

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee members: John Hendry
- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Gavin Craig, Mary Cunningham, Marianne Domm, Liz Nickason, Kris Pryke, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Molly Fortier, Angela Sider
- Non-Association Members: Colleen Borman, Kevin Rempel, Amy Tupling
- Board Staff in attendance: Scott Lomax, Scott R. Miller, Karin Sonnenberg
- Regrets: Dawn Clelland, Stuart Cross, Laura Ferguson, Sue Furey, Ed Hermanovics, Janine Oosterveld, James Taeger, Kathleen Woodcock
- Guests: Kristina Campbell, Sarah Drexler, Graham Dunn

### **CALL TO ORDER**

SEAC Chair K. Pryke called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by G. Craig, seconded by M. Domm:

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

- Carried -

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Moved by K Waybrant, seconded by M. Domm:

**That the minutes of the September 10, 2014, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.**

- Carried -

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

S. Miller, Assistant (to) Superintendent of Education – Learning Services, Special Education, M. Domm, K. Waybrant, D. Clelland and K, Pryke met a few weeks ago to further discuss the OnSIS data that was presented at the June SEAC meeting. S. Miller highlighted that the OnSIS data regarding secondary special education students in self-contained classrooms may be somewhat misleading as students who are integrated into regular classrooms, but are not receiving credits are still represented in OnSIS as being in self-contained classrooms. The goal is to move towards obtaining more accurate data.

K. Waybrant commented that the number of elementary students in congregated settings is increasing and this, as well as inclusivity, should be discussed at a future meeting. 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. S. Miller advised that parents have the opportunity to review and reflect at the time of the IPRC.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

EQAO Results (Gr. 3, 6, 9 and 10) – S. Miller reviewed the 2013-14 EQAO results and provided a 5 year comparison (overall Board results vs. Special Needs). Math results continue to decrease at both levels and S. Miller highlighted some of the strategies and supports the Board is implementing to improve those results, such as;

- Making Dreambox (an online tool) more accessible to elementary students at school and at home.
- Providing online training for teachers to use these tools. Perhaps making these modules available to parents as well.
- Empower

Questions and Suggestions were fielded by S. Miller.

Website Update – S. Miller provided an overview of the Board website and where information on SEAC, IPRC's and Special Education Plan could be found. He will look into where information on MACSE could be found on the website. M. Domm commented that M. Deacon, Executive Officer, Communications and Engagement, called her to further discuss the forms that should be available to parents on the website. A suggestion was made to make the Special Education Plan more user-friendly by providing a table of contents or a search component to find certain subjects within it. S. Miller gave membership some time to list the forms they would like to see on the website. A brief listing would include;

- IEP template
- IPRC form
- IPRC waiver form
- Safety Plan form
- Third party consent form
- External Provider form
- Psych Assessment

A suggestion was made to also include “samples” or “examples” of completed forms and “parent tips” to assist in understanding these forms.

WRDSB Special Education Plan (Areas of Focus: Chapter 4 and 9) – S. Miller provided 2 handouts of the areas of focus and gave membership some time to review and discuss. This was an opportunity for a first glance and this subject will be on the agenda at future meetings.

SEAC Nomination Process – Information regarding the nomination process can be found on the Board website as well as a previous email forwarded to members. A reminder was given to get letters of nomination to K. Sonnenberg, prior to October 31, 2014.

### **ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – M. Cunningham circulated a copy of the newly issued *FASD ONE Call to Action* for members of SEAC to review. The purpose of this document is to have FASD included in Ontario's evolving cross ministerial response to developmental disabilities. Recommendations for actions to achieve the above goal are included under five categories:

Awareness and Prevention, Assessment and Diagnosis, Intervention and Support, Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Enhancement and Research and Evaluation.

Waterloo Region Family Network – C. Borman provided a handout (see attachment October 28.pdf)

Autism Ontario – G. Craig advised SEAC members that he will be stepping down after his term is over and commented that it was an honour to work with this committee.

Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society – M. Domm

DSAO (Down Syndrome Association of Ontario) is hosting their annual conference in Niagara Falls October 24-26, 2014. It is a great time for parents to continue to educate themselves in various areas concerning Down syndrome. This year we have a group of local self-advocates presenting a session on life after school.

November 1 – 7 is National Down Syndrome Awareness Week. Our local WRDSS is celebrating during this week by having our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Buddy Walk. It is a time for us within our own local community to advocate for people with Down syndrome to lead healthy and active lives enabling them to contribute their unique gifts to our community.

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Hendry mentioned that he will be the keynote speaker at the Links to Employment, a committee that is working with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

K. Pryke had nothing to report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **MOTION TO ACCEPT SARAH DREXLER AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR AUTISM ONTARIO.**

3. Moved by K. Waybrant, seconded by M. Domm

**That Sarah Drexler will be accepted as the representative for Autism Ontario on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).**

- Carried -

M. Domm mentioned that at her association's last meeting, parents commented that they were told IEP's were not SMART goals. S. Miller advised that as a system, the Board is moving away from SMART goal language to Learning Goal and Success Criteria, thereby creating more individualized IEP's.

K. Waybrant presented a flyer regarding a conference being presented by Osgoode Hall regarding "Advanced Issues in Special Education Law". She asked if anyone from the WRDSB

October 8, 2014

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

would be attending and if this could be open to SEAC representatives. S. Miller commented that he is not aware of anyone from our Board going to this particular conference. The cost to attend this conference may be prohibitive to individuals. S. Miller advised that he has attending similar conferences in the past and would be willing to look into the possibility of securing some speakers to come to SEAC meetings to do presentations, if interested.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

**ADJOURNMENT**

4. Moved by G. Craig, seconded by M. Cunningham:

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

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.