

A meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the St. Clements Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- 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,

Board Staff in attendance: Stuart Cross, Mark Harper, Scott R. Miller, Karin Sonnenberg
Regrets: Dawn Clelland, Sue Furey, John Hendry, Ed Hermanovics, Margaret Johnston, Elke Mayer, Amy Tupling

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by M. Cunningham, seconded by M. Domm :

That the agenda of the March 5, 2014, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the minutes of the February 12, 2014, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A Sider commented on the lack of detail in the minutes. M. Harper, Superintendent of Learning Services, explained that the intent is to capture the general tone and key points of the meeting and if there are any questions arising from the minutes, they can be addressed at the next meeting.

Chair K. Pryke indicated that no further details regarding the MACSE minutes could be revealed prior to them being made public due to confidentiality agreements signed by MACSE members (D. Clelland).

MOTION TO ADD Molly Fortier AS THE ALTERNATE MEMBER FOR VOICE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN.

3. Moved by M. Cunningham, seconded by K. Waybrant:

That Molly Fortier be added as the alternate for Voice for Hearing Impaired Children.

- Carried -

October Report Follow up – K. Waybrant conducted her own analysis based on the type of analysis that Upper Canada DSB did and found there was an increase in the number of students segregated within the developmental disability category at the secondary level than there was within the elementary level. Most of the other exceptionalities had either a decrease or stayed the same in terms of type of placement. For example, students within the gifted category went from mostly segregated in elementary to fully integrated at the secondary level. She asked if data from previous years could be used to compare and examine trends. S. Miller, Assistant (to) Superintendent Learning Services – Special Education did provide an overview and a one page summary for the last 4 years at the last meeting but could forward additional data to members with the minutes.

M. Domm asked if parents are given the option during the IPRC process to have their child integrated into regular classrooms throughout the day, while still having a placement in a congregated setting. Chair K. Pryke asked how this report is used in accountability. M. Harper advised that every student mentioned in a report is supported by a number of staff and that although there is almost always an explanation as to why a decision was made, it may not be effectively captured in this report. Multiple exceptionalities also present challenges in classifying students, for example, gifted exceptionalities could also have other exceptionalities attached in an IPRC and some students may be exempted from participating in a gifted program due to behavioural exceptionality. S. Miller will attempt to retrieve this data and will explore what is included in a multiple exceptionality designation. M. Harper explained that mental health impacts all exceptionalities and touched briefly on the implementation of the mental health strategy.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Parent/Teacher Engagement Discussion – S. Miller reviewed the discussion notes from the February SEAC meeting and advised that these ideas will be communicated to staff.

Inclusive Education in the Waterloo Region District School Board – SEAC members broke into smaller groups to discuss the following points (30 min);

- What is Inclusion?
- Identify current inclusionary practices being used in the WRDSB
- What are possible strategies to further enable, enhance and/or better support inclusion?
- Additional thoughts and/or ideas about inclusion?

S. Miller will consolidate the information from all the groups and discuss at April's meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair K. Pryke mentioned a letter forwarded to her from the Rainbow District School Board addressed to Minister L. Sandals regarding speech and language services. This letter will be scanned and forwarded to SEAC members for their information. M. Harper advised that SEAC can respond and offer support.

M. Domm wanted to know about a rumour that secondary teachers were meeting to collaborate to make programs more effective for students. S. Miller advised that as a result of feedback, teachers are participating in ABA training taking place now.

S. Miller advised that the alternative report card is ready to be released and training for staff will be provided.

M Domm noted the positive change that occurred this September with reference to our high school students in special education classes attending for the full school day and is asking the Board for an update on where things stand with reference to our elementary students in special education classrooms attending for full school days as well.

K. Waybrant commented on a past event called “What I want you to know about me Day” that occurred in her son’s school a few years ago and the benefits of this activity.

ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Waterloo Region Family Network – (C. Borman) Attached to minutes please find flyers “WRFN.pdf”.

Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society (M. Domm)
See Attached – WRDSS report.pdf

TRUSTEE REPORT

There was no Trustee Report at this meeting.

CHAIR REPORT

There was no Chair Report at this meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair K. Pryke will make a list of future agenda items, prioritizing them and bring them to the next meeting, including items such as the budget discussion, special education plan.
M. Cunningham will present a neuro-behavioural model at the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 7:00 p.m., in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.