

March 11, 2015
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 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, Elaine Brown, Mary Cunningham, Sarah Drexler, Graham Dunn, Janine Oosterveld, Kris Pryke, Angela Sider, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Kristina Campbell, Jennifer Checkley, Marianne Domm, Molly Fortier, Liz Nickason,
- Non-Association Members: Colleen Borman, Kevin Rempel, Amy Tupling

Board Staff in attendance: Stuart Cross, Scott R. Miller, Karen Leishman (recorder)

Absent: Dawn Clelland, Frank Johnson, Nancy Smith, Kathleen Woodcock

Regrets: Elaine Ranney

Guests: Barb Cardow, Valerie Lannon, John Martin

CALL TO ORDER

SEAC Chair, K. Pryke, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair, K. Pryke, noted following additions to agenda:

- a) Alternate, Dr. Dan Holt, to be added for Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC)
- b) names to be drawn for attendees at provincial SEAC conference

1. Moved by M. Cunningham, seconded by K. Waybrandt:

That the agenda of the March 11, 2015 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair, K. Pryke, requested clarification regarding Ministry of Education Update (Provincial Special Education Update) – Update on enrichment programming item. Scott clarified that there will be a revised PPM around learning disabilities but does not have anything concrete at this time. Kris voiced concerns heard from other boards about cuts to funding – Scott confirmed he has not heard anything to that effect.

2. Moved by J. Oosterveld, seconded by E. Brown:

That the minutes of the February 11, 2015, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Ballots for attendance at provincial SEAC conference on May 2, 2015:
 - New members: K. Campbell, A. Sider, and E. Brown
 - Experienced members: M. Cunningham, T. Blanchette, K. Waybrant

One name each was drawn from new member ballots and experienced members' ballots. The names were: E. Brown and M. Cunningham. The remaining names will be kept as alternates. Cindy Watson and John Hendry are trustee candidates and will decide among themselves who will attend. The remaining attendees are S. Miller and K. Pryke.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Special Needs Strategy

S. Cross introduced guests:

Valerie Lannon, Waterloo Region Planning Table

John Martin, Director of Early Learning, Child Care and Family Resources, KW habilitation

Barb Cardow, Region of Waterloo

- V. Lannon introduced 25-minute PowerPoint presentation and handout "Coordinated Service Plan Model" (hard copy attachment). Ministry announced Ontario Special Needs Strategy Vision last fall. Local table has proposals for two models: Coordinated Family-centred Service Planning (due June 15, 2015) and Integrated Rehabilitation (due October 30, 2015).
- A single agency will be responsible for coordinated service planning – agency for Waterloo Region not yet identified.
- Now in process of consulting with various stakeholder groups on first draft of Coordinated Family-centred Service Planning proposal.
- Small team of service providers will work with a family for as long as necessary to coordinate care and support. Ideally, staff transitions will be minimal.
- Complex cases are defined as needing services from two or more types of provider or who have challenging home situations.

Meeting then broke into four groups, with each group discussing one of the following topics:

1. Identification and access;
2. Assessment;
3. Service planning;
4. Ongoing monitoring and support

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Meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m. Chair, K. Pryke, opened the floor to questions – none received. Questionnaire on tonight's presentation was distributed for members to complete; questionnaires were collected by S. Cross. Feedback will be reviewed and revised draft model will be available early April.

A feedback survey will be available shortly on the [Waterloo Region Special Needs Strategy](#) website, and a copy of the presentation is attached.

Administrator Special Education In-Service

Efforts have been made in past years to invite consultants to SEAC meetings to provide information on services provided by Waterloo Region District School Board. One-day Special Education workshops were held on Thursday and Friday, March 5 and 6, 2015 for administrators. Attendance was approximately 170 – almost every school was represented. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. PPM 8 was reviewed to reinforce system expectations. Also, PPM 156 Transition Planning was reviewed, emphasizing the need for all students with an Individual Education Plan to also have a transition plan. Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) specialist, Jessica Webb, spoke about what administrators should look for in good ABA strategies. Rob Klea spoke to the Board's Progressive Discipline policy. Behaviour Management Systems training was also addressed. Nadia Tymochenko, lawyer from Thompson Miller, spoke about case law and duties as administrators.

Alternative Programming Discussion (S. Miller)

Not necessarily just for students in congregated classes or programs. Need to consider what is available for elementary students transitioning to secondary and how do we support students transitioning out of school – identified as large gap in programming province-wide. Also, how are we addressing social/emotional development and equity & inclusion for students. Will begin prelim discussion tonight and continue conversation at April meeting.

K. Waybrant asked to speak to meeting regarding overall programming and planning for field trips for students with disabilities, particularly those in congregated classes. She cited a specific case of a student in a wheelchair on a field trip to Chicopee Tube Park. The parent was made aware of the trip on the day it was occurring and was told there would be alternative programming as her son could not participate in the activity. At the end of the day, her son's nurse told her that there was no alternative programming, her son was the only one not tubing and sat all day in the chalet with nothing to do, and there were not appropriate toileting facilities so he was not changed all day. K. Waybrant asks that educators change their mindset around programming for all students and raised five specific issues:

1. Parents not aware of trip until the day of
2. Type of activity excluded her son and other students with disabilities from the beginning
3. Parents were verbally misled that there were other students not participating
4. No alternative programming
5. No toileting facilities

K. Waybrandt requested policy change to reflect following points:

- Trips are not planned to locations without washroom facilities for all students
- that transportation arrangements include all students i.e. a student shouldn't have to travel by himself/herself because he/she uses a wheelchair. If there are no wheelchair-accessible buses, then a small group of students can travel on the Mobility Plus bus.
- Field trips must include activities for all students

Discussion ensued with Trustee Hendry requesting board review procedure to ensure that inclusion is at the forefront of all planning for trips in consultation with parents.

Trustee Watson suggested referring matter to board's Accessibility Committee. K. Waybrandt indicated willingness to present to this committee. Next meeting is June. S. Cross will address with committee chair.

S. Miller replied WRDSB sends the message of inclusion and equity consistently but recognized there is still a need we're not meeting and isolation is not intentional but how do we make it better?

J. Osterveld questioned if a checklist could be used for off-campus trips to make sure inclusion issues are addressed.

M. Domme had concerns with lack of communication to the parents and lack of alternative programming.

K. Pryke ended discussion with the understanding it will be followed up at next meeting.

Request by K. Pryke to extend meeting to 9:10 – all in favour.

SEAC Terms of Reference (Review and Update) (S. Miller)

Some items are dated. Will form a subcommittee to work through revisions. S. Miller will send email request for participants.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO ADD DAN HOLT AS THE ALTERNATE FOR THE ASSOCIATION FOR BRIGHT CHILDREN OF ONTARIO (ABC).

3. Moved by S. Drexler, seconded by T. Blanchette :

- Carried -

That Dan Holt be added as the alternate for ABC Ontario.

ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- C. Borman – Waterloo Region Family Network spring registration upcoming
- S. Drexler – World Autism Day upcoming. Raise the Flag.com for schools for resources

TRUSTEE REPORT

Thames Valley FASD motion passed by board – ratified at end of month.

CHAIR REPORT

Handout of recent correspondence received by SEAC Chair.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, April 8, 2015 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by K. Waybrant, seconded by T. Blanchette :

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.