



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - September 8, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: Kathi Smith

Association Members: Michelle Hughes (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Janine Oosterveld & Roberta Thompson (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region)

Association Alternates: Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Candice Mason (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Jeff Senior (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), Scott Miller (Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being)

Guests: Jennifer Pinder (WRDSB - Mental Health and Well-Being Consultant), Selena Saini (WRDSB Student Representative)

Regrets: Tina Blanchette (Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada), Dale Babiy (Autism Ontario), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Angela Geddes (FASD ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Deb Jack (Family & Children's Services - Indigenous Services), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Cindy Watson (Trustee), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), 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 - Sara Penny & Scott Miller

- Welcome new SEAC members
 - Dale Babiy, Autism Ontario
 - Michelle Hughes, FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - Roberta Thompson & Jeff Senior, Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society. Janine Oosterveld will no longer be on SEAC. Acknowledged her contributions to the committee over the years
 - Candice Mason, Parents for Children's Mental Health
 - Selena Saini, WRDSB Student Representative
 - Stephen McCrae, WRDSB System Administrator
 - Jennifer Pinder, Mental Health and Well-Being Consultant (Guest)
 - Introductions of new and returning members

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Kathy Moreland, seconded by Janine Oosterveld:

That the agenda of the September 8, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Kathy Moreland, seconded by Carmen Sutherland:

That the minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

SEAC Presentation

- Deb Jack - Family & Children's Services of Waterloo Region - Indigenous Services, deferred to October meeting

WRDSB Special Education Update – Scott Miller

- Ministry of Education Updates
 - 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 asked to be provided for the September 2nd deadline. That date has been extended to September 30th (**L. Gil to send the information again**).
 - 2021 Initial Recommendations Report includes:
 - Attitudes, behaviours, perceptions and assumptions
 - Awareness and training
 - Curriculum assessment and instruction
 - Digital learning and technology
 - Organizational barriers
 - Social realms
 - Physical and architectural barriers

- Planning for emergencies and safety framework
- Timelines and accountability small group
- Public Health Updates
 - All staff in schools, at the Education Centre and Trustees are required to participate in the Covid-19 Vaccination Attestation.
 - Staff members who are not fully vaccinated will be required to participate in a twice weekly rapid antigen testing program and provide proof of a negative test result.
 - All staff are required to continue to use same level of PPE as in the 2020-2021 school year.
- September Start Up
 - [Presentation](#) - Overview:
 - Special Education Leadership Team
 - Special Education Staff
 - Special Education Programs
 - Supporting Student Well-Being
 - Returning to School
 - What's the same?
 - What's new?
 - [Value in Everybody Video](#)
 - Hepa filters have been placed in schools
 - Individual Education Plan (IEP) message was shared with staff, this year's date for completion is October 19th for student's who currently an IEP.

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- [Algoma District School Board Letter Re: On-Line Learning](#)
 - Reviewed letter and will prepare a reply in support. To be shared at the October meeting.
- SEAC Associations - Potential Presentations
 - Leonilda Gil to send a sign-up sheet to members for participating in the Territorial Acknowledgement and Association Presentations.

Trustee Report - Kathy Smith

- Received an Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) message which she will discuss with Superintendent Scott Miller and bring forward at the October meeting.

Round Table Association Reports

1. Kathy Moreland & Michelle Hughes, FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - FASD Awareness Day on September 9, 2021. This date was chosen as it represents the 9 months of pregnancy. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness about the risks of life-long effects associated with alcohol use during pregnancy; to improve support and services, assessment and prevention efforts.
 - Follow the instagram and twitter accounts, prevention is the focus for this social media.
 - Training and information available and can be found at <https://fasdontario.ca>
 - The Region has received funding for diagnostic clinics.
2. Christine MacDonald, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County
 - Launching new programming and it will be held virtually
 - [Fall 2021 Programs](#) - Reading Rocks, Social Skills, Mastering Mathematics, Typing Skills, SOAR and Executive Skills Program (See Flyer for registration information).
 - [Family Conference Program and Session Summaries](#) Saturday, October 16, 2021
 - [7th Annual Family Conference Flyer](#)
3. Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - WRFN will be hosting an IEP workshop on Sept 29 in partnership with both the Waterloo Region District School Board and Waterloo Catholic district School Board.

4. Angela Sider, Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region
 - Support groups starting again in September

5. Jane Martin, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy
 - Funding available for scholarships, awards, grants. See website for more details <https://www.ofcp.ca>

6. Roberta Thompson, Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society
 - Any Which Way You Can A-Thon fundraiser will take place virtually on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. See website for more details <https://www.wwdss.ca> on this event and others events taking place.
 - October is WWDSS Awareness month

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is October 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Angela Sider, seconded by Kathy Moreland:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.