



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - February 10, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: Kathi Smith, Cindy Watson

Association Members: Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Sharon Hutton (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Association Alternates: Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Non-Association Members: 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: Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Angela Geddes (FASD ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Janine Oosterveld (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Kris Pryke (Association for Bright Children of Ontario), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region)

Call to Order

Sara Penny called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Carmen Sutherland, seconded by Shannon Taylor:

That the agenda of the February 10, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Kathy Moreland, seconded by Tina Blanchette:

That the minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Association Presentation: FASD/One Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Kathy Moreland

- [Presentation](#) Overview:
 - What is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder?
 - FASD Facts
 - Common presentations in children
 - Prevention message & main message
 - Education Support
 - Community Resources

WRDSB Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- Welcome to Christine MacDonald now a member of SEAC representing the Learning Disabilities Association
- Ministry of Education Update
 - All Students returned to in-person learning on February 8, 2021
 - Mandatory masking for students Grade 1 to 12 (WRDSB already compliant, current practices are Kindergarten to Grade 12)
 - Additional safety requirements imposed by the Ministry for return to in person learning (most have already been implemented by the WRDSB)
 - Received confirmation from the Ministry that there will be grant funding for this summer to support programming and student well-being. In the WRDSB this will include mental health support through WRDSB Psychologists and Social Workers, Literacy and Numeracy Programs and transition planning.
- In Person and Distance Learning Update
 - Survey for parents with Elementary aged children was closed on January 29th to request a change in their child/children's learning mode. Reorganization plans are currently being completed and the switch to in-person learning will be on March 4th and the switch to distance learning will be on March 8th.
 - Currently working on a revised 5 year plan accessibility plan as per the AODA Legislation. When the initial draft is completed, it will be brought to SEAC for review and feedback. The timeframe to bring this draft will be in March or April of this year.
- Discussion: What has this year's school experience been like for students/families/caregivers in your association?
 - Common feedback received from all associations:
 - Parents missing the parent to parent connection
 - Social aspect of school is being missed by students
 - There is a lot of demands on parents in having to support their child/children at home when external service providers are not always available or able to provide respite care

- Concern over non technical SEA Equipment being housed at schools and not being used
- Accommodations aren't being met. Students with exceptionalities have mixed feelings about how the quadmester is working

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- PAAC on SEAC Survey Results
 - [PAAC on SEAC 2020 Survey Executive Summary & Action Items](#)
 - [Report on Results of PAAC on SEAC 2020 Survey](#)
 - WRDSB SEAC Action items:
 - Review website (SEAC Page) and brochure
 - Invite PAAC on SEAC to do a presentation
 - Create an WRDSB SEAC onboarding package
- Updates on Association Reach Out
 - Currently a connection has been with the YMCA New Immigrant Group and looking into a potential presentation to SEAC

Trustee Report

- Wanting to know how Trustees can best support SEAC and what information to share
- Committee has been formed to perform a SRO review, two meetings have been scheduled and more information will be shared as it arises

Round Table Association Reports

1. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - WRFN is partnering with KidsAbility and the cities to offer a [Virtual Summer Camp Fair](#) in February.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is March 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Kathy Waybrant, seconded by Kathy Moreland:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.