



Special Education Advisory Committee

September 13, 2017

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm, in the St. Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre, with the following members in attendance:

- Trustee members: John Hendry, Cindy Watson
- Association Members: Tina Blanchette, Jennifer Checkley, Mary Cunningham, Graham Dunn, Janine Oosterveld, Angela Sider, Katherine Waybrant
- Association Alternates: Sophia Catania, Sara Penny, Amanda Schultz, Faye Zevenbergen
- Non-Association Members: Carmen Sutherland

Board Staff in attendance: Cindy Benedetti, Melanie Gravel, Scott R Miller, Karin Sonnenberg

Regrets: Colleen Borman, Stuart Cross, Meagan Minott, Sherri Popovich, Shannon Taylor

Guests: Deanna Driedger Seeger, Yusef El-Rayani

Call to Order

SEAC Chair A. Sider called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Penny, seconded by M. Cunningham:

Motion: That the agenda of the September 13, 2017 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

Carried

Approval of Minutes

Moved by J. Oosterveld , seconded by C. Sutherland:

Motion: That the minutes of the June 14, 2017, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

Motion to Approve Alternate Association Member

Moved by J. Checkley, seconded by K. Waybrant:

Motion: That Deanna Driedger Seeger be approved as alternate representative for the Waterloo Region Family Network.

Carried

Special Education Update

Welcome Back - Introductions were made. S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, provided a brief employment history of his new administrative assistant, Leonilda Gil who will be at the meeting in October.

Special Needs Strategy Overview and Collaboration - Melanie Gravel, WRDSB Chief Speech and Language Pathologist, joined the meeting tonight to offer insight on this subject. Two and a half years ago the Special Needs Strategy was started that included stakeholders from school boards and community association to provide suggestions/ideas for a change to service delivery in our region. The Friday before the September long weekend, the board received news from the Deputy Ministers of Child and Youth Services, Health and Education that all plans for the Special Needs Strategy were to be halted. S. Miller provided the following highlights;

CCAC has been transitioned to LHIN (Local Health Integrated Network) - This means that any services previously supplied by CCAC (OT, PT and Speech therapy) will be transitioned to Care Treatment Centres as of April 1, 2018 (in Waterloo Region, that will be KidsAbility). The school board will continue with their current speech and language model.

As a result of this announcement nothing changes in regards to the delivery of services provided in Waterloo Region.

The intent of the Special Needs Strategy was to move towards integrated rehabilitation. In the near future the government will bring a provincial expert advisory committee to work towards a provincial model that can be used in all communities and school boards.

Priority Planning for SEAC Vision and Guiding Principle Document - The document continues to be reviewed. Groups discussed focused on what are priorities/goals for actionable items and were asked to list top 2 for each Guiding Principle. The information will be collated and provided at a future meeting.

Ministry K-12 Special Education Document: A Revised Policy and Resource Guide (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2017e.pdf).

The document thoroughly explains all aspects of Special Education in Ontario.

WRDSB Special Education Plan - A copy of the plan is on the WRDSB Corporate Website. It is a requirement by the Ministry that the Special Education Plan Checklist is completed yearly. A request was made to see if anyone in SEAC would be interested in working with Cindy Benedetti throughout the year to review the plan and provide the best feedback. If you're interested in joining this working group please give your name to Angela, Cindy or Scott.

Other Business

K. Waybrant mentioned an article in the Globe & Mail about bell times. Trustee C. Watson mentioned that this subject has been discussed previously and said the decision regarding bell times was tied with student transportation needs.

Round Table Association Reports

Time sensitive Information will be sent to members.

Trustee Report

No trustee report given.

Chair Report

Year in Review: Stop, Start and Continue

A handout was provided for review. This will be used for setting agendas for future SEAC Meetings.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC Meeting date is Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7:00 pm in the St. Jacobs Learning Hub, Education Centre.

Adjournment

Moved by K Pryke, seconded by S Penny:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.