



# Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - February 13, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm, in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

**Trustee:** Natalie Waddell

**Association Members:** 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), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Katherine Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

**Association Alternates:** Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

**Non-Association Members:** Stuart Cross (Family and Children 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)

**Guest:** Max Baxter (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

**Regrets:** Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Danielle Brubacher (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Sophia Catania (Autism Ontario Waterloo Region), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region)

Down Syndrome Society), Deanna Driedger Seeger (Waterloo Region Family Network), Raas Siddiqui & Corrie-ann Snow (Carizon Family & Community Services), Cindy Watson (Trustee)

## **Call to Order**

J. Oosterveld called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Carmen Sutherland:

That the agenda of the February 13, 2019 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried –

## **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Katherine Waybrant:

That the minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried –

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- None

## **Association Presentation - Epilepsy South Central Ontario: Max Baxter**

- [Powerpoint presentation](#) with overview of the following:
  - What is epilepsy?
  - What is a seizure and seizure types?
    - Absence seizure, focal impaired awareness seizure
  - First Aid for Tonic-Clonic Seizures & Focal Impaired Awareness Seizure

- Who has epilepsy and what are the causes?
- Epilepsy treatments
- Seizure Triggers
- Living with Epilepsy
- How you can support people with epilepsy and knowing the symptoms
- Website has valuable information - <http://epilepsysco.org/>

## **Special Education Update – Scott Miller**

- K. Pryke - Sits on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group (EIAG). During the February meeting she will be speaking as a representative of SEAC as to SEAC Objectives and Main Goals of this advisory committee
- Middle Years Development Instrument Results (Formerly Safe Caring and Inclusive School Survey)
  - Results are done and consolidated. They will be shared publicly at the February Board of Trustees Meeting and we will have a presentation at SEAC at the March or April Meeting
- Field Trips - Off Campus Transportation
  - Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services and Treasurer of the Board and Benoit Bourgault, General Manager of Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region will be attending SEAC March meeting to speak about transportation and accessibility
- PPM 161 (Prevalent Medical Condition)
  - Revising the policy to include epilepsy/seizure disorder and asthma, as well as developing procedures
  - An Individual Plan of Care will be developed for each student with a prevalent medical condition - the WRDSB is currently developing an electronic database to capture this information
  - Funding for 2 Special Education Grants has been received:
    1. Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools (4 Social Workers)
    2. Special Education Professional Assessments

- \$350,000 received to deal with assessment waitlist
- Grant money has to be spent on assessments and resources by August 31, 2019

## **Chair Report - J. Oosterveld**

- PIC Conference Discussion
  - Parent Involvement Committee received a grant and will be hosting 3 different events at 3 different locations (Elmira, Waterloo & Cambridge)
  - J. Oosterveld will be a speaker at the event. Speaking about SEAC Guiding Principles with an emphasis on Peer to Peer Relationships
  - Looking for volunteers from our group to help out at the events
  - Engagement group discussion:
    1. Why are peer relationships important to the students that we represent at SEAC?
    2. Where are the biggest gaps or challenges at school in building peer relationships for students with special needs?
    3. What are some examples of things that are working well to build these relationships?
    4. Why are building/fostering relationships with students with special needs important for all students?
    5. What can parents do to encourage/support these relationships?
    6. Are there other key messages that are important for all parents to hear?

## **Trustee Report**

- N. Waddell - At the last Board meeting the Trustee's approved the removal of the designated "Trustee only" parking spots at the front of the entrance of the Board Office.

## **Round Table Association Reports**

1. Waterloo Region Family Network - C. Sutherland
  - Nourishing the Caregiver Living with FASD - Wednesday, February 20 at 6-8:30 p.m. at the Family Centre.
  - FASD - Supporting Caregivers - Success For All - Thursday, February 21 at 8:30-4 p.m. at the Family Centre.

## **Other Business**

None

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next SEAC meeting date is March 6, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

## **Adjournment**

Moved by Kris Pryke, seconded by Angela Sider:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm