

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee members: John Hendry, Margaret Johnston
- Trustee Alternates: Kathleen Woodcock
- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Mary Cunningham, Marianne Domm, Laura Ferguson, Liz Nickason, Kris Pryke, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Molly Fortier, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider
- Non-Association Members: Colleen Borman, Kevin Rempel, Amy Tupling

Board Staff in attendance: Stuart Cross, Marty Deacon, Scott Lomax, Scott R. Miller, Karin Sonnenberg, Barb Ward

Regrets: Gavin Craig, Sue Furey, Ed Hermanovics,

Guests: Jennifer Checkley, Sarah Drexler, Jessica Hutchison

### **CALL TO ORDER**

SEAC Chair K. Pryke called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

- Carried -

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**That the minutes of the June 4, 2014, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.**

- Carried -

### **WELCOME**

S. Miller, Assistant (to) Superintendent, Learning Services – Special Education and Program welcomed SEAC members, welcomed back Trustee Johnston and introduced S. Lomax, Superintendent of Education – Learning Services. SEAC members introduced themselves at the meeting.

### **Communication /Website Update**

M. Deacon, Executive Officer, Communications and Engagement, provided a brief overview and power point presentation of the new WRDSB website, which has been designed to be more

inclusive and accessible. Work on the website is ongoing and she welcomes suggestions and comments (martha\_deacon@wrdsb.on.ca). Some suggestions made by SEAC members have been forwarded to her attention.

#### WRDSB Mental Health Strategy Update

B. Ward, Mental Health Lead, provided an overview and update on the WRDSB Mental Health Strategy that is currently in its third year. A power point presentation has been attached with the minutes. M. Deacon encouraged SEAC members to view the mental health videos that are imbedded in the BIPSA on the Board website (<http://metamedia.ca/WRDSB/category/wellness/>). A handout was provided with 3 questions to be answered and returned to B. Ward at the end of the meeting. Questions were fielded and SEAC members are encouraged to email B. Ward ([Barbara\\_ward@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:Barbara_ward@wrdsb.on.ca)) with questions or comments.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) – SEAC members were shown the BIPSA video (<http://metamedia.ca/WRDSB/category/overall-goal/>). S Miller fielded comments from SEAC members. The overall goal of the BIPSA focuses on total inclusivity and SEAC would like to see more students from Special Education featured in future videos.

Revised PPM 8: Identification of and Programing for Students with Learning Disabilities – S. Miller advised that this will come into fruition January 2015 and suggested that a consultant attend a SEAC meeting to discuss how the Board is supporting LD students.

PPM 156: Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Needs – It is now mandated that all students with an IEP have a transition plan. S. Miller fielded questions and comments from SEAC members. In order to have the transition plan be effective, it is important to get the parents of the student involved in the process. S. Miller advised that this discussion will be part of the professional development plan for teachers this year.

WRDSB Special Education Plan Update – S. Cross, System Administrator, Special Education updated SEAC members on the sections of the Special Education Plan that have been updated/revised and advised that the Plan will be ready to be posted on the Board website in the very near future. Review of sections 4 and 19 of the plan will be future agenda items.

#### ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

##### TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee K. Woodcock is excited to be back at work and commented on how pleased she was with the communication website and the BIPSA video.

Trustee M. Johnston advised SEAC members that she will not be running for trustee at the upcoming election. It was a difficult decision and she thanked SEAC members for her time spent on the committee.

## **CHAIR REPORT**

The following is the procedure to be followed by associations requesting membership to SEAC. This information will be posted to the Board website;

In the year of a municipal election, local associations must write to the Director of Education and Secretary by October 31 to request membership on the S.E.A.C. The letter should include the nomination and qualifications of the applicant. The Board may appoint only those persons who qualify. Each local Association is entitled to one member and one alternate. The representative of the local association nominated by the association is normally the person appointed by the Board. One alternate will be selected by each Association represented at SEAC and appointed by the Board to serve for the term of the committee. They must meet the same qualifications as set out for members.

Special Education Advisory members must be eligible to vote for members of the Waterloo Region District School Board and be a resident in the area of jurisdiction of the Waterloo Region District School Board. Employees of the Waterloo Region District School board are not eligible to be members of SEAC.

The Special Education Advisory Committee may make recommendations to the board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board. In addition, SEAC will participate in the review of the Special Education plan, participate in the budget process and review the financial statements as they relate to Special Education.

Questions about SEAC should be directed to Mr. Scott Miller, Assistant (to) Superintendent of Education -Learning Services-Special Education at 519-570-0003 ext 4334.

Applications should be addressed as follows:

Special Education Advisory Committee Membership Application  
Attn: Mr. John Bryant  
Director and Secretary WRDSB  
51 Ardel Avenue  
Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5

Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth – see attachment for information

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

3. Moved by L. Ferguson, seconded by A. Sider:

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

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.