

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, November 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: Liz Nickason,, Kris Pryke, Angela Sider, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Jennifer Checkley, Marianne Domm, Molly Fortier
- Non-Association Members: Andrea Idika, Sherri Ramage, Amy Tupling

Board Staff in attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Scott R. Miller, Karin Sonnenberg, Lila Reed  
Regrets: Tina Blanchette, Colleen Borman, Elaine Brown, Kristina Campbell, Mary Cunningham, Graham Dunn, Frank Johnson, Janine Oosterveld  
Guests: Shana McTurk

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

- Carried -

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**That the minutes of the October 7, 2015, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.**

- Carried -

S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, welcomed guest, Shana McTurk.

#### **Association Presentation: Parents for Children's Mental Health**

A Sider showed two PowerPoint presentations explaining what her agency does and how they are dealing with current issues surrounding mental health. (Presentations attached). A resource guide was handed out to members and a parent handbook was passed around. The handbook can be purchased for \$25. A. Sider fielded questions and comments from members.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

S. Miller informed members that the Board is working on linking information from Parents for Children's Mental Health to the Board website. B. Ward, Mental Health Lead, will be updating members on the WRDSB Mental Health initiative at a future meeting.

A WRDSB organization chart will be included as an attachment with the minutes.

Community Hubs Discussion - S. Miller provided a copy of the consolidated points made at October's meeting regarding community hubs, (see attached Community Hubs). It was a timely discussion as the Chairperson of the Board requested feedback from SEAC about this topic.

Policy Review- If there are policies that you would like to discuss at SEAC meetings, please let Karin know and she will forward it to the Chairperson for inclusion in future agendas. Even if a policy has already been reviewed, it is an on-going cycle and trustees will consider comments/suggestions made at any time. Chair Pryke asked members to list some policies they would like to have discussed/reviewed.

WRDSB Special Education Plan - Members discussed Section 19 briefly, specifically whether it should remain in the plan or if there was a way to enhance the wording of the piece. Trustee Watson suggested that a small group look at this from a special education perspective. Members agreed that it is a good opportunity to provide feedback regarding forward thinking but not sure of how to proceed. S. Miller indicated that this will be discussed at the December meeting and if anyone has suggestions, please send them to A. Sider, S. Miller or K. Sonnenberg.

### **ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Carizon (S. Ramage)- Carizon has announced the appointment of Tracy Elop as CEO, effective January 4, 2016. Tracy is a leading advocate for children, youth, adults and families, and brings more than 20 years of experience in both the business and not-for-profit sectors, including her work as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer at KidsAbility Centre for Child Development.

Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society (J. Oosterveld) - WRDSS hosted an amazing Buddy Walk on November 1st (an awareness and fundraising event) which coincides with National Down Syndrome Awareness Week. The weather was amazing, many family, friends and community supporters attended to show support for our friends and family members with Down Syndrome. We also launched our calendar sales at this event which highlight the amazing smiles and personalities of our members. The calendar will bring a smile to your day, every day of the year, so please consider ordering one at [ <http://wrdss.ca> ]wrdss.ca.

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Hendry informed members that trustees are currently involved in a performance review of the Director of Education.

He provided an update on the ongoing construction at the Education Centre.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Pryke indicated that this will be her last SEAC meeting as Chairperson as she will be absent in December. A. Sider will chair the December meeting. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will take place in January 2016.

Chair Pryke wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

S. Miller thanked K. Pryke for the wonderful job she has done as Chair during the last 2 years. He suggested that we postpone holiday celebrations until January when she returns.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

**ADJOURNMENT**

3. Moved by A. Sider, seconded by M. Fortier:

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

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.