



Special Education Advisory Committee

May 10, 2017

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm, in the St Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Kristina Campbell, Jennifer Checkley, Dawn Clelland, Mary Cunningham, Kris Pryke, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider, Shannon Taylor, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Sophia Catania, Marianne Domm, Sara Penny, Amanda Schultz, Faye Zevenbergen
- Non-Association Members: Meagan Minott, Sherri Popovich, Carmen Sutherland

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

Regrets: Colleen Borman, Stuart Cross, Graham Dunn, Molly Fortier, John Hendry, Cindy Watson

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

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

That the agenda of the May 10, 2017 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

Carried

Approval of Minutes

Moved by A. Schultz, seconded by F. Zevenbergen:

That the minutes of the April 12, 2017 Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Moved by K. Waybrant, seconded by S. Taylor

Motion to change a statement in the April minutes, page 3 to reflect that all students should have the opportunity to take a careers course, not just have a career day.

Carried

Special Education Update

Budget Updates - S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, informed members that one grant going forward for the 2017-2018 School Year is the grant supporting the LD pilot project in Cambridge Schools. A meeting will take place on May 18th in London with 8 other boards to share success stories.

Still waiting to confirm the autism EPO Grant. This grant currently supports our ASD Team that provides supports and interventions for students that are experiencing difficulties at school. Our hope is that this grant will continue and that any money left over from this year will be able to be rolled over into the 2017-2018 School Year.

The per pupil allotment went up \$500 per student but the Special Education Grant as remained status quo.

Staffing Updates - Rob Klea has announced his retirement. Rob has supported numerous students with our Board. Sharon Lawton will be assuming the role of Program Leader for Behaviour Services.

All of our unions have agreed to 2 year contract extensions. Within these extensions there has been a focus on special education, which has resulted in money to be spent on staffing. At the secondary we are currently in the process of hiring an additional WATS Teacher (Work And Transitions Program). We will also be hiring an itinerant teacher (Learning for All) - to support teachers, students in Secondary Schools.

The Elementary settlement resulted in approximately 1.1 million dollars to put towards Special Education Staffing – details of this staffing are being finalized.

The Educational Assistants and Child and Youth Workers settlement resulted in \$1.4 million for staffing.

Special Education Town Hall: Reflection - Questions or comments? SEAC felt this was a good idea and allowed the group to share and problem solve. In the future this should be scheduled at regular intervals.

One discussion was changing the name of Priority 1 Class Programs (i.e., Dev Ed, etc. for the class name to not identify the class with an exceptionality).

Broke into groups to identify gaps in service, discuss recommendations and provide potential staff actions. Ideas will be collated and summarized at next meeting.

Other Business

M. Domm announced that she will no longer be representing WRDSS as of June 30, 2017 and will therefore not be the SEAC rep on the EIAG committee (Equity and Inclusion strategy). If you are interested in assuming this role, please let Karin know.

Round Table Association Reports

Time sensitive association reports will be forwarded to members prior to the next meeting.

Chair Report

A Sider mentioned a June get-together after next month's meeting. A majority were in agreement so she will look into something.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 7:00 pm in the St. Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre.

Adjournment

Moved by D. Clelland, seconded by T. Blanchette:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.