



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - April 14, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Association Members: Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Angela Geddes (FASD ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Janine Oosterveld (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region)

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: Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), 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), Kathi Smith & Cindy Watson (Trustees), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Guests: Deb Jack (Family & Children's Services - Indigenous Services)

Call to Order

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

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Carmen Sutherland, seconded by Christine MacDonald:

That the agenda of the April 14, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Janine Oosterveld, seconded by Christine MacDonald:

That the minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Welcome

Deb Jack from Family and Children's Services, Indigenous Services Team

WRDSB Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#)
 - [Draft: WRDSB Accommodation Plan 2021-2026](#)
- Ministry Of Education Updates
 - Announced on April 12th that students would be moving to full remote learning on April 19
 - Students with complex special education needs will be able to return to in-person
 - Discussion Topics: Break out session
 - [SEAC Feedback - AODA Plan and Public Relations](#)
 - Reflections on Waterloo Region Family Network Presentation
 - WRDSB SEAC On-Boarding
 - Phase 2 vaccinations for staff providing direct personal support to students with special education needs are eligible to receive their initial vaccination. These groups included:
 - Educational Assistants
 - Child and Youth Workers

- Special Education Resource Teachers
 - Secondary Special Education Department Heads
 - Congregated Special Education Teachers (Elementary & Secondary)
 - Itinerant Special Education Resource Teachers
 - Education Community Partnership Programs (Section 23)
 - Occasional Teachers with Behaviour Management Systems Training
 - Occasional Educational Assistants
 - The WRDSB and Ministry have expanded voluntary asymptomatic targeted testing for staff and students
- Budget Update
 - Ministry grants have been provided to boards for summer work, this will include summer school programs, mental health supports, reading interventions and Reach Ahead Programs for students moving from Grade 8 to 9
 - HVAC and ventilation work continues to be done to enhance the current standards
 - Facility work plan has been developed for the summer and many of our schools will be under construction

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- [Superior-Greenstone DSB Letter to Ministry of Education](#)
 - Reviewed letter and no further action to be done
- [Hastings and Prince Edward DSB Letter to Medical Officer of Health](#)
 - Reviewed letter and no further action to be done as work is in progress already in support of getting vaccines for all staff
- [Durham DSB Letter to Metrolinx & Ministry of Transportation](#)
 - Reviewed letter and Sara will reach out to the chair.
- Future Presentations - none at this time

Trustee Report

- None

Round Table Association Reports

1. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - [Evening of Elegance @ Home](#) on May 29, 2021 at 5-8 p.m.

2. Angela Geddes, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Ontario (FASD)
 - The government of Ontario recently made a financial commitment to the province of Ontario of 2.8 million dollars for FASD assessments, some of which went to Carizon. It was divided up between a number of communities province wide.
3. Christine MacDonald, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County
 - [Care for the Caregiver Virtual Workshop](#) on April 21st, 2021 at 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is May 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Carmen Sutherland, seconded by Tina Blanchette:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.