



SEAC MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Via Teams Meeting

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter | Tracey Haddy |
| Community Living Chatham-Kent | Kayla Murphy / 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 |
| Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton | Michelle Parks |
| Trustees | Jennifer McCann |
| Principal/Vice Principal Representatives | Tiffany Clarke (VP) Lisa Walker |
| Board Advisors | Lisa Demers Jennifer Morrow Terri Rawlings Chris Preece Lisa Thompson-Power Hollie Sparling |
| Guests | Greta Saklak Mackenzie Nolan Marcela Nieto Katie Papanayotou |
| Regrets | Kim D’Hooghe Tracey Haddy |
| Absent | Steve Stokley |



A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

2. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - January 16, 2023 (Motion)

Motion By Wendy Smith and seconded by Michelle Parks to adopt the SEAC Agenda of Monday, January 16, 2023. **Carried.**

3. Review of SEAC Minutes – November 21 , 2022 (Motion)

Motion By Wendy Smith and seconded by Brenda Roby to adopt the SEAC Minutes of Monday, November 21, 2022. **Carried.**

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Options

Greta Saklak

- The Options program started when it was recognized that we needed an alternative education program for students with intellectual disabilities between the ages of 18 and 21
- The program partners with community agencies Community Living Chatham Kent, Community Living Wallaceburg) to bridge the gap between school, the community and the workplace. Both CLW and CLCK sit on the Steering Committee that meets every two months and help with the cooperative education placements and job match
- The first group of students started in 2003-2004 and the program has been running for 20 years
- The Options program is a competitive program where the maximum enrollment is 15 students, selected from both the St. Clair Catholic District School Board and the Lambton Kent District School Board
- The program is housed at St. Clair College. Although the students are not officially St. Clair College students, they receive a student card that allows them to use the computers and printers and participate in all the activities that are run by the school, gaining a real sense of community.
- Students have to have completed at least four years of high school and have worked toward an OSSD, or received a certificate of achievement
- Students are referred by their secondary school education team. The students complete an application with their parents and are then interviewed
- For students needing transportation, they need to learn the public transportation system
- Work placements include companies such as Home Depot, McDonald's, Canadian Tire and Shoppers Drug Mart



- Students learn First Aid and CPR and have parent classes that are part of the program
- Chelsea Weaver, a graduate of the Options program, spoke of her positive experience in the program, how the program helped her obtain employment, how she was a valued employee, and the leisure activities she enjoys and participates in throughout her community

2. Settlement Workers in Schools

Mackenzi Nolan

Marcela Nieto

- Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) offers settlement support for students and families who are new to Canada. The program is funded by Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada
- The program aims to help accelerate the settlement process and promote student achievement for the newcomer by connecting with those newly arrived parents and discussing ways we can help meet their settlement needs: providing orientation and support, explaining picture day or PD days, attending school meetings, transitioning into elementary school and high school
- The program began in December 2021 and has been in the St Clair Catholic District School Board Sarnia schools for just over a year. The program is now being offered in Chatham
- In the Sarnia area, the program is run through the YMCA
- We serve families from Brazil, Colombia, Philippines, Chili, Ukraine, India, Peru and Mexico
- Referrals can come from teachers, principals, vice principals, administrative staff, resource teachers, guidance counselors and community agencies
- The families arriving in Canada are always very eager to start school, especially when they come from countries like Colombia, as their schools run year-round
- Once a month at St. Patrick's High School, there is a SWIS Cafe during student lunches so they can ask questions and get support with other settlers.
- There are many YMCA collaborations, including YMAP (volunteer opportunities, space for students to get to know each other), YLCC (language classes for adults), and Jerry McCall Family Centre (events and recreation memberships)
- Community Collaborations include the Lambton Public Library, Lambton Public Health, INN of the Good Shepherd and Sarnia Sting

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

- N/A



2. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Kayla Murphy / Steve Stokley

- On November 1, 2023, we had a volunteer recruitment which was held at the Hidden Hills Golf and Country Club
- On November 18, 2023, Community Living Chatham-Kent had a float in the Chatham Christmas parade and evening at the Sons of Kent Brewing Company
- On November 20, 2023, we participated in the Chatham Goodfellows Porch Light campaign

3. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

- On December 9, 2022, the ET and jobPath team delivered five large boxes of food and other items to the Inn of the Good Shepherd as part of a community-wide food drive
- Three jobPath participants started new jobs, including one with a brand new employer, Park Lane Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC. We are very pleased with this new partnership and look forward to expanding on this initial hire with them
- In November, members of the ET and jobPath team attended the Ontario Disability Employment Network's (ODEN) Rethinking Disability Conference in Richmond Hill, Ontario. During the event, Heather and Evan participated in an information session by VjobReady, a virtual reality (VR) program used for Career Exploration and Skills Training. Vjobready was developed by Career Services Brockville
- In the VR module, participants learn first-hand job skills and expectations in a safe and comfortable environment. This first module, Career Café, includes 4 training stations relevant to the food service sector. The environment is designed to replicate a typical fast food restaurant environment like Subway, Quesada or Tim Hortons. Participants enter orders and take payments in the POS system (Point of Sale cash register), learn the correct procedure for hand washing, make sandwiches, prepare hot/cold beverages and assemble the food orders that are purchased
- After attending the conference, the team submitted a proposal through our Service Canada Program Officer for jobPath to seek funding so that the virtual reality training modules could be offered to clients here. They are anticipating a response from the Program Officer very soon about this request

4. Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

- The team attended the ODEN conference in Richmond Hill in November, 2022
- Through the Christmas parade and food donations from our drive, food was provided to the Salvation Army, as well as to the two food hampers that are located within the municipality of Wallaceburg. This was a big success



5. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

- N/A

6. Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton

Michelle Parks

- Continuing partnership with Talk for Tamara. Fundraising dollars have been donated to have more people in the community trained in the Safe Talk course, which is like Mental Health First Aid. It assists in knowing how to connect with a person and what to say. Training has been done with Rebound and Victim Services
- If anyone is interested in the Safe Talk course, they can contact Michelle Parks. The course is free, thanks to Talk for Tamara
- Working on a partnership between Mental Health Matters program, which has also donated some money to the Suicide Prevention Committee.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

E. NEW BUSINESS (Motion)

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Mental Health and Wellbeing Updates

Chris Preece

- The wellbeing team has been trained in Foundational Eating Disorders. It focused on prevention and looking at the symptoms, as well as things we say to our children when talking about food, or their appearance, or their body image. The Wellbeing team has taken the initial training and we are planning on implementing and piloting some small tests groups in our schools
- Our team will be at our schools for KinderSTART and will be doing an activity as well as letting parents know that we have well-being support in our schools. They will hear some strategies that they can do at home to start with their child to practice social emotional learning
- We are moving forward with hiring a Parent Engagement Facilitator. This person will work with parents in schools to find out how we can make them feel more included and how we can help meet their needs in schools, looking through an equity and diversity lens
- Max Stossel will be speaking to the impact of social media. The first presentation is scheduled with parents on April 13, 2023 at the Capitol Theatre in Chatham, and the second is on April 14, 2023 at the Dante Club in Sarnia



- Marc Nead is looking at rolling out social emotional learning and doing a pilot test at six schools throughout the district. He will evaluate the data to see how it worked, what needs to be tweaked, and if it's improving student academic learning, attendance and behavior

2. EQAO

Lisa Demers

- It is important to consider many factors when examining the EQAO data from 2022. Due to the impact of the pandemic and learning from home, the new curriculum for math was released without the opportunity for professional development, as well as the modernized EQAO format
- The data will establish a baseline for boards on a go-forward basis, and it provides us with a starting point
- The mathematics component of the primary division assessment contains a total of four stages. Each stage is designed to be completed in approximately 30 minutes, and students must complete each stage in one sitting. The stages can be completed back-to-back with breaks in between or on different dates and times. The junior division assessment was similar to the primary with more questions
- The language component of the primary/junior division assessment contains a total of four sessions (Session A, B, C, and D). Each session is designed to be completed within 15 to 35 minutes, depending on the session, and students must complete each session in one sitting. The sessions can be completed back-to-back with breaks in between or on different dates and times
- Our board's provincial scores are in line with the province

3. Grade 8-9 Transition Information

Hollie Sparling

- Transition packages are prepared for all Grade 8 students with an IEP
- This year, there are two types of transition packages: one for programming and another for SEA technology only
- Packages are due to the CEC by March 3, 2023 and will be shared with secondary schools
- Enhanced transition meetings will occur in February 2023
- Regular transition meetings will occur in April 2023

4. Grade 8-9 Parent Information Event

Hollie Sparling

- This year, information will be shared with families during in-person Open House events



- Dates: Ursuline College Chatham - February 2, 2023
St. Patrick's High School - February 8, 2023

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- The last Board meeting was at St. Angela Merici Catholic School
- School Improvement Plans were reviewed along with the summer camps and destreaming

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

J. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Monday, February 13, 2023

Monday, March 20, 2023

Monday, April 17, 2023

Monday, May 15, 2023

Monday, June 19, 2023

K. CLOSING PRAYER

L. ADJOURNMENT (Motion)

Motion By Michelle Parks and seconded by Brenda Roby to adjourn the January 16, 2023 meeting at 7:20 p.m. **Carried.**