Foundation (UGLF) brochure that was prepared by co-op students working at M&T Printing. Funds from this registered charitable organization are used in three ways: for scholarships and awards for continuing education and training; to help individual schools reach fundraising goals for playground equipment and other projects and thirdly to support individual students with their learning needs from the Freedom to Achieve Fund. Jennifer Edwards shared the personal story of her daughter and the significant impact individual funding made. A short video directed at parent councils and made by

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

Ian Macpherson, Curriculum Leader, Secondary, was presented. Donations can be made online with a credit card or by participating in Toonie Tuesday held twice a year in some elementary schools. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$20.

Members asked questions about the process and how the foundation ensures it goes to the school that the donor specifies. Applications for funds go through the Principal. Jason Offer suggested that the donor wall on the website could include the list of all corporate donors. Pamphlets were distributed.

*PowerPoint presentation was uploaded to February SEAC folder on UGCloud.*

### **Options for Gifted Students**

Tracey Lindsay shared a newly created document for parents called “Supporting Parent Decision About the Gifted Program”. Discussion ensued and SEAC offered some recommendations for clarity about the document. SEAC wondered how this fits in with the rest of the communication to parents. Jason Offer suggested that the Programming section does not provide enough information to parents about what happens in the gifted classroom. A suggestion that we bring the document back along with the previously SEAC vetted information to parents regarding the Gifted program and we can see if there are any other areas to provide feedback.

*PowerPoint presentation was uploaded to February SEAC folder on UGCloud.*

### **Building an Understanding of Special Education Supports**

Tracey shared a document and handouts and walked through how students receive support at the Upper Grand District School Board. Presentation included an overview of the pyramid of support and how student needs are supported at the classroom level, school level and then through consultants and specialized staff.

Feedback received included that we should consider adding a focus on the social context around bullying and mental health.

*PowerPoint presentation was uploaded to February SEAC folder on UGCloud.*

### **SEISSC Monthly Update**

No update.

### **Trustee Report**

**Robin Ross** – reported that the Board is supporting the use of Naloxone in schools. She gave a brief overview of how the trustees came to this decision. Tracey Lindsay shared updates about the Youth Hub and Youth Talk, and programs through CMHA available to our students at the Program Meeting.

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

**Updates from the Superintendent of Program**

No updates

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

- Progress Reports in Secondary Schools – Tracey Lindsay will bring updates when available
- New Actions Items:
  - Draft letter of support for Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board to Minister of Education
  - Gifted Program

**Other**

Discussion about the OSSTF campaign – letter writing to the Trustees

**Adjournment**

Don Richardson motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Danielle Richer seconded the motion.