

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee members: John Hendry, Marg Johnston
- Trustee Alternates: Kathleen Woodcock
- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Dawn Clelland, Mary Cunningham, Marianne Domm, Sarah Drexler, Laura Ferguson, Liz Nickason, Kris Pryke, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Molly Fortier, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider
- Non-Association Members: Kevin Rempel, Amy Tupling, Frank Johnson

Board Staff in attendance: Stuart Cross, Scott Lomax, Scott R. Miller, Barbara Williams, Lori Willsteed
Regrets: Colleen Borman

CALL TO ORDER

SEAC Chair K Pryke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by T. Blanchett, seconded by M. Domm:

That the agenda of the November 12, 2014, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by M. Domm, seconded by M. Cunningham:

That the minutes of the October 8, 2014, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

B. Williams, Special Education Consultant - Program Leader/Learning Disabilities, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled Understanding Learning Disabilities, which focused on identifying learning disabilities, PPM 8 – Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities, supports, and PPM 156 – Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs. B. Williams also fielded questions from the group, included information about programs (i.e., Empower), diagnostic processes, congregated class, psychological assessments and the Special Needs Strategy.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

K. Waybrant requested that the October 8, 2014 SEAC Minutes be revised to include the following paragraph under the section titled Business arising from the Minutes:

“There was a rich discussion related to families signing IPRC’s for placement with the need to address integration of their child through the IEP.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Presentation: Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society

M. Domm and J. Oosterveld provided a video presentation and overview of the Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society including a historical perspective, vision, mission statement, Annual Buddy Walk, Buddy Choir and Bursary Programs. Discussion focused the vision and wishes of association families and their students with Down syndrome, but not limited to, social acceptance and opportunities, educational support and equity, independence and life after school. M. Domm and J. Oosterveld also fielded questions from the group. Trustee Johnston suggested that the Buddy Choir (a choir of young people with Down syndrome and their buddies) perform at an upcoming Board Meeting.

SEAC Nominations

S. Miller, Assistant (to) Superintendent of Education – Learning Services, Special Education informed the group that SEAC Nominations will be presented to the Board for formal approval on Monday, December 15, 2014.

ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/ONE – M. Cunningham spoke about the Supporting Minds document, an educator’s guide to promoting students’ mental health and well-being.

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy - K. Waybrant provided limited copies of the brochure from Every Canadian Counts, which is an emerging coalition committed to improving services for Canadians living with long-term, severe disabilities.

K. Waybrant also reminded members that S. Furey will be stepping down from her role as Association Alternate and will attend the social portion of the December 10, 2014 SEAC meeting to say farewell to the group.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Johnston informed the group that this was her last meeting and thanked members and WRDSB staff for their support. She invited members to attend a future Board meeting and to consider running for election as a School Board Trustee.

Trustee Hendry advised members of the appointment of the Honourable David C. Onley as a Special Adviser on Accessibility to champion opportunities for people of all abilities in the public and private sectors. Trustee Hendry also informed members of the David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility, which recognizes four individuals or organizations each year who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment in supporting awareness of accessibility and disability issues. Trustee Hendry encouraged members to nominate someone they know for the award and that the nomination deadline closes December 3, 2014. Trustee Hendry will forward this information to S. Miller.

CHAIR REPORT

K. Pryke thanked B. Williams for her presentation and suggested that these types of discussion occur regularly throughout the year. She also asked members to consider including Implications of Technology as a future SEAC agenda item.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- WRDSB Speech and Language Presentation
- Proposed SEAC Structure
- Seasonal Social

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Johnston, seconded by M. Domm:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.