Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - December 13, 2017

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm, in the St Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: None

Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Sophia Catania, Mary Cunningham, Janine Oosterveld, Kris Pryke, Angela Sider, Carmen Sutherland, Shannon Taylor, Katherine Waybrant

Association Alternates: Amy Dibben, Kathy Moreland, Sara Penny, Amanda Schultz, Faye Zevenbergen

Non-Association Members: None

Board Staff in Attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Leonilda Gil, Scott Miller

Regrets: Jennifer Checkley, Dawn Clelland, Stuart Cross, Deanna Driedger Seeger, Graham Dunn, Molly Fortier, John Hendry, Cindy Watson

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Janine Oosterveld, seconded by Mary Cunningham:

That the agenda of the December 13, 2017 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried –

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Kris Pryke, seconded by Shannon Taylor:

That the minutes of the November 8, 2017 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried –

Business Arising from the Minutes

C. Sutherland from Waterloo Region Family Network made note of the guest speaker, Krista McCann – Program Coordinator of Waterloo Region Family Network wherein she spoke about the Young Cares Project at the November meeting. Minutes indicated there was a video mentioned twice but there was actually one video and a powerpoint.

Guest Speaker

Sarah Ranco – Student at Laurier who has been working closely with Deepa Ahluwalia, Equity and Inclusion Officer with the Waterloo Region District School Board. The Ministry is requiring schools boards to have a Bullying Prevention & Intervention Template (BPIP). Sarah has developed a template, which is composed of ten sections.

1. Introduction
    - Description and definition of bullying
    - PREVNet Website has created the template.
2. SCIS (Safe Caring and Inclusive School) Teams
    - List of the SCIS Team

3. Environmental Scan
    - What does the school data tell us?
4. Awareness and Prevention
    - What are we doing in our schools and our classrooms for bullying awareness and prevention strategies?
5. Intervention
    - How are we reporting and responding to bullying in our schools?
6. Training Strategies and Resources
7. Community Resources
    - How do we bring in community members and resources?
8. Communication
    - How are we communicating with students, staff and parents/caregivers?
9. Continuous Improvement
    - Monitoring and improving the process, is it working?
    - What needs to be changed?
10. Timelines
    - How will we proceed with the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan?

Members reflected the unique challenges that exist around bullying for those children/youth who access special education support. Sarah Ranco created an anonymous posting board where SEAC Members can provide feedback on the template – goo.gl/5qBS7S – available until Sunday, December 17. Sarah can be reached at ranc5320@mylaurier.ca if you have any questions.

Special Education Update

Video presented by S. Miller: Learning For All: 7-10 Split

● Rick Hansen Foundation - Glencairn School Celebration

S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement and Well-Being indicated that the WRDSB was successful in getting a grant from the Rick Hansen Foundation, to ensure we break down infrastructure barriers that may exist in our schools for people with accessibility needs - this grant went towards the purchase of a portable lift. "Barrier Buster Event" was held on December 1st at Glencairn P.S.

● EQAO Results

S. Miller - provided results of grade 3 & 6 EQAO tests in reading, writing and math for 16/17 school year as well as grade 9 academic math.

A. Sider from Parents for Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region shared a letter from the Director of Special Education with the Ministry of Education regarding a review that is happening for Educational Assessment including both EQAO and Classroom Assessment. A survey is available for the public and is to be completed on line by December 15th (L. Gil to send out information for an on-line survey on Thursday, December 14). A. Sider and C. Benedetti, System Administrator, spoke about the survey and recommended people take the time to complete the survey. The survey focuses on EQAO and Classroom Assessments and their effectiveness.

● Conditions For Learning (SCIS Survey Results)

WRDSB Conditions for Learning

- Relationships, Pedagogy & Assessment and Learning Environment.

Outcomes for Students Include:

- Well-being and Resilience, Graduation from WRDSB Schools and Programs, Achievement, Global Competencies, Engagement.

Chair Report

● Vision and Guiding Principles Update - deferred to next meeting by S. Sider.

Motion to have Amy Dibben from Waterloo Region Down Syndrome as alternate, approved by Sara Penny, seconded by Katherine Waybrant.

Motion to have Kathy Moreland from FASD/ONE as alternate, approved by Shannon Taylor and seconded by Kris Pryke.

Trustee Report

S. Miller indicated that Cindy Watson, SEAC Trustee Representative, shared that the Trustee's have passed a motion to support a letter requesting an increase in funding for students with special needs.

Round Table Association Reports

J. Oosterveld from Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society showed members a copy of the 2018 calendar.

M. Cunningham from FASD/ONE is going to Queen's Park on December 14th for the decision on making September 9th FASD day.

C. Sutherland from Waterloo Region Family Network shared the following update via e-mail:

1. December 14th - Family Resource Coach: Katie Galashan has taken a new position. Going forward, the Family Resource Coach role will continue, but on a part-time basis.
2. Summer Camp and Recreation Fair: Monday, February 12, 6-8 PM, Family Centre Gym. Come find out about summer camp and recreation options in Kitchener-Waterloo and beyond! This is definitely something appropriate for youth and young adults. If interested e-mail Krista McCann (Krista.McCann@wrfn.info).

Other Business

K. Waybrant from Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy shared good news about her son's work placement.

S. Miller thanked A. Sider for all her work as the Chairperson of SEAC for the last 2 years.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 7:00 pm in the St. Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre.

Adjournment

Moved by Kris Pryke, seconded by Sara Penny:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.