



# Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - May 12, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

**Trustees:** Kathi Smith, Laurie Tremble, Cindy Watson

**Association Members:** Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), 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), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

**Association Alternates:** 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), 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)

**Guests:** Deepa Ahluwalia (Human Rights & Equity Advisor), Leah Martin (Human Rights Investigator), Deb Jack (Family & Children's Services - Indigenous Services)

**Regrets:** Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

## **Call to Order**

Scott Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## **Territorial Acknowledgement - Cindy Benedetti**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Angela Sider:

That the agenda of the May 12, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

### **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Christine MacDonald, seconded by Shannon Taylor:

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

- Carried -

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- None

### **Human Rights Administrative Procedure**

Deepa Ahluwalia, Human Rights & Equity Advisor, Leah Martin, Human Rights Investigator

- [Human Rights Presentation](#)
- [Board Policy 1017 - Human Rights](#)
- [DRAFT Administrative Procedure - Non Staff](#)
- [DRAFT Administrative Procedure - Staff](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)

- [Human Rights @ WRDSB - SEAC Feedback Form](#) - Opportunity to share feedback, concerns, questions, etc. regarding the Draft Human Rights Procedures for Non-Staff and Staff

## **WRDSB Trustee Motion - Re: Ministry On-line Learning Proposal**

Laurie Tremble, WRDSB Trustee

- [Ministry of Education Proposal to Expand Access to Online Learning Presentation](#)
  - A draft letter template will be provided that can be used by parents or organizations if they want to share their concerns with the Minister and local MPPs.
  - The hope is to put a pause on the current direction until a full review and consultation has been completed.

## **WRDSB Special Education Update – Scott Miller**

- September 2021 Update (In-Person and Remote Learning)
  - Families were asked to complete a survey indicating their intentions for in-person or remote learning for the 2021-2022 by the beginning of May.
  - WRDSB Numbers are showing a decrease in students/families choosing remote learning.
  - Feedback from families is that they want their children to come back to in-person learning, but are still nervous with the current uncertainties.
  - Recent Ministry Of Education announcement has extended the timelines, so families now have until June 2nd to decide.
- Summer Update
  - Plans are being finalized for summer learning and mental health supports.
  - Summer Learning Programs and Summer School starts for three weeks beginning July 5th.
  - Special Education Resource Teachers will be hired to provide additional student supports.

- Technology will be supplied for families if needed.
- Grade 7-8 Summer School will focus on literacy and numeracy.
- Support from social workers, psychologists and speech and language pathologists will be provided.
- Continuing to meet with community organizations to work together to support students.
- Transition planning for back to school
  - Last 2 weeks of August.
  - Allow students a chance to visit schools.
  - A focus will be on supporting students with Special Education Needs that were in distance learning this year in an effort to help integrate students back to being in schools.
- School Year Calendar 2021-2022
  - Approved at board meeting on Monday, May 10th
  - Staff will return on September 1, Students will return on the September 7th.
- Budget
  - We have received a preliminary budget for 2021-2022 which includes additional mental health funding.
- Retirement
  - Cindy Benedetti, System Administrator, will be retiring at the end of June

### **Chair Report - Sara Penny**

- None

### **Trustee Report**

- Trustee Kathi Smith to provide copy of parent letter received Re: No Hybrid Model

## Round Table Association Reports

1. Kathy Moreland, FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
  - Brittany Zakszeski & Laura Rutherford (2021) Mind the Gap: A Systematic Review of Research on Restorative Practices in Schools, School Psychology Review, DOI: [10.1080/2372966X.2020.1852056](https://doi.org/10.1080/2372966X.2020.1852056)
2. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
  - [Moving on Up!](#) A parent & student information evening - Transition to High School for Students with Individual Education Plans on May 25, 2021 at 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom.
3. Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region)
  - Free Zoom Webinar "Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Well-being of Teens and What Teens NEED to Do Well" presented by Susan Gross, and supported by Rani Reddy and Lisa Mulvihill; Co-presenters: Angela Sider and Meredith Hutton
  - When: May 26, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
  - Register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
  - <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pduqprTwiH9C06x3lgkFfYgbFr09j29SM>

### Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is June 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

### Adjournment

Moved by Kathy Moreland, seconded by Angela Sider:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.