



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - November 8, 2017

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm, in the St Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

Trustee members: John Hendry

Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Jennifer Checkley, Amy Dibben, Sherri Popovich, Kris Pryke, Angela Sider, Shannon Taylor, Katherine Waybrant

Association Alternates: Faye Zevenbergen

Non-Association Members: Stuart Cross, Carmen Sutherland

Board Staff in Attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Leonilda Gil, Scott Miller

Regrets: Colleen Borman, Kristina Campbell, Sophia Catania, Dawn Clelland, Mary Cunningham, Deanna Driedger Seeger, Graham Dunn, Molly Fortier, Meagan Minott, Kathy Moreland, Janine Oosterveld, Sara Penny, Amanda Schultz, Cindy Watson

Guests: Jennifer Pinder, Lisa Weiler-Haskins, Lynn Wilson

Call to Order

SEAC Chair A. Sider called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Taylor, seconded by C. Sutherland:

That the agenda of the November 8, 2017 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by T. Blanchette, seconded by J. Checkley:

That the minutes of the October 11, 2017 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Guest Speaker

Sarah Galliher, WRDSB Senior Planner

Looking at Long Term Accommodation Plan <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning> that will outline proposed new schools, major construction projects, school boundary studies and accommodation reviews for a ten-year period. Stakeholder workshops being held on November 9 (4-6 p.m.) and November 16 (3:30-5:30 p.m.). Directed to webpage for review of making schools more accessible. L. Gil to send out meeting information. Online feedback is welcomed at planning@wrdsb.ca or sarah_galliher@wrdsb.ca.

Sue Simpson – Director of Waterloo Region Family Network

Watched video with overview of mission, values, mandate and strategic priorities of the organization. There has been growth each year with program support, workshops, conferences, camps, clubs and seminars. Network support is unique and inclusive of all needs with families and community contacts. Currently a gap in the ages of 12-16 years old with no programs listed. They are working to address this issue. Volunteers are required thus causing the lack in programs for this age group.

Krista McCann – Program Coordinator of Waterloo Region Family

Network Overview of Young Carers Project wherein they educate the public about existence and needs of young carers. Watched video done by Young Carers Group. Examples of what Young Carers help with include physical, mental or personal care. Young Carers feel isolated, anxious, hard time focusing, they are overlooked and

dismissed by others. They want to be acknowledged and supported for what they are doing and going through. Directed to visit website <https://youngcarersproject> which has information about training, workshops and support programs. There is a Young Carers Forum in Toronto on November 21.

Special Education Update

Watched video from S. Miller www.edutopia.org – How well do you know your students?

- Draft Policy/Program Memorandum 161: Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions
 - Emailed document which highlights – anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy. Policy covers a plan in place, medical safety plans done at schools.
 - Students, staff and principals responsible for plan of care.
 - Liabilities Ryan’s Law and Sabrina’s Law – duty of care and privacy
 - Still in draft form and Ministry is looking at putting advisory councils together to provide feedback
 - Question about Student Safety plan and how this is related to IEP. At this time WRDSB is in the process of revising procedure 2303 with with the WRDSB Health and Safety Department as well the Joint Health and Safety Committee. This will make everything electronic and this information will be stored in a database, that meets all privacy requirements
- Ontario’s Education Equity Plan – Ministry Document
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/education_equity_plan_en.pdf

Handout – summary of four areas of focus:

- A. School and Classroom Practices
 - B. Leadership, Governance and Human Resources Practices
 - C. Data Collection, Integrated and Reporting
 - D. Organizational Culture Change
- Ministry of Education: Engagement on Governance Supports Leadership Branch is looking for information.

Activity done with members providing feedback.

Trustees – School Board Governance:

1. What effective practices and structures could support school boards to strengthen public confidence?
2. What role could an integrity commissioner play in fostering strong, accountable and transparent board governance?

Student Trustees:

1. How can Boards increase student voice in decision making?
2. How can boards promote awareness of the student trustee position within the larger student body?

Director of Education:

1. What are the necessary competencies of a Director of Education?
2. How can we support the professional learning of Directors after they are appointed?

Trustee Report

No Trustee report.

Chair Report

Angela Sider – This is the last meeting that S. Popovich will be attending as she is moving to Hamilton Area. New person from Carizon will attend SEAC, the organization is still waiting to confirm who will take on this role.

PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) representative has reached out inquiring if we would like them to share contact information with SEAC committee members so they have knowledge of what is happening with PIC. Some members are agreeable for increase of equity and inclusion. There was concern about personal emails being provided and shared - SEAC Chairperson A. Sider to inquire more about contact email.

Round Table Association Reports

December 1st – Glencairn having a lift ceremony – details to follow.

Tourette Syndrome (F. Zevenbergen) – Tourettes Canada has organized its inaugural camp for one 1 week at the end of August.

Other Business

No other business.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 7:00 pm in the St. Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre.

Adjournment

Moved by S. Taylor, seconded by K. Pryke:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.