



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - January 11, 2023

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: Fred Meissner & Marie Snyder

Association Members: Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Jane Martin & Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Roberta Thompson (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Huseyin Unver (YMCA of Three Rivers)

Non-Association Members: Carmen Sutherland (Waterloo Region Family Network)

Board Staff in Attendance: Jodi Albrecht (Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being), Leonilda Gil (Administrative Assistant), Stephen McCrae (System Administrator)

Regrets: Michelle Hughes (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Jeff Senior (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society)

Call to Order

Jodi Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome - Jodi Albrecht

- Welcome Huseyin Unver, Case Manager - Immigrant Services at YMCA of Three Rivers as a new member of SEAC

Territorial Acknowledgement - Jodi Albrecht

- January 4, 2023 was the first National Ribbon Skirt Day in recognition of Isabella Kulak who was shamed for wearing her ribbon skirt to her Saskatchewan

school. It will provide an opportunity for Canadians to educate themselves and recognize the importance of Indigenous traditions and cultures.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Jennifer Checkley:

That the agenda of the January 11, 2023 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Carmen Sutherland, seconded by Shannon Taylor:

That the minutes of the November 9, 2022 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Roberta Thompson:

That the minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

WRDSB Special Education & Student Well-Being Report

- [Student Support Process Presentation](#) - Jodi Albrecht & Stephen McCrae
 - Recommended to have parents/caregivers involved in MDST meetings as a valuable resource to providing a voice on their child's needs
 - Suggested that SEAC members be available to support and be a resource to parents

- S4S Update
 - We now have full access to the Support 4 Students (S4S) database system but staff continue to only have access at WRDSB schools or board sites
- Labour Update
 - CUPE has settled, we don't have CUPE in our board but we feel that this is positive

Chair Report

- Review [recruitment letters](#)
 - Review of letters and received approval from members that they are ready to be used for distribution
- Website and handbook updates
 - Committee members have not had a chance to meet yet, deferred to next meeting
- How would you feel greater purpose on this committee?
 - Survey sent in December. Will provide an extension to complete the survey until the end of January.
 - SEAC members can be mentors to families and use them as a resource
 - Being able to provide support to newcomer families so that their needs are being met for students and families
 - Important to provide assistance to get students involved in the IEP process and their learning
 - Contribute to change a situation to assist a student to have the best outcome in their learning environment
 - Acknowledging when a student needs help and providing support
 - Provide SEAC information to students so they can access information

Trustee Report - Fred Meissner & Marie Snyder

- The Student Trustees had a meeting to discuss mental health. Suggested as an agenda item for a future meeting. L. Gil will invite Gwenyth Le-Phuong, WRDSB Mental Health Lead as a guest to a SEAC meeting.

Round Table Association Reports

1. Jennifer Checkley, Easter Seals
 - Summer camps available for registration on January 30th, 2023. See [website](#) for more details.
2. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network (WRFN)
 - A reminder about Kaleidoscope Kids – it is now running every Thursday from 3 – 5 pm at KidsAbility in Waterloo. This is a partnership program between WRFN and KidsAbility.
 - At WRFN, we strive to be equal champions of diversity and inclusion for everyone. In our efforts to uphold this commitment, we are excited to be partnering with Prime Target Consulting, led by Ayo Owodunni. Ayo and his team will walk side by side with WRFN to ensure every step of the process is simple, seamless and effective. We look forward to traveling this journey and to learning together.
3. Huseyin Unver, YMCA of Three Rivers
 - Please refer any new comers to YMCA of Three Rivers to help support with any issues or questions families might have. Visit website for more details <https://www.ymcathreerivers.ca/>.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is February 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Marie Snyder:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.