



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - May 11, 2022

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: Kathi Smith

Association Members: Michelle Hughes (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Kristen McHardy (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Roberta Thompson (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society)

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

Board Staff in Attendance: Leonilda Gil (Administrative Assistant), Stephen McCrae (System Administrator)

Regrets: Dale Babiy (Autism Ontario), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Deb Jack (Family & Children's Services - Indigenous Services), Scott Miller (Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being), Selena Saini (WRDSB Student Representative), Jeff Senior (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Cindy Watson (Trustee), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Guests: Mandi Bond (WRDSB Parent Involvement Committee Member), Bobbie Chatha (System Administrator, Learning Support Services - Elementary Program)

Call to Order

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

Welcome - Sara Penny

- Welcome to guests attending our meeting:
 - Bobbie Chatha, System Administrator, Learning Support Services - Elementary Program
 - Mandi Bond, WRDSB Parent Involvement Committee Member (PIC)
 - Kristen McHardy, new member representing Parents for Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region

Territorial Acknowledgement - Christine MacDonald

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Christine MacDonald, seconded by Carmen Sutherland:

That the agenda of the May 11, 2022 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Roberta Thompson, seconded by Jane Martin:

That the minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

SEAC Presentation - Christine MacDonald

- [Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County Presentation](#)
 - Programs take place in the evenings and have been virtual for the last two years, previously it was run in schools.
 - More parent involvement is always appreciated and valued
 - Further information about their organization can be found on the website <https://ldawc.ca/>

WRDSB Special Education & Student Well-Being Report – Stephen McCrae

- Budget/Staffing Update
 - Staffing across the system is well underway which include Special Education Consultants, Itinerant Teachers and Paraprofessionals
 - Reallocation of early literacy staff and half time Reading Resource Teacher in 38 Elementary Schools
- Early Literacy Update - Bobbie Chatha, System Administrator, Learning Support Services - Elementary Program
 - Currently reviewing Right to Read Inquiry Recommendations
 - Currently reviewing Universal Screening Tools
 - Allocating Reading Resource Teachers to 38 Elementary Schools to support evidence based reading practices that include phonics, phonemic awareness,
 - We are working closely with the Learning Support Services staff in Program and Special Education to support the reading strategies outlined in the Right to Read Report
 - Much of the information from the Ministry is new and connected to reading across all the grades from K-12
 - If parents are looking for more information, they are encouraged to contact their child's school administrator for support
 - Currently we are developing a 3 year plan and 90 Elementary Administrators are participating in professional development
 - Will be providing support to all Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTS)
 - We will continue to provide updates as we work through this process
- System Administrator Overview and Reflection
 - [Role of the System Administrator Presentation](#)

Chair Report

- Received nomination letter for Kristin McHardy to be the new member representing Parents for Children's Mental Health, moved by Roberta Thompson, seconded by Carmen Sutherland
- [Near North DSB Letter to Ministry](#) Re: Online Learning
 - Reviewed letter and no further action to be taken
- SEAC Handbook [Draft](#) Copy (Group Discussion)
 - Reviewed and made suggestions, to be continued at next meeting

Trustee Report - Kathi Smith

- The Provincial election is taking place and encourages members to talk to the candidates in your area

Round Table Association Reports

1. Sara Penny - Epilepsy South Central Ontario
 - Registration for the Sunny Days Camp in Waterloo is now open until May 31st. This is a weekly day camp for children living with epilepsy and their siblings 5-14 years. See the [registration form](#) for anyone interested which includes further details. For more information please go our website: <https://epilepsysco.org/programs-services/sunny-days-camp/>
2. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - On Tuesday, May 17 at 6:30-8:30 pm, WRFN is hosting "Planning a Successful Transition to Post-Secondary School for Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or who access Student Success" virtually through Zoom. This session is intended for parents and high school students who have an IEP or accessing Student Success, who are planning on attending University or College.
 - During the evening, parents and students will learn important details to help them create a post-secondary action plan like how to request accommodations and planning a successful transition. These include:

- After the IEP: How to request accommodations at post-secondary school
 - Differences between high school and post-secondary school (college and university)
 - Students' experience with receiving accommodations at college/university
 - Rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities
 - Self-advocacy and changing roles
 - Assessing readiness for college/university
 - Planning a successful transition
 - Resources
- RSVP by email at info@wrfn.info by Tuesday, May 17, 2022

3. Roberta Thompson, Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society

- We are supporting the CDSS (Canadian Down Syndrome Society) [Walk for Awareness](#) taking place June 11-19, 2022. Funds raised will ensure continuation of CDSS support.
- We will be running a silent auction fundraiser in place of the Golf tournament
- DSAO has secured a seat with MACSE

4. Jane Martin, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy

- [Bulletin Update](#):
 - Parks Accessibility Conference 2022
 - Reel Abilities Film Festival Toronto
 - Sunbeam Centre 50/50 Raffle Draw, May 1 to May 31

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is June 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Roberta Thompson, seconded by Kristen McHardy:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.