

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

“Teams” virtual meeting

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

Wellness & Emotional Support For Youth Online

Michelle Parks

Trustee

Carol Bryden
Jennifer McCann

Principal Representatives

Frank Torti
Lisa Walker

Board Advisors

Lisa Demers
Jennifer Morrow
Janet Boyle
Chris Preece
Lisa Thompson-Power
Michelle Toutant

Guests:

Regrets: Tracey Haddy

Absent: Jessica Constancio, Rachel Veilleux, Ryan Allaer, Kim D’Hooghe

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome & Opening Prayer
- B. Adoption of SEAC Agenda for February 22, 2021

MOTION BY Steve Stokley and seconded by Brenda Roby to adopt the SEAC Agenda of February 22, 2021 **CARRIED**

- C. Review of SEAC Minutes from January 18, 2021

MOTION BY Michelle Parks and seconded by Jennifer McCann to accept the minutes from the January 18, 2021, SEAC meeting **CARRIED**

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Tiers of Intervention

Chris Preece

- Schools are an ideal place for mental health promotion
- **Tier One:** Activities and strategies focus on addressing student and staff mental health and wellbeing, creating a welcoming and safe physical environment, inclusion and student connection.
- The goal is for teachers to use everyday mental health resources in the classroom 3 to 4 times a day.
- Faith and wellness in the classroom is new this year- these activities support student and staff mental health
- The Mind Up program is delivered to all K to grade 8 classrooms in our school board. The program is delivered by a CYW with teacher support/follow up in the classroom.
- Student Wellness Committees- A school climate survey is conducted and data is shared to support programming- looking at student connection (develop activities, school specific announcements and promotions designed by the students with the staff support)
- Learning modules (e.g. suicide prevention, self harm) can accessed by staff in the staffroom on the board website.
- Resiliency Speaker Series (*Dan Edwards*) will be presented to all classes in the board starting February 25, 2021.
- A specialized mental health and wellbeing course is being offered at St. Pat's providing an upstream approach to mental health. The focus is helping students seek help and be self advocates and understanding wellness.
- **Tier Two:** Self help is critical to positive mental health- Students that may have mental health concerns, learn to self-advocate and reach out. They create awareness so that students will reach out and ask for help, develop skills and practice skills.
- Screens/Assessments (BRISC, Chymh, etc) are completed and focused intentional small group support is provided.
- Drop in sessions have been well received this year. This is an opportunity for the CYW to listen to student concerns.
- Social emotional plans are scaffolded off mind up strategies and a social emotional plan is developed with the student input. This allows students to identify and practice strategies that work for them.
- Therapeutic counselling focussed on findings from the screens (BRISC, CT, DT, play therapy, etc.)
- A confidential text and self referral form for parents and students has been well received and is often used to access support.
- Looking through trauma informed lens training (be curious about behaviour as a form of communication) is offered to staff.
- **Tier Three:** Wellbeing team members continue to support students through and from services, reinforcing skills and strategies that clinical settings have established with them.
- Focused therapy (CBT, DBT) to support students in school.
- Suicide risk assessments are completed and suicide intervention and stabilization support is provided
- Self harm protocols are followed

- Hospital transition and back to school support is provided
- Referrals to community partners and monitoring of support/services is provided for the school team- information is shared with the school team
- Will arrange and attend school based team meetings- support planning for success
- Will make connection with the MHANS for student support

B. Special Education Photo Journal

Jennifer Morrow

- Opportunity to showcase what is being done in special education during COVID
- Creativity in Action- Staff has been creative in meeting student needs
- Program Resource Teacher monthly Q & A provides an opportunity for PRTs to meet/discuss/problem solve (e.g. getting signatures electronically, sharing documents)
- Speech Language Services- Virtual and in person service delivery is occurring.
- The SLPs have updated their web page with links to strategies, activities, resources etc. that are available on both the staff learning and the parent hub
- Collaborative Support Team- The CST continues to follow up with students supported in previous years, new placements and providing self-reg support/strategies in classrooms
- Autism Transitional Classroom- Has experienced many changes this year. They are now located in St. Angela Merici, with a new teacher in the classroom and new COVID protocols to follow. The students have adapted well to all of the changes.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support- Lauri Doig has been instrumental in making sure that student and staff needs are met daily. Streamer is being used at the high school level. Lauri has also been supporting students with personal FM systems and sound field systems.
- SEA Technology support Teacher- Over 90 training sessions have been provided to students this year. They have been able to reach more people with virtual training sessions. Parents of virtual learning students are becoming more engaged with the training sessions. The training sessions are supporting google read and write, google docs etc. They are also supporting the set up and implementation of SEAIT.
- ABA Support Team- The ABA team has updated their web page that includes a team member bio page, ABA resources, universal supports, google classrooms, virtual sensory rooms, relaxing room. ABA Team support continues to be provided in person and virtually
- After School Skills Development Program- The focus is on social skills and self regulation in small groups. The virtual groups are made up of same age peers from different schools across the board.
- Responding to our Learners: On January 11, 2021, 77 students returned to in person learning at numerous schools across the board
- Virtual EA training during PD day and EA training modules are available on learning hub

3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. Autism Ontario - Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

- N/A

B. Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

- N/A

C. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

- Chatham-Kent Teen Transition Fair will be held virtually this year on April 22, 2021
- All agencies have been asked to submit a video outlining supports and services available
- SCCDSB has been asked to promote the Transition Fair through social media advertisements and flyers (information has been provided)

D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

- COVID 19 Update- We are very happy that all the residents in our homes are still healthy and COVID free. We are so grateful to our staff who have worked hard, following protocols and keeping everyone

safe.

- Group home residents and staff are in the second tier priority group for COVID-19 vaccinations, after nursing home residents and staff, and hospital workers. We are very much looking forward to having the vaccinations completed.
- Thanks to a Trillium grant, there are significant renovations happening at the Wawanosh Community First Day Program building on Confederation, including a new accessible washroom and plumbing updates.

E. Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

- N/A

F. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

- N/A

G. Wellness & Emotional Support For Youth Online

Michelle Parks

- N/A

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

N/A

5. NEW BUSINESS

N/A

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Mental Health Update

Chris Preece

- Speaker Series- Dan Edwards will begin presenting to grade 2 students this week
- On February 11, 2021- Dr. Barbara Ward, Mental Health Lead for the Waterloo District School Board, presented to parents, staff, and community partners on why self care is even more important during a pandemic
- On March 3, 2021- Dr. Jean Clinton, Child Psychiatrist, will be presenting on Good at Learning. Good at Life: Why Social Emotional Learning is Important for Thriving
- Coffee with a Friend- A gathering with prayer within our schools every Wednesday morning

B. ELL Code Project

Jennifer Morrow/Lisa Thompson-Power

- The Board recently applied for an ELL Code Project grant and the application was successful.
- The goal for this project is to ensure timely access to much needed resources and supports, particularly in digital format, during the pandemic and beyond.
- The hope is that we are able to draw on the experience and knowledge of a teacher with ELL accreditation and a Child and Youth Worker with lived experience as an ELL student, to create a resource bank to support students, their families and staff throughout the school board.
- The resource bank will provide access to up-to-date, evidence based practices; training videos; information on how to use the Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) resource to inform teacher practice and assess ELL students; as well as provide access to digital resources and community resources to support ELLs and their families.

C. Enhanced Autism Funding

Michelle Toutant

- This year SCCDSB was allotted two different funding amounts for Autism related training opportunities for school board staff.
- The first allocation from the Ministry of Education was the Sonderly Training Credits/funding was applied to the “*Supporting Play-Based Learning for Kids with ASD*” training opportunity offered to all SCCDSB- EAs, Kindergarten teachers and ECE teaching partners. There was an overwhelming response to this training opportunity with 30 SCCDSB staff members registered to complete the 4

hour online course and 34 interested staff members on a waiting list should more funding become available after the March 1st registration deadline.

- Members of the ABA team are also enrolled in this course with the plan for in school follow up and support in implementing the training and strategies learned in the course.
- On January 10, 2021, the Ontario government announced additional funding to the Geneva Centre for Autism for a new training program.
- The second funding allocation is the Enhanced Autism Training Program. The objective of this program is to provide an enhanced learning experience.
- We have 4 staff members (3 EAs and 1 PRT) from St. Angela Merici enrolled in the Enhanced Training: 40 hr Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) course with live (virtual) practice session
- The SCCDSB ABA Team BCBA's will be available to offer support to RBT course participants as required

D. Preschool Transition Updates

Lisa Thompson-Power

- Initial Intake preschool meetings for Chatham Kent schools are on February 24th & 25th, 2021. The Initial Intake meetings for Sarnia Lambton schools are on March 2nd & 3rd, 2021.
- All students entering school for the first time will be placed in their age appropriate grade. We have students entering school for the first time into Year 1 – JK, Year 2 – SK as well as Grade 1.
- The purpose of the Initial Intake meetings is to gather information in order to plan supports the student will require upon entering school. Supports could include staff, equipment, and/or building/capitol projects to meet the needs of the students.
- The school board and the community agencies work together to support the student transitions. The Initial Intake meetings as well as the follow up meetings involve school teams, board support teams, therapists, child & family consultants, psychologists, daycare providers, and of course parents/guardians of the children.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- Planning for the new French Immersion school in Sarnia is moving ahead and consultation meetings with the community continue
- The property has been secured and meetings are occurring with the architect
- All students and staff returned to in person learning on February 8, 2021
- Masking for primary grades 1 to 3 is now in place and testing will be completed randomly
- The Trustees recently attended a presentation by Osgoode with a focus on equity and inclusion. This was very informative.

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

N/A

10. FUTURE MEETING DATE

March 22, 2021

April 19, 2021

May 17, 2021

June 14, 2021

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Wendy Smith to adjourn the SEAC Meeting at 7:04 p.m.

CARRIED