



# Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - October 13, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

**Trustee:** Cindy Watson

**Association Members:** Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Michelle Hughes (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Roberta Thompson (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

**Association Alternates:** Jeff Senior (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

**Non-Association Members:** Carmen Sutherland (Waterloo Region Family Network), Selena Saini (WRDSB Student Representative)

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

**Guests:** Lynette Eulette (WRDSB Psychology Lead)

**Regrets:** Dale Babiy (Autism Ontario), Deb Jack (Family & Children's Services - Indigenous Services), Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Candice Mason (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE)

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Kathi Smith (Trustee), Sharon Weishar (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region)

## **Call to Order**

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

## **Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement - Scott Miller**

## **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Roberta Thompson, seconded by Angela Sider:  
That the agenda of the October 13, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

## **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Jennifer Checkley, seconded by Carmen Sutherland:  
That the minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- None

## **SEAC Presentation - Dr. Lynette Eulette, WRDSB Psychology Lead**

- [Psychological Services Presentation](#) overview:
  - How does psychology fit into education?
  - Quick Facts About Psychological Services
  - Conditions for Learning Framework
  - Tier 1, 2, 3 Supports
  - Special Projects

- Psychological / Diagnostic Assessments
- Priorities Going Forward

## **WRDSB Special Education & Student Well-Being Report – Scott Miller**

- Staffing News
  - Barbara Ward, Mental Health Lead with the WRDSB has accepted a new position with School Mental Health Ontario. A temporary Mental Health Lead position has been posted. It will be a one year term ending August 31, 2022.
- Individual Education Plan Resources
  - A group of staff consisting of Learning Support Services Consultants staff have drafted 4 resources to assist with creating IEPs
    1. [Collaborating with Students and Families Consultation for IEP Development](#)
    2. [Identifying Student Strengths and Needs An Asset Based Approach to IEP Development](#)
    3. [Documenting Through Non-Clinical Assessments an Asset Based Approach to IEP Development](#)
    4. [Tier 1 Interventions - Differentiated Instruction, Universal Design for Learning and Accommodations - An Asset Based Approach to IEP Development](#)
  - These are in draft form and staff are looking for feedback. We will share with the group and revisit at a future meeting
- Special Education Networking (Elementary and Secondary)
  - Monthly networking sessions for Special Education Resource Teachers continues to take place
  - We have seen an increase in attendance from in-person sessions having 50-60 teachers, to now virtual sessions where over 150 teachers attending
  - These Special Education Networking Sessions are open to all teachers not just Special Education Resource Teachers

- Early Literacy
  - In March 2020 the Ontario Human Rights Commission had a Right to Read Survey which SEAC members had an opportunity to complete, as well as public sessions to gather information through a consultation process. We should be receiving a report soon with recommendations
  - During the summer the WRDSB had a team of staff come together to work on early interventions, a science of reading approach and oral language
  - Currently an approach has been developed to provide wraparound support to schools in an effort to help educators in responding to the learning needs of the most vulnerable students. Areas of focus include early reading strategy (K-2), mathematics (grades 3 & 6), re-engagement and gap closing (grade 7 & 8)
  - Message went out to the system acknowledging October is Dyslexia Awareness month and resources were shared
  - A group was brought together requesting participation in the [Consultation: Initial Recommendation for the Development of Proposed Kindergarten to Grade 12 \(K-12\) Education Accessibility Standards](#). A message was sent over the summer for feedback and a further deadline extension has been provided for November 1st, 2021

## **Chair Report - Sara Penny**

- [WRDSB Website - Special Education](#)
  - Breakout Rooms with members reviewing and discussing updates to the website information. Will continue to review for feedback.
- Review [draft WRDSB Letter in Support](#) of ADSB & DDSB:
  - [Algoma District School Board Letter Re: On-Line Learning](#)
    - Letter is approved by all members and L. Gil will send out

## Trustee Report

- None

## Round Table Association Reports

1. Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada
  - Tina Blanchette has resigned from SEAC as a member.  
Wellington-Waterloo Tourette chapter has not been active for the past number of months, and there is no longer a local chapter. Thank you to Tina for all her many contributions over the years and being such a valued member of the WRDSB SEAC.
2. Michelle Hughes, FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
  - Completed an FASD awareness campaign via social media in September FASD awareness month (September 9 World FASD Awareness Day).  
Launched our instagram account @fasdwaterlooregion and shared same content to twitter @fasdwr
  - New FASD prevalence study released that states the prevalence rate of FASD at 7% was previously 4%
  - Continuing work on a single point of access for FASD Services and Supports in WR with hopes to launch the new model in Spring 2022
3. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
  - [Making It Work Workshop](#) - a panel discussion on employment for caregivers on November 4th from 7-9 p.m. hosted by Sunbeam and WRFN. See flyer for registration details.
4. Roberta Thompson, Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society
  - October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month, to celebrate and advocate, we are running the 'Believe with Me' media campaign, focusing on the dreams and goals that our members are working towards. The

portraits featured are taken by One for the Wall Photography. Calendars featuring the portraits are available to purchase on the WWDSS website.

- Watch Breakfast Television on Thursday, October 14th at 7 a.m. where information will be shared about Down Syndrome Awareness
- Successful Any Which Way fundraising event received \$4,700

5. Kathy Waybright, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy

- October 6th was World Cerebral Palsy Day. First Wednesday of October every year.
- OFCP Annual General Meeting will take place on November 4th from 10:30-12 p.m. Visit the website at <https://www.ofcp.ca/> for registration information.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next SEAC meeting date is November 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Shannon Taylor, seconded by Michelle Hughes:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.