

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 7:00 pm. In the St. Clements Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee members:
- Trustee Alternates: Kathleen Woodcock
- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Dawn Clelland, Mary Cunningham, Marianne Domm, Laura Ferguson, Ed Hermanovics, Liz Nickason, Kris Pryke, James Taeger, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Sue Furey, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider
- Non-Association Members: Colleen Borman, Elke Mayer, Kevin Rempel, Amy Tupling

Board Staff in attendance: Stuart Cross, Mark Harper, Scott R. Miller, Karin Sonnenberg
Regrets: Molly Fortier,

CALL TO ORDER

SEAC Chair K Pryke called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by E. Hermanovics, seconded by T. Blanchette:

That the agenda of the June 4, 2014 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by E. Hermanovics, seconded by M. Domm:

That the minutes of the May 7, 2014, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

K. Waybrant, M. Domm and D. Clelland met June 4, 2014 as a follow up to last month's meeting with the objective of examining the ONSIS data, the TDSB's data and other board's findings regarding special needs' students. K. Waybrant has summarized the findings in an attachment (see Sub-Committee June 4 2014.docx). M. Domm called the Avon Maitland District School Board and had a conversation with Cheryl Peach, Assistant Principal of Learning Services, regarding their integration of special needs' students into regular classrooms. At the elementary level, there is more integration and inclusion, whereas at the secondary level, the inclusion consists of 1 or 2 periods per day. The focus, however, for both levels is to promote

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independence with a long term goal of 100% inclusion. There is an initial expense associated with inclusion; however, it is believed that the cost will diminish over time. Questions and comments were fielded.

MOTION TO HAVE THE BOARD INVESTIGATE INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITIES IN THE BOARD TO LEARN BETTER BOTH SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY AS MEMBERS OF REGULAR CLASSROOMS

3. Moved by K. Waybrant, seconded by D. Clelland

A discussion ensued regarding the motion. M. Harper, Superintendent of Learning Services, suggested that SEAC, acting as an advisory committee, can certainly investigate different areas of inclusivity and can develop a plan to represent all constituents. At present, the goal of the WRDSB is towards integration, however, we respond to community needs. We could have staff come in to speak at SEAC meetings about the programs that are currently available, the cases and stories of special needs' students and SEAC could offer advice on how to proceed. A. Sider reiterated that suggestion, saying that identification of what is available now and how it is implemented/accessed is needed. S. Miller, Assistant (to) Superintendent of Learning Services – Special Education, said that a lot of good information has been presented and suggested that this committee meet with WRDSB staff to further discuss this subject.

- Deferred -

MOTION TO DEFER THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO THE OCTOBER 2014 SEAC MEETING TO ALLOW FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. Moved by K. Waybrant, seconded by D. Clelland

That the motion to have the Board investigate increasing the amount of inclusive opportunities in the WRDSB be deferred until further discussion regarding this subject can take place and be brought forward at the October 2014 SEAC meeting.

- Carried -

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

FASD Follow-up – Two video clips were shown to SEAC members. The first was a parent of a special needs' student speaking about the experience of her son being in the FASD classroom. The second was Dr. Stephen Katz, who has worked with senior administrative staff at the WRDSB and other boards, speaking about “the heuristic approach”. S. Miller referenced the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) and stated that the WRDSB is in mode of continuous improvement.

2013-14 Year in Review – S. Miller reviewed a handout that highlighted the many topics that SEAC accomplished this past year.

WRDSB Special Education Plan – S. Cross, System Administrator- Special Education, reviewed potential changes to the Spec Ed Plan as discussed with the SEAC Review committee (S. Cross, K. Pryke, K. Rempel, A. Sider, M. Domm). A handout summarizing these changes was distributed. Certain sections of the plan (4 and 19) will be agenda items to be discussed at future SEAC meetings. Please forward any edits to your association information to Karin as soon as possible. SEAC membership indicated that all personal information of members be taken out of the plan so it does not appear in the website. The only information regarding the association will be the name of the association, the address of the association, member's name and member's email address.

2014-15 SEAC Priorities – K. Pryke asked members to indicate their first and second priorities to be discussed next year. K. Pryke will summarize the findings and use this information to identify future agenda items.

OTHER BUSINESS

S. Miller thanked SEAC members for their commitment to their associations and WRDSB students and shared his appreciation for their perspective this past year. S. Miller advised members that M. Harper has been seconded by the Ministry of Education and will be leaving his current position as of September 1, 2014. M. Harper thanked SEAC members for their contribution and commitment.

E. Mayer, non-association member of Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region, announced that she will be moving and therefore, no longer able to be on SEAC for the upcoming year.

ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy- (K. Waybrant)

The OFCP will have its Annual General Meeting on June 21st, 2014 in Toronto.

Our local chapter welcomed new members last month! We continue to look for ways to help and support families in the Region of Waterloo.

VIEWES (D. Clelland)

Attached are three of the programs that VIEWES is putting on, this summer.

- BRAILLE Music and Technology Training.docx
- Music Camp poster 2014.pdf
- Camp Freedom poster 2014.pdf

We also are subsidizing the costs of the instructors for the Blind AQ course running out of Brantford, in order to ensure there is a classroom opportunity for teachers to get their Additional Qualification. For those taking the AQ, needing to travel, we are providing accommodations, in Brantford, at no cost.

VIEWES also partners with the CNIB, to provide VIEWES Family Week at Lake Joseph. This incredible fun-filled week for children and their families, fills up every year very quickly. The opportunities at Lake Joseph include wake boarding, water skiing, wall climbing, canoeing,

kayaking, sailing, fishing, swimming and biking. The instruction for these sports is for the sighted and blind. Very cool opportunity to have fun together, in an active way, as a family.

TRUSTEE REPORT

K. Woodcock encouraged members to attend board meetings. Budget discussions will be continuing at the June 11, 2014 board meeting and a reminder that if you want to speak at a meeting, you must apply to be part of a delegation.

CHAIR REPORT

K. Pryke reminded members that there will be a social gathering after the meeting at Boston Pizza. She thanked everyone for the past year and wished members a good summer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, September 10, 2014, 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by D. Clelland, seconded by M. Domm:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.