



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - May 8, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, May 8, 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), Kris Pryke (Association for Bright Children of Ontario), Katherine Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Association Alternates: Danielle Brubacher (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Non-Association Members: None

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

Guest: Sharon Lawton (Special Education Consultant)

Regrets: Stuart Cross (Family and Children Services of Waterloo Region), Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society), Deanna Driedger Seeger (Waterloo Region)

Family Network), Raas Siddiqui (Carizon Family & Community Services), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Carmen Sutherland (Waterloo Region Family Network), 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 Kathy Moreland, seconded by Sara Penny:

That the agenda of the May 8, 2019 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Kris Pryke, seconded by Sara Penny:

That the minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- June Meeting Date
 - Question around the June SEAC meeting date in reference to the timing of the meeting in regards to the 2019-2020 Budget.
 - June 12th is next meeting date but looking at changing the date in order to allow Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board, to attend and give a budget update.
 - L. Gil to send out a doodle poll to see best date that works for everyone.

WRDSB Behaviour Services Overview

Guest Speaker: Sharon Lawton (Program Leader)

- [Presentation](#) - Setting the Stage - YouTube video
- Conditions for Learning Framework
- Who the team supports
- Key Self-Regulation Principals
- Tier 1 IBRT (Itinerant Behaviour Resource Teacher) Consults
- Tier 2 IBRT & ISCYW (Intensive Support Child and Youth Worker)
- Tier 3 Supports: Behaviour Intervention Teams & Goals (Congregated Classes)

Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- WRDSB Special Education Plan - Cindy Benedetti:
 - Has been in contact with Communications Department and in September we will look at updating our plan.
 - We have a co-op student from W. Ross School for the Blind who has been reviewing our plan. She has indicated that our plan is good around the accessibility piece. We want to make the plan and the document more accessible to parents.
 - Has reviewed other school board's plans to get ideas.
 - Asking for SEAC Members to review section 17 which is the SEAC portion.
 - Requesting for interested SEAC Members to be part of a committee to work on revising the plan and to work throughout the 2019-2020 year starting in September.
- Budget
 - Grants for Student Needs (GSN) have been approved and projected to be on average \$12,246 per pupil. A portion of the per pupil amount goes to the special education budget.
 - EPO Grants now called Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF)

- 3 year Learning Disabilities Pilot Project Grant was to end this year but will be extended for another year.
- October Report (OnSIS)
 - Review of elementary and secondary reports. L. Gil to send copies.
 - Elementary schools have a total of 6,831 students with an IEP. There are a total of 8,327 Elementary Students that are accessing some kind of Special Education support.
 - Secondary schools have a total of 4,592 students with an IEP. There are 5,079 Secondary Students that are accessing some kind of Special Education support.
- Transition Planning and Class Placements
 - Currently finalizing placements and families are being given this information throughout the month of May.
- WRDSB Special Education Handbook
 - Internal staff website - deferred to June.

Chair Report - J. Oosterveld

- Letters received from other school board SEAC Committees:
 - Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
 - April 26 letter - writing in support of Bill 64, Noah and Gregory's Law
 - Toronto District School Board
 - April 21 letter - exclusion of students with disabilities from school
 - Bluewater District School Board
 - January 28 letter - support of Bill 44 to amend the Education Act to bring awareness and understanding of pupils who may have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

- Durham Catholic District School Board -
 - March 6 letter - concerns over provincial funding model for Autism Services.
 - April 9 letter - concerns over provincial funding model for class size averages and mandatory e-learning courses. Janine Oosterveld, Sara Penny, Kathy Moreland and Kris Pryke to work on letter of support.

Trustee Report

- Draft Motion Discussion
 - Integrated Transportation for Students with Special Needs - deferred to June meeting. L. Gil to send copy of Motion and members can provide comments to Janine Oosterveld with any feedback.

Round Table Association Reports

1. Waterloo Region Family Network - C. Sutherland
 - June 11 - Open the House, where caregivers of loved ones with disabilities can enter to win a chance to dine at Proof Kitchen and Lounge. L. Gil to send flyer.
 - May 28 - Transition to Post-Secondary Education Workshop for students with an IEP. L. Gil to send flyer.

2. Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy - K. Waybrant

[Scholarship and Awards applications](#)

OFCP has long been involved in promoting awareness and advocating for understanding and acceptance of persons with disabilities as well as helping individuals reach their potential. OFCP has established several annual awards to acknowledge persons with cerebral palsy, their families, professionals and community members for their significant contributions in improving lives of

people with cerebral palsy in Ontario. OFCP would appreciate any support in promoting these awards and scholarships to interested families and students. Applications are due by June 27th, 2019. The following awards and scholarships available:

[Eric Waldron Scholarship Award 2019](#)

[Mona Winberg Achievement Award 2019](#)

[Therapy Scholarship Award 2019](#)

[OFCP Volunteer of Distinction Award 2019](#)

[OFCP Outstanding Teacher Award 2019](#)

[Nicholas Milojevic Scholarship Award 2019](#)

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is June 5, 2019, 5:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room, Education Centre.

Adjournment

Moved by Kris Pryke, seconded by Sophia Catania:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm