

**February 10, 2016**  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee members: John Hendry, Cindy Watson
- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Dawn Clelland, Sarah Drexler, Graham Dunn, Liz Nickason, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Kristina Campbell, Marianne Domm, Molly Fortier,
- Non-Association Members: Colleen Borman, Sherri Ramage,

Board Staff in attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Scott R. Miller and Karin Sonnenberg

Regrets: Jennifer Checkley, Mary Cunningham, Michelle Hughes, Kris Pryke, Lila Read, Amy Tupling

Guests: Amanda Schulz

### **CALL TO ORDER**

SEAC Chair A. Sider called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by D. Clelland, seconded by J. Oosterveld:

**That the agenda of the February 10, 2016, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.**

- Carried -

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by S. Drexler, seconded by K. Waybrant:

**That the minutes of the January 13, 2016, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.**

- Carried -

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Chair A. Sider introduced Amanda Schultz from Parents of Children with Mental Health. Amanda is observing tonight to potentially join SEAC as an association alternate.

S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, introduced M. Gerrard, Superintendent Business Services & Treasurer and K. Newland, Financial Controller.

M. Gerrard provided an overview of the Spec Ed budget with a power point presentation (*see attached 2016-02-10 SEAC Consultation FINAL.pdf*)

K. Newland discussed the budget background and the budget process.

M. Gerrard discussed budget pressures and fielded any questions.

A handout was given for members to respond to some budget questions. Members met in groups to discuss the questions and the papers were collected at the end of the presentation.

WRDSB Special Education News

S. Miller mentioned that a sub-committee met tonight prior to SEAC and established a draft vision and guiding principals regarding Special Education in the Waterloo Region District School Board. At the March meeting members will discuss success criteria. At the Feb 26 PD day Special Education Consultants will be working with this information as well.

There is a gap in programming in secondary schools, particularly in priority one classes, with lack of technology. The board has been working on this and implementation has started - technology is being deployed and teachers are getting trained. Professional learning opportunities are being offered to the consultants and this, in turn, will allow for individual programming.

TDSB Inclusion Article Review: *Creating School and Classroom Communities Where Everyone Belongs (handout provided)*.

S Miller presented the 7 principals of Learning for All (*see attachment Learning For All.pdf*).

Members were asked to break off into groups. Take sections of the article and answer the following questions,

1. Identify the Key Areas of Focus
2. Why did your group determine these to be Key Areas?
3. What does this mean for our schools?

Members took 30 minutes to discuss their sections and reported their answers to the group.

S. Miller will forward the 2013 School Effectiveness Framework with the minutes. (*See attachment SEF-2013.pdf*)

At March meeting we can discuss “growth mindset” and how the Board is trying to incorporate this in school environments.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The additional PD day on February 26, 2016 will focus on school improvement planning in the morning and health and safety training in the afternoon. Rob Klea, behaviour consultant, will be doing a webinar on Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) in the afternoon as part of the training.

### **ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada (T. Blanchette)

Tourette Canada is excited to announce their new VIRTUAL YOUTH HANGOUT GROUP! Starting on Wednesday, February 17th, 7-8pm. Please see the attached flyer (*virtual youth hangout.pdf*) for details. We know how valuable it is for youth to meet and connect with others in their peer group who also have TS/TS+. Those interested, please follow this link to access a web-version of the registration form <https://www.tourette.ca/virtual-peer-support-groups>.

This year's Trek for Tourette is Sunday March 20th. Trek for Tourette is a 5km walk held annually on a Sunday in March in communities across Canada in support of the Tourette Syndrome cause. It is Canada's only national fundraiser for Tourette Syndrome. Organizers chose March, a wintry month, so that the Trek would be “as challenging as the lives of people affected by Tourette Syndrome, with weather as unpredictable as the disorder itself.”

Waterloo Region Family Network (C. Borman) *See attachment Discussion Session*

**TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee J. Hendry informed members of the meeting the day before involving the Ministry, Directors, Chairs and Vice-Chairs. They discussed the importance of school boards focusing on student achievement and well-being and their strategic plans.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting date is **Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the **St. Clements Room**, Education Centre.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by D. Clelland, seconded by S. Drexler:

**That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.**

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.