



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - December 11, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm, in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: Natalie Waddell, Cindy Watson

Association Members: Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Mary Cunningham (FASD ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Janine Oosterveld (Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society), Kris Pryke (Association for Bright Children of Ontario), Katherine Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Association Alternates: Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Non-Association Members: Stuart Cross (Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region), Carmen Sutherland (Waterloo Region Family Network)

Board Staff in Attendance: Cindy Benedetti (System Administrator), Leonilda Gil (Administrative Assistant), Scott Miller (Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being)

Regrets: Josh Brenn & Raas Siddiqui (Carizon Family & Community Services), Danielle Brubacher (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Deanna Driedger Seeger (Waterloo Region Family Network), Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol

Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Call to Order

Janine Oosterveld called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Kris Pryke seconded by Carmen Sutherland:

That the agenda of the December 11, 2019 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Sara Penny, seconded by Mary Cunningham:

That the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- Received positive feedback from our November meeting when we visited the new ACE Classrooms at Forest Heights C.I. We will have one of our spring meetings at Grand River C.I. and tour the new addition.
- With so many new members it was suggested to have a SEAC Orientation Session in the new year
- At the January meeting we will review and prioritize the items we wish to focus on for the remainder of this year.

- L. Gil to forward presentations of budget from last year from Matthew Gerard (March & June).
- Requested to share the breakdown of how the special education budget is spent at a future meeting.
- Suggested to have members complete budget survey when it comes out, possibly do this at a SEAC Meeting.
- Discussed recent Job Action - Most up to date information can be found on the WRDSB Website under Labour Updates.
- [PAAC on SEAC Survey](#) - members completed survey
- LD Pilot Project Update
 - 6 schools were originally involved and a 4th year has been added to the project to support board wide implementation on Best Practices
 - Empower is a main focus of this project. Empowr is widely used throughout our board as a reading intervention
 - We currently have a partnership with Sick Kids Hospital for the use of Empower
 - Lexia has also been a main focus of this project. Lexia is reading intervention software that can be accessed at school or at home.
 - This year we have expanded our use of Lexia as a board and will continue to purchase licenses so that more students can have access to this intervention.
 - Students identified by EQAO, Reading Records and other assessments.
 - Suggested to have SEA Lead present at a future meeting regarding our what we offer students with Special Education Needs in regards to technology.
- [Supporting Evidence Informed Action In Special Education](#)
 - Review of Grade 3 Assessment of Reading, Writing and Math 2018-2019 Results (page 47-50 of the report).
- Right to Read

- [OHRC Right to Read Inquiry](#) - A public inquiry into the importance of reading and how students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system are being supported.

Chair Report - J. Oosterveld

- SEAC Elections in January (Chair and Vice Chair Position)
- Brainstorm as to what people want to discuss going forward for the remainder of the year.

Trustee Report - Natalie Waddell

- Motion was passed by the Board of Trustees in March 2018 to strike an Ad-Hoc committee to do a comprehensive review of the existing by-laws used to govern the Board of Trustees.
- Last time the by-laws were altered was in 2015, at which time the changes were limited to the section relating to the delegation process.
- The committee work has spanned across two separate trustee terms. This situation has led to some "challenges" in that there were committee membership changes, as well as a need to extend the committee time-frame in order to allow for 5 newly elected trustees to become familiar with the existing by-laws and with the proposed changes.
- A "working draft" document has been taken to the Board of Trustees at public meetings for their feedback on the proposed changes.
- At the end of November this year, the committee received approval from the Board of Trustees to take the current "working draft" to the public and to solicit feedback on the document.
- Seeking Public Feedback
 - General Public/Individual Feedback - December 1st, 2019 through to January 15th, 2020. Details posted on the Board's website at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/trustees/about/bylaws/>.

- Committees' Feedback (i.e., SEAC, PIC, EIAG, Student Senate) - December 1st, 2019 through to February 15th 2020 (to accommodate meeting schedules).
- Overview of Proposed Changes
 - Legislative Requirement Changes
 - Article 4.5.3 - addition of statement regarding parental leave as per Bill 68.
 - Article 15.0 - addition of details on conflict of interest process to align with new requirements outlined in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
 - Article 1.5 - addition of details around attending meetings electronically as per Bill 68.
 - Trustee Term - altered from December 1st to November 15th as per Bill 68.
- Definitions - streamlined where possible, added new terms, and clarified others
- Trustee Responsibility/Expectations - Article 4.2 and 4.3 - New
- Board of Trustees Responsibilities - Article 5.0 - New
- Committees - Article 16 - reworked, simplified, updated
- Committee Update Process
 - Filing Vacancies - 4.4.3 - this section is currently left as status quo. Education Act does not provide direction on how a board should determine an "appointment" should they determine that an appointment is how a vacancy should be filled.
 - The committee had proposed changes to this section and to clearly define the process to be followed. Based on trustee feedback, it was clear that there were varying opinions, and something that would require a more in-depth examination. The committee determined that this section should be left as is for now and to recommend that continuing work be done in this area.

- Trustee Notice of Motion - 24.1.4 - notice of motion will no longer require the support of 2 additional trustees in order to have a motion accepted and scheduled for consideration. It is proposed that this be changed back to 1 (which is the typical procedure for boards to operate under).
- Next Steps for Committee
 - Compile, review and consider feedback from public and committees.
 - Finalize proposed draft.
 - Arrange for legal review of the proposed draft (after approval from Board of Trustees regarding a legal review).
 - Prepare final report with finalized proposed changes, as well as any other recommendations (ex. continue work on filing vacancies, striking policy review committee, etc.).
 - Present final report and recommendations to the Board of Trustees for consideration.
- N. Waddell to provide more information at the February meeting and then we can provide feedback for February 15 deadline.

Round Table Association Reports

1. K. Pryke, Association for Bright Children - sits on the Equity & Inclusion Advisory Group and looking for someone to take over for her. C. Sutherland has volunteered to represent SEAC at the EIAG starting in January.
2. S. Penny, Epilepsy South Central Ontario - gift wrapping fundraiser at Conestoga Mall over the holidays. Students are welcome to get volunteer hours.
3. J. Oosterveld, Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society - 2020 calendars.

4. M. Cunningham, FASD - Exclusion, Seclusion and Restraint - [Autistics for Autistics A4A Ontario Bill 160](#)

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is January 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Sara Penny, seconded by Kathy Waybrant:
That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm