

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, June 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee Members: Cindy Watson
- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Mary Cunningham, Graham Dunn, Janine Oosterveld, Kris Pryke, Angela Sider, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Kristina Campbell, Jennifer Checkley, Marianne Domm, Molly Fortier, Andrea Ideka
- Non-Association Members: Colleen Borman, Amy Tupling

Board Staff in attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Scott R. Miller, Pat Pietrek, Lila Read, Karin Sonnenberg

Regrets: John Hendry, Frank Johnson, Liz Nickason

Guests: Sherry Ramage

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by J. Oosterveld, seconded by M. Cunningham:

**That the agenda of the September 9, 2015, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.**

- Carried -

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Moved by G. Dunn seconded by K. Waybrant:

**That the minutes of the June 10,,2015, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.**

- Carried -

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Welcome - S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, welcomed back SEAC Members and introduced C. Benedetti, System Administrator, Learning Services - Special Education, Lila Read, Sr. Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being and Sherry Ramage, a guest and potential SEAC member representing Carizon. K. Rempel left his position at Carizon and will no longer be a member of SEAC.

Special Needs Strategy Update - Pat Pietrek, Chief Speech & Language Pathologist, provided a power point on Ontario Special Needs Strategy (*see attachment Special Needs Strategy.pptx*)

Questions and comments were fielded by P. Pietrek. A. Sider offered to do a presentation on her association "Parents of Children with Mental Health" to provide further clarification to members and provide them with the mental health perspective.

This link [waterlooregionspecialneedsstrategy.weebly.com](http://waterlooregionspecialneedsstrategy.weebly.com) will provide you with communication updates - once you're in the website, look under "updates and publications", then under "regional". The six updates from the Integrated rehab working group are all there.

**WRDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA)**

S Miller showed the video that was presented to System Leaders at the beginning of the school year. This can also be found on the Board Website. He also provided a brief overview of the BIPSA. Positive comments were made about the video.

Updates to the Board website were also presented.

Budget Priorities - S. Miller provided a handout that consolidated the comments from SEAC members made at the June meeting regarding budget priorities. Members split into groups to discuss the points and list how they would like to see these priorities accomplished. S. Miller collected the comments.

Stop, Start, Continue - Review - K. Pryke commented that the exercise was overall positive.

SEAC Training Session: October 7. One of the top ideas of the Stop, Start, Continue exercise was a need to have an orientation session for new SEAC members. A suggestion was made to have this before the October meeting. We will go ahead and plan it. Send any topics to discuss to Kris. Start time 5 pm. Dinner will be provided. An email will be sent to all members to RSVP.

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

Update on Fail to Fills - K. Waybrant informed members that a sub-committee met in July. S. Miller, J. Oosterveld, M. Domm and K. Waybrant met to discuss the fail to fill problem with EA's. S. Miller informed members that small teams are being formulated to interview groups of 10 potential EA's. Also, an efficient orientation method is being designed- working with HR and Carrie Parking - so that it can be done much faster and get the EA's on the supply list. Looking at people that are willing to work in all classrooms. Catholic Board comparisons made- if EA's work for both boards. WRDSB has raised hours of work up to 30 hours a week, some can work up to 35 hours. Communication between admin and teachers need to improve- admin should be going to teachers and advising if EA isn't coming in.

K. Pryke suggested that since D. Clelland is unable to come to 3 SEAC meetings during the year due to being a rep on MACSE, could we consider moving the meetings to a different Wed during these months(Oct, Mar and June). No SEAC member disagreed to this. This does not set any precedence- only for this year. An option is to find Dawn an alternate. She does represent Spec Ed on a provincial level at MACSE. Membership voted- majority. Meetings will be held Oct 7, March 2 and June 15.

### **ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Time sensitive announcements were made. These still need to be sent to Karin and she will forward them to all SEAC members by the following week.

Tourette Canada (T. Blanchette)

Tourette Canada, formerly known as Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada, has under gone a re-branding transition (new bilingual name and logo). After almost a year's worth of discussion and consultation it's been decided that the kite best represents who we are and where we want to go as an organization. Originally there was the 'green leaf of hope', and then the familiar 'rising sun logo'. After almost 40 years it's believed the organization offers so much more than hope, that our community has grown far beyond a "peek over the horizon" – that we're ready to fly. As such, the new Kite logo represents that each kite's journey is unique, individual and apparently random, much like those who live with TS. Buffeted by the wind, it can sometimes be a challenge to stay aloft. With the help of its string the kite can be guided and encouraged; its path can be smoothed and it can fly higher, further, stronger and longer. With appropriate support the kite's flight is balanced, fulfilling and beautiful – just as we wish every person's life to be.



Please share with your networks that Tourette Canada is hosting its annual National Conference this year in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Oct. 15 -17th and features specific sessions for parents, adults, youth, children and an Educator's day. Information and registration about the conference can be found at [www.tourette.ca](http://www.tourette.ca)

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

No Report.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

K Pryke received more correspondence from other SEACs. Kris has electronic copies of the letters and will send them to members, if interested. Two of the letters were in regards to Bill 174 (Hiring Practices), a third letter was in response to FASD Funding and there was also a letter that referred to EQAO Testing not aligning with the Ministry of Education's Learning For All Document and the basis principles that are presented.

A discussion regarding the Ministry report "Community Hubs in Ontario" will occur at October's meeting. (see attachment)

*MinistryofEducationResponsetotheReleaseofCommunityHubsinOnt.pdf and community-hubs-a-strategic-framework-and-action)*

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

3. Moved by J. Oosterveld , seconded by J Checkly :

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

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.