

Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - May 13, 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: Natalie Waddell

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), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Association Alternates: Sharon Hutton (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), 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'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), Danielle Brubacher (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo

Region), Cindy Watson (Trustee), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Call to Order

Sara Penny called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Stuart Cross seconded by Sharon Hutton:

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

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Janine Oosterveld, seconded by Shannon Taylor:

That the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- Ministry of Education Feedback
 - March 12th announcement was made for school closure and currently the school closure has been extended to June 2nd. Announcement will be forthcoming in the next week regarding the remainder of the school year.

- Elementary students will get a report card in June which will reflect marks from September-March. Secondary students have the ability to increase their marks but student marks will not decrease.
- Waiting for direction from the Ministry of Education as to what schools will look like when we return.

- WRDSB Distance Learning
 - [WRDSB Response to COVID-19](#) - presentation overview
 - WRDSB COVID-19 Response Team
 - [WRDSB@Home](#) is an excellent resource with a variety of information and resources to help parents support their children with distance learning and their well being
 - WRDSB Staff@Home site provides training opportunities for staff, various resources and well-being supports
 - Fostering good partnership with Public Health, Waterloo Region Family Network (WRFN), Family & Children's Services
 - Supporting respite care for our most vulnerable students
 - Conditions for Learning
 - WRDSB's Approach to Distance Learning
 - Equity of Access
 - Equitable and Accessible - Ensuring Equity of Access
 - Relationships & Focusing on What's Important
 - Meeting the Needs of Staff
 - Communicating with Staff, Students & Families about Distance Learning

- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
 - Discussion and Feedback Opportunity - L. Gil to send out a form to request input regarding [Communication: Collaborating with the Community](#) which is due May 22, 2020.

- Staffing Update
 - All Unions have settled their central agreements
 - Funding was built into each agreement to support additional staffing to support students with Special Education Needs in both the Elementary and Secondary

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- Open Discussion: 2020-2021 Budget Priorities
 - L. Gil to provide [google form](#) for feedback as to where we want money to be spent
 - Still waiting for confirmed funding from ministry
- 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). L. Gil to send to members for feedback and review at the June meeting.
 - Website - [MACSE Membership](#)

Trustee Report

- N. Waddell
 - On February 7 Board Chair received a [letter](#) back from the Ministry regarding the EQAO literacy test options for students.
 - On February 24th the board approved changes to [Board Policy 6004 Outdoor Education / Off Campus Education](#)

Round Table Association Reports

1. Jane Martin, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy
 - Mental Health in Adolescents & Young Adults with Cerebral Palsy Webinar on May 21, 2020 from 3-5 p.m. registration information can be found at <https://www.ofcp.ca/>

2. Raas Siddiqui, Carizon Family & Community Services
 - Carizon website with resources for the community
<https://www.carizonforthecommunity.ca/>

3. Shannon Taylor, Epilepsy South Central Ontario
 - Daughter is attending Epilepsy School in Toronto for a year. Contact her if you would like more information.
 - University of Waterloo is hiring students for co-op terms providing funding to support co-op placements. [Government of Canada's Student Work Placement Program \(SWPP\)](#)
 - Students can work unpaid to get co-op credits for spring and fall term

4. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - WRFN continues to offer all programs and supports through email, phone or virtual platforms. Support and social groups, other than Kaleidoscope Kids, are meeting virtually. This includes, Coffee Club, the School Issues Support Group and A New Chapter.
 - Evening of Elegance has been postponed until spring 2021.
 - All staff and volunteers continue to work remotely. We encourage you to reach out to Erin, our Family Resource Coach, and Cristina, our Self-Advocate Liaison, if there is anyone you know that needs help.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is June 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm