



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - October 14, 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: Cindy Watson

Association Members: Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Janine Oosterveld (Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), 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: Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

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)

Regrets: Josh Brenn (Carizon Family & Community Services), Amy Dibben (Waterloo Region Down Syndrome Society), Angela Geddes (FASD ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Sharon Hutton (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region)

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Kathy Waybrant seconded by Shannon Taylor:

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

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Kris Pryke, seconded by Kathy Moreland:

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

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- [SEAC Vision and Guiding Principles](#)
 - Presentation review of 5 Guiding Principles
- [September Reopening Overview](#)
 - Presentation to Board of Trustees Overview
 - Elementary Distance Learning Students by Grade and French Immersion as of September 18
 - Being Responsive to our Students and Families
 - Synchronous Learning Exemption
 - Supporting our Most Vulnerable Students & Special Needs Students
 - Additional Funding

- Financial Implications - Deficit Spending
- Individual Education Plans and Identification, Program, Review Committee Updates
 - Families are starting to receive IEPs
 - The official start date of school in the WRDSB this year after the Delayed and Staggered Beginning was September 18th and that is when the 30 School Day IEP count start began
 - Families should receive their child's IEP by October 30th
 - There are 2 Distance Learning Cohorts (C and D) - Cohort C using Technology/Virtual Learning Platform and Cohort D Technology Free Learning
 - Keeping students engaged by phone if they have chosen Technology Free
 - IPRC Annual Meetings - Requested to be done before October 30th
 - Digital signature option for all IEPs and IPRCs
 - We are continuing to have virtual meetings with families - limiting the number of contacts at schools
 - There is a full team of EAs supporting distance learning. As well as supporting students through their home school supports in an effort to use pre-existing relationships.
- [Policy Program Memorandum 164:](#)
 - Requirements for Remote Learning
 - Ministry of Education website overview:
 - Purpose
 - Definitions of Remote, Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning
 - Remote Learning Requirements for School Boards
 - Effective Practices
 - Implementation
 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- [June SEAC Reflection and Feedback](#)
 - Reviewed Feedback from June SEAC Meeting
 - Practices that we would like to **Stop**
 - Things that we would like to **Start**
 - Things that we would like to **Continue**
 - Top responses:
 1. Keeping an accessible inventory of all SEAC Resources
 2. Invite more guest speakers
 3. Allow virtual meetings as an option when we return to meetings being held in person
 4. Update SEAC Materials on the WRDSB Website
 5. Include positive real-world stories/case studies of how the SEAC has impacted special education in the WRDSB
- Template letter requesting participation from other associations to join SEAC
 - Drafted two letters to invite an association & invite an individual
 - Updates will be made and letters shared with SEAC
 - Allow the option to attend a virtual meeting not just in person required
 - Personal invitations from our current members would be helpful
 - Angela Sider to send personal invite to Waterloo Wellington Canadian Mental Health Association
 - Check with other SEACs to see who their members are and who we are missing
- Integrated Action for Inclusion In Education & Community (Ontario)
 - [Minister Letter - Return to School](#)
 - [Minister Letter - Bill 197](#)
 - Sara Penny to prepare an acknowledgement letter to let them know we have received and discussed their letter and concerns. Invite them as a guest to future meetings

- [Durham DSB Letter](#) - Request for Fall 2020 Process Exemption: Special Incidence Portion Submission Requirements. Will pause for any further action regarding this letter

Trustee Report

- Cindy Watson to find out if there is a replacement for former Trustee Natalie Waddell for our committee.

Round Table Association Reports

1. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - WRFN hosted our monthly School Issues Support Group on Sept 30 with guest speaker, Catherine Legere. Catherine is a social worker with Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre (new name for DSRC). The topic was anxiety
 - All programs continue to be offered virtually or through phone or email. Our office space is now open again (as of last week) within KidsAbility's Kitchener site. We are now working out details on how to return to working from the office safely. It will likely be that only one staff will be in the office at a time and many will continue to work remotely
2. Janine Oosterveld, Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society
 - The association will be changing its name to Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society. A letter will be sent to the WRDSB regarding this change in the name
 - Annual photo campaign is underway, check it out on social media and website <https://www.wrdss.ca/>
3. Kathy Waybrant, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy
 - Life Emergency Action Fund applications are now available with changes to items that can be purchased with the funding. Check out website for more information: <https://www.ofcp.ca/programs/funding/>

4. Kathy Moreland, FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - FASD Awareness Month was in September

5. Angela Sider, Parents for Children's Mental Health
 - Partnered with the school board for webinars for parents which are currently being piloted virtually at Silverheights
 - The plan is to have these webinars accessible to the public. Angela will let us know when they are taking place in case we would like to participate
 - Parenting Essentials in October
 - Anxiety in November

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is November 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Kathy Moreland, seconded by Shannon Taylor: :

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.