

September 14, 2016
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the St Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Jennifer Checkley, Mary Cunningham, Dawn Clelland, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider, Kris Pryke, Shannon Taylor,
- Association Alternates: Marianne Domm, Molly Fortier, Amanda Schultz,
- Non-Association Members: Colleen Borman, Stuart Cross, Sherri Popovich, Carmen Sutherland, Amy Tupling,

Board Staff in attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Scott R. Miller, Lila Read, Karin Sonnenberg
Regrets: Kristina Campbell, John Hendry, Cindy Watson, Katherine Waybrant
Guests: Faye Zevenbergen, Sophia Catania

CALL TO ORDER

SEAC Chair A. Sider called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1 .Moved by J. Oosterveld, seconded by T. Blanchette:

That the agenda of the September 14, 2016, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by J. Oosterveld, seconded by C. Sutherland:

That the minutes of the June 15, 2016, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

2016/17 School Year - S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being presented a video "What is your hope?" Members discussed this question as it relates to their associations and the students/parents they represent.

WRDSB Strategic Plan - L. Read, Senior Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being presented and discussed the 2016-17 Strategic Plan for the WRDSB. A PowerPoint presentation was shown to members.

A video was shown. (We the WRDSB) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZAtY-tRSXw>
More work to be done on the Strategic Plan Purpose Statement, which will be led by our Communications Officer and Communications Team. Sr. Team has started to develop an implementation plan with goals focused on mathematics, graduation rates and student and staff

wellness. Consultations continue with staff, community partners, parents, caregivers and the board of trustees will be getting an update at the end of October that will include an implementation plan. Another inspirational video was shown to illustrate collaboration.

L. Read fielded comments and questions.

Ontario Autism Program - S Miller discussed the Ministry's plan regarding ABA. There was a lot of feedback from parents and the Ministry of Education will be providing additional funding and the approach to ABA therapy has been differentiated, depending on need. Currently as a board we have received 2 years of additional funding to support autism (close to \$200,000).

Reading Intervention Pilot Project - We learned over the summer that our region has been selected for this. S. Miller shared that Cambridge area schools were targeted.

We will be collaborating with Waterloo Catholic School Board for this project.

The pilot project will focus on early intervention in reading and use the EMPOWER program. The targeted group will be grade 2 students with 5 participating schools. The plan right now is to have this in place by mid-October.

This is a three year pilot project

S. Miller fielded comments and questions.

L. Read thanked S. Miller for his work in bringing this plan forward to the Ministry.

Follow up from June SEAC Meeting (Assess & Reflect) - Handout distributed summarizing highlights, things to continue, things to stop and ideas to consider.

SEAC Vision Guiding Principles Document - Steering Committee met again tonight. There is strong alignment with our strategic plan.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SEAC members introduced themselves.

Corrections were made in the minutes prior to posting to the website.

ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Waterloo Region Family Network - We have a number of attachments to share, as well the following announcement: Katie Galashan – Family Resource Coach with Autism Services Waterloo Region – has now transitioned to her new role with WRFN.

Katie will continue to support families as the WRFN Family Resource Coach in connecting them to community resources. Her role has expanded to include all exceptionalities. We are very excited that Katie has joined the WRFN team!!!

Other time sensitive information was shared with member and will be included as attachments with the minutes.

OFCP will be holding their 69th annual general meeting (AGM) on November 4th at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto on November 4th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. In addition the AGM, the day events will include entertainment, lunch and the Awards Ceremony. Any OFCP member planning on attending should RSVP by September 22nd to Leanne Davidson at 416-244-9686 or 1-877-244-9686

TRUSTEE REPORT

No trustees were available

CHAIR REPORT

At the end of the year, members listed priority areas that they were interested in discussing. A handout was distributed and groups discussed the various points. Each group highlighted the various points they discussed. Notes will be collected.

A call for agenda items will be made to members mid-month. An email will be sent requesting ideas for agenda items. Comments reflected that members were in agreement to this practice.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next SEAC meeting date is **October 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the **St. Jacobs Learning Hub (Building 1)**, Education Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by K. Pryke, seconded by D. Clelland:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.