



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - November 11, 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 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), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Angela Geddes (FASD ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Janine Oosterveld (Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Association Alternates: Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

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)

Guests: Paula Boutis, Marilyn Dolmage, Aliza Chagpar, Lisa Flannagan (Integration Action for Inclusion)

Regrets: Josh Brenn (Carizon Family & Community Services), Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society), Sharon Hutton (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum)

Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Kris Pryke (Association for Bright Children of Ontario), 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 Angela Sider seconded by Janine Oosterveld:

That the agenda of the November 11, 2020 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Kathy Waybrant, seconded by Janine Oosterveld:

That the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Guest Association: Integration Action for Inclusion - Paula Boutis, Marilyn Dolmage, Aliza Chagpar, Lisa Flannagan

- Website: <https://www.inclusionontario.ca/>
- Provided personal stories and reflections of their family life and connections made through the organization
- They are a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to educational inclusion and inclusive community living for all people
- The main focus is on human rights and pedagogy

- They provide support to parents seeking to enrich the lives of their children both in school and in the community
- They work to influence school boards and educators, with their main role being to assist families
- The association has been built on a volunteer basis and has local chapters throughout Ontario
- Currently they do not have a active membership in Waterloo Region

Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- [Ministry of Education - Special Education/Success For All Branch](#)
 - Regional Special Education Committee meeting presentation (overview):
 - Trends in Special Education: Demographics
 - Special Education Approach (School Year 2020-21)
 - Special Education Grant
 - Special Education PPF Funding
 - Additional Investments in Special Education
 - Enhancing Education Supports for Students with ASD
 - Learning Disabilities Pilots & Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO)
 - K-12 Education Standards Development Committee & Sub-Committees
 - Mental Health Initiatives & Funding
- OPSBA and PPM 164 - [Policy Program Memorandum 164:](#)
 - Review of requirements for remote learning
- Mental Health - the WRDSB has partnered with Parents for Children’s Mental Health to create parent webinars - there has been a lot of community interest
- We have also that being able to connect with families virtually has allowed for an increase in parent engagement

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- Review template letters requesting participation to join SEAC
 - [Association Invitation Letter](#)
 - [Individual Invitation Letter](#)
 - We will look at getting an email address for seac@wrdsb.ca and update the template letters with this information
 - The current outstanding groups include - Learning Disability, Autism, Brain Injury, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind Low Vision and Indigenous
 - Anglea Sider to reach out to Learning Disabilities
 - Kathi Smith to reach out to Indigenous group
 - Carmen Sutherland can connect with Equity & Inclusion Advisory Group

- Integrated Action for Inclusion In Education & Community (Ontario) - review draft reply letters for:
 - [Minister Letter - Return to School](#) - on pause for now
 - [Minister Letter - Bill 197](#) - on pause for now
 - [Thames Valley DSB Letter to Minister of Education](#) - Re: Visually Accessible PPE everything is in process and is not an issue at the moment, therefore no further action is required
 - we have transparent masks to provide staff and students

Trustee Report

- None

Round Table Association Reports

1. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - [School Issues Support Group](#) - for parents whose children are participating in distance or in-school learning. Meeting virtually twice a month.

2. Kathy Waybrant, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy
 - Life Emergency Action Fund (LEAF) applications are available with changes to items that can be purchased with the funding. Check out website for more information: <https://www.ofcp.ca/programs/funding/>
 - [Virtual Gala](#) on November 27, 2020 at 7 p.m.
3. Angela Sider, Parents for Children's Mental Health
 - Partnered with WRDSB to develop webinars for parents on anxiety and supporting parents/caregivers when a child has a diagnosis - these webinars will be shared provincially
 - Looking at having more of these with different topics
 - CMHO Support Groups available [website](#)
4. Angela Geddes, FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - Bill 172 passed to second reading. The Bill requires boards of education to develop policies and guidelines with respect to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Teachers' colleges and early children education programs shall be required to provide training with respect to FASD.
5. Sara Penny, Epilepsy South Central Ontario
 - [Youth Empowerment Program](#) - assist youth and young adults with the challenges they may face. Offers support groups, social outings, workshops, life skills building, community initiatives, fundraising drives.
 - [Online Trivia Night](#) on November 26, 2020
 - [Gift Wrap for Epilepsy](#) at Conestoga Mall Waterloo Dec 1-24

Date of Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

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

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.