



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - March 10, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: Kathi Smith, Cindy Watson

Association Members: 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), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Association Alternates: 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: Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), 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)

Guests: Gerald Foran (Superintendent, Waterloo Catholic District School Board), Cristina Stanger & Sue Simpson (Waterloo Region Family Network)

Call to Order

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

Territorial Acknowledgement - Sara Penny

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Christine MacDonald, seconded by Kathy Waybrant:
That the agenda of the March 10, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Carmen Sutherland, seconded by Christine MacDonald:
That the minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

Welcome

Gerald Forman, Superintendent with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Sue Simpson and Cristina Stanger from Waterloo Region Family Network (WRFN).

Association Presentation: Waterloo Region Family Network (WRFN) - Sue Simpson, Executive Director & Cristina Stanger, Self-Advocacy Liaison

- [WRFN & Exceptional Parent Experiences](#) Presentation Overview:
 - About WRFN, guiding principles, overarching purpose
 - Ask A Self-Advocate Program
 - Experiences as an Exceptional Parent

- Suggestions for consideration & possible next steps
- Encouraged to add recommendations provided in presentation to a future meeting for discussion in order to have strategies to help support parents with school interactions and processes

WRDSB Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- Transition Planning for 2021-2022
 - Registration and planning is taking place for kindergarten with parents and service providers
 - Grade 6 students going into grade 7 - continuing to connect and focus on students that are enrolled in distance learning
 - Grade 8 students going into grade 9 transition meetings are being held virtually and new transition to school practices are being implemented which focus on having student information being inputted directly into our Special Education Database which will allow for great accessibility by the classroom teacher
- Elementary Distance and In-Person Learning Update
 - Reorganization has taken place for those students that requested a change to their mode of learning (In-person started on March 4th and Distance Learning on March 7th).
- Ministry Of Education Update
 - Received confirmation from the Ministry that there will be grant funding for this summer to support programming and student well-being. In the WRDSB this will include mental health support through WRDSB Psychologists and Social Workers, Literacy and Numeracy Programs and transition planning
 - Ministry to provide the funding amounts in April.
- 2021-2022 Budget Process
 - Discussions are going on right now and preparing for next year's budget
 - Will invite Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board to attend a future meeting to review the budget

- [Long-Term Accommodation Plan Feedback](#)
 - The Planning Department is preparing to update and release the WRDSB's 2020-2030 Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP). In order to ensure that the LTAP is meeting the needs of users and community stakeholders, the Department has prepared a short survey to collect feedback on the 2017-2027 LTAP: The survey only takes a couple of minutes to complete and the comments and recommendations received will be used to inform the 2020-2030 LTAP. More information on the WRDSB's Long-Term Accommodation Plan can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/ltap/>
 - Survey will be available until March 12, 2021 - L. Gil to send survey link <https://forms.gle/8Wmhj6BhP4rMff998>

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- [Durham DSB SEAC Letter to Ministry - On-Line Learning Supports](#)
 - Reviewed letter and no further action to be done
- WRDSB SEAC on-boarding resources
 - Reviewed what we have on the website and the SEAC Brochure (last updated is October 2015). At future meeting it is recommended that we have small group discussions to determine what needs to be updated
 - Would also like to develop an onboarding package to provide to new members who join SEAC. Update the "[All About SEAC Presentation](#)" at future meeting
- PAAC on SEAC survey results sharing
 - How do we get more member involvement on SEAC
 - Suggested to connect with Waterloo Region Family Network and Kidsability as possible sources for future associations
 - Ongoing discussion with Autism, Voice, Vision, Indigenous Group, New Immigrants through YMCA
 - Recommended that requests are made for the 2021-2022 school year and not now due to COVID

- Kris Pryke who represented Association for Bright Children ABS has resigned from SEAC
- Currently we have 8 associations and we can have up to 12. Hoping to get representation from non-association members at Family & Children's Services & Carizon Family and Community Services

Trustee Report

- Kathi Smith - School Resource Officer (SRO) Review Committee has been formed. Will send information with meeting dates once they have been confirmed.

Round Table Association Reports

1. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - [Supporting Children and Teens Through the Impacts of the Changing Landscape of the COVID and post-COVID World](#) - Thursday, March 11 from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom
 - [Internet Safety](#) - Tuesday, March 23 at 8 p.m. via Zoom
2. Angela Geddes, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
 - Received financial assistance for assessment services
3. Kathy Waybrant, Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy
 - LEAF funding changed to include items for school and have added additional funds for the vaccine to support transportation or PPE
4. Angela Sider, Parents for Children's Mental Health
 - Working on a webinar regarding COVID-19 and the impact on teens
5. Christine MacDonald, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County
 - Upcoming [Workshops & Events](#)
6. Janine Oosterveld, Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society
 - World Down Syndrome Day March 21st, [Association March Updates](#)

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is April 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Angela Sider:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.