



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - June 10, 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: Natalie Waddell, Cindy Watson

Alternate Trustees: Kathi Smith, Joanne Weston

Association Members: Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Angela Geddes (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), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Association Alternates: Sharon Hutton (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Non-Association Members: Stuart Cross (Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region), Raas Siddiqui (Carizon Family & Community Services), 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 (Carizon Family & Community Services), Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Tina Blanchette seconded by Kathy Waybrant:

That the agenda of the June 10, 2020 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Janine Oosterveld, seconded by Kris Pryke:

That the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- Welcomed Trustee and Vice Chair Joanne Weston and Trustee Kathi Smith as guests
- June is National Indigenous History Month - Territorial acknowledgement

- Ministry of Education
 - on May 29th the Ministry provided an update that school boards will receive a grant for summer support to assist students with special education needs and mental health
- WRDSB Distance Learning - [presentation](#) overview
 - Equity of Access
 - Summer Learning
 - Summer School
 - COVID 19 - Framework
 - 5R Framework - the stages to the next normal
 - Vision for How we Enhance our Work
- WRDSB Summer Learning and Summer School
 - there will be \$150,000.00 to support summer school staff
 - summer learning program for grades 2-3 students
 - summer school program for grades 7-12 students
 - there will be \$174,000.00 to support mental health for the summer. These funds will be used for salaries of social workers, psychologists, EAs, CYWs
 - \$160,000.00 will be used to support transitioning back to school, eg. school support, transition meetings with students changing schools which will take place during the last week of August
- WRDSB 2020-2021 Budget Priorities
 - PPE for students and EAs providing personal care and for all staff working with students who do not understand social distancing, funding to support training for EAs, updating technology, resources for staff for meeting needs of special education students in a distance learning / social distancing environment
 - mental health for all, equitable access to curriculum given implications of COVID-19 and perhaps new types of support as a result

- investment and inclusivity with the improved understanding of the implications of prevalence rates of prenatal exposure to alcohol and FASD
 - Waiting the GSNs from the ministry
 - Trustees will meet in the summer to approve the budget once we receive the information from the Ministry
- Planning for the return to school
 - Public health is providing direction
 - Meeting with WRDSB Health and Safety Division to determine what will be needed to support our most vulnerable students
 - Safety of students and staff is paramount and a top priority in all of our planning
 - IPRCs will be conducted once we return to school in the fall
 - IEPs were completed for term 2 and will be used for students going into summer school

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- Looking ahead 2020-2021
 - [SEAC Reflections - Start, Stop & Continue](#) - breakout groups
 - Practices that we would like to **Stop** doing at SEAC meetings and as a SEAC and why
 - Things that we would like to **Start** doing at SEAC meetings and as a SEAC and why
 - Things that we would like to **Continue** doing at SEAC meetings and as a SEAC and why
- [Who are we missing on our SEAC?](#)
 - Review of current association list
 - Reach out to people of colour, learning disabilities, voice, blind and low vision
 - The more diverse we are the more voices we have to assist this group

- Angela Sider willing to reach out to Learning Disabilities Waterloo-Wellington Group
- Sara Penny will draft a template letter and share with the group for participation from other associations to join SEAC. To be reviewed in September
- Review draft [SEAC letter to Ministry Re: MACSE](#) regarding the need to fill open positions on the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
 - This letter will also go to all other SEAC groups from different boards

Trustee Report

- None

Round Table Association Reports

1. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - Family Resource Coach, Erin, is going on maternity leave in mid-July and will be looking at filling her maternity leave for a year
2. Jane Martin, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy
 - [Changing Places Canada](#) - making public washrooms accessible for all. July 19th town hall to get awareness out to the general population
3. Angela Geddes, FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - Help Nexis - received funding for FASD group project to provide subsidies
4. Stuart Cross, Family & Children's Services of Waterloo Region
 - Retiring from F&CS. Not sure who will be replacing him at this time

5. Natalie Waddell - Trustee
 - Moving out of the Region and will no longer be on SEAC or a WRDSB Trustee

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is September 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Kris Pryke, seconded by Carmen Sutherland:
That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm