



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - March 6, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, March 6, 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), Sophia Catania (Autism Ontario Waterloo Region), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Mary Cunningham (FASD ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Janine Oosterveld (Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Association Alternates: Danielle Brubacher (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society)

Non-Association Members: 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)

Guest: Matthew Gerard (Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services and Treasurer of the Board), Benoit Bourgault (General Manager - Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region)

Regrets: Stuart Cross (Family and Children Services of Waterloo Region), Deanna Driedger Seeger (Waterloo Region Family Network), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Kris Pryke (Association for Bright Children of Ontario), Angela Sider (Parents For Children’s Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Corrie-ann Snow (Carizon Family & Community Services), Katherine Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Moved by C. Sutherland, seconded by S. Taylor:

That the agenda of the March 6, 2019 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by S. Taylor, seconded by C. Sutherland:

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

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Transportation/Accessibility Update:

Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services and Treasurer of the Board & **Benoit Bourgault**, General Manager - Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region

- [Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region 2017-2018 Annual Report](#)
 - 2017-2018 Highlights
 - Measuring Performance
 - Summary of Appeals
 - 2017-18 Overview and Outlook for 2018-19
 - Financial Overview
- Announcement to come from the government regarding budgets and grants (GSN - Grants of Student Needs)

Association Presentation - Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Association (Janine Oosterveld & Amy Dibben):

- [WRDSS - March 2019 Presentation](#)
 - Highlights - Our Mission, About WRDSS, Our Partners, Contributing Their Unique Gifts, Individual Learning Needs, Vision for Our Students, What Do We Hope For?

Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- Bylaw Review and Feedback Opportunity - deferred
- Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Announcements
 - Funding for families currently accessing the (OAP) could be ending as early as April 1st
 - Service providers are working with families to look at how they can use their funding and be able to receive services until June
 - Currently the WRDSB Special Education Department is working with schools to collect information on students that will be effected

- Local Priority Funding as a result of the current contract will be finished at the end of this year. This funding supported Special Education Resource Teachers, Social Workers, EA and CYW positions and staffing for in-risk students.
- Board budget is based on per pupil and we will continue to get the majority of funding to support Special Education through this allocation
- Safe, Caring and Inclusive survey results will be provided in April meeting

Chair Report - J. Oosterveld

- PIC conference volunteer schedule:
 - Wednesday, March 27 at Bluevale Collegiate Institute from 6:00 pm to 8:45 pm (Janine Oosterveld, Carmen Sutherland, Angela Sider)
 - Saturday, March 30 at Elmira District Secondary School from 9:00 am to 11:45 am (Danielle Brubacher)
 - Wednesday, April 3 at Galt Collegiate Institute from 6:00 am to 8:45 pm (Jennifer Checkley and Kris Pryke)

Trustee Report

- Draft Motion was tabled for discussion at April meeting that the WRDSB SEAC in collaboration with the WRDSB Board of Trustees write a letter to the Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) requesting that they make “integrated transportation” for students with Special Needs an area of focus and advocacy.
 - [Board Policy 6004 Outdoor Education/Off Campus Education](#)

Round Table Association Reports

1. Waterloo Region Family Network - C. Sutherland
 - [Family Fun Day Event](#) This event is for families who have a loved one with a disability on March 31st, 2019 to join us for an afternoon of fun and

connection at the John Dolson Centre, 212 South St. Cambridge! Enjoy a swim in the fully accessible pool from 12:30-1:30 pm followed by snacks and activities run by members of our Coffee Club. We will have exclusive use of the pool. City of Cambridge Swim Admission Standards do apply. Learn more about Swim Admissions at <https://bit.ly/2Sb99oE>. Please indicate the number of people attending in the additional comments section.

- Evening of Elegance, Friday, April 26, 7-10 pm, Luther Village on the Park in The Great Hall. Link for tickets here:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/waterloo-region-family-network/events/evening-of-elegance-4/>

2. Down Syndrome - A. Dibben

- World Down Syndrome Day - March 21 wear your favorite pair of funky socks to raise awareness and promote acceptance and inclusion.

3. Easter Seals - J. Checkley

- [Press Release](#) for March which outlines key activities in March, including a social media campaign asking individuals to highlight examples of accessibility features that support the inclusion of children and youth with physical disabilities.
- [Fact Sheet](#) about Easter Seals Ontario.

Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is April 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

Adjournment

Moved by J. Checkley, seconded by C. Sutherland:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm