

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Community Living Chatham-Kent	Steve Stokley
Community Living Wallaceburg	Patricia Peters
Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton	Michelle Parks
Pathways Health Centre for Children	Melanie Coll
Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County	Garth Lepine
Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	TBD
Community Living Sarnia-Lambton	Kristy Bodkin
Trustees	Jennifer McCann Brenda Rumble
Principal/Vice Principal Representatives	Karoline Lobsinger Alishia Thompson (VP)
Board Advisors	Jennifer Morrow Stephanie Orrange Katie Papanayotou Chris Preece Lisa Thompson-Power Hollie Sparling
Guests	Marcie Myers
Regrets	Lori Brush Michelle Parks



## A. CALL TO ORDER

### 1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

### 2. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - September 15, 2025 (Motion)

The order of agenda items was revised so the budget presentation was first.

**Motion By** Steve Stokley and seconded by Brenda Rumble to adopt the SEAC Agenda of Monday, September 15, 2025. **Carried.**

### 3. Review of SEAC Minutes - June 16, 2025 (Motion)

**Motion By** Melanie Coll and seconded by Brenda Rumble to adopt the SEAC Minutes of Monday, June 16, 2025. **Carried.**

## B. PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Budget

Marcie Myers

- Marcie walked SEAC through the approved budget for Special Education for the 2025-2026 school year (typically shared at June SEAC meeting but Ministry funding was delayed)
- The budget is balanced and there is no deficit for 2025-2026
- All collective agreements and settlements have been settled
- Benchmarks per pupil and differentiated needs amount benchmarks have increased
- Higher students enrolment increased funding in many areas
- Increases in salaries due to new collective agreements
- There is an increase in secondary resource teacher positions and the budget includes funding for a south ProjectSEARCH
- Three additional EAs were hired in the elementary panel, one additional RBA was hired for the ABA team, and more CDA staff were hired
- Cooperative Education Transportation funding has increased
- Autism Additional Qualifications course funding is available in the budget
- A contingency fund is in place to address the needs of new students
- Transition Navigator funding has been renewed

### 2. SEAC Regulations

Stephanie Orrange

- We are mandated to review the rules and regulations for SEAC with committee members annually



- Areas reviewed: Membership, Orientation and Training, Rules and Procedures for SEAC meetings, and the Primary Role of SEAC members

### **3. Department Objectives**

Stephanie Orrange

- Every year the special education department shares the department objectives for the school year with SEAC. Some items are new and others carry over from the previous year
- Objectives this year include: IEP Review, Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities (Ministry funded) funding renewed (Diversity Kits, Rick Hansen Foundation PD Opportunities for Secondary Schools, Inclusive Support and Recreation kits), Implementation of Lifeskills Review Recommendations (further support meaningful integration, Transition Navigator Position, Continued Support of Structured Literacy, EA Training/ Resource Development (Google Classroom, training)

### **4. PRT Roles and Responsibilities**

Stephanie Orrange

- The Roles and Responsibilities documents for both Elementary and Secondary PRTs were shared with SEAC, highlighting ongoing responsibilities throughout the school year, as well as specific monthly items to focus on - collaborating with classroom teachers, collaborating on programming, IPRC processes, personal care plans, meetings and communication with families, in-school assessments
- PRTs provide direct service to Tier 2 and Tier 3 students
- Fall is a very busy time for PRTs as they work on IEPs, individualized programming, SEA equipment, French exemption applications, and Personal Care plans

## **C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **1. Community Living Chatham-Kent**

Steve Stokley

- Kayla Murphy is no longer on the board; board will meet again end of September and confirm their SEAC representative
- 15 students attended the summer program, which included paid employment in the morning and volunteer opportunities in the afternoon
- Options Program update - All but one student have a co-op placement at this time; additional students may be admitted to the program in January



## **2. Community Living Wallaceburg**

Patricia Peters

- September 26, 2025 - Maple City Golf Tournament
- September 16, 2025 - Local Board of Director, Chris Taylor, will receive the National Jason Ray Award, to be awarded at the National Community Living Conference
- September 18, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. - Annual General Meeting
- September 30, 2025 @ 10 a.m. - Annual Healing Walk in partnership with Walpole Island First Nation and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent

## **3. Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton**

Michelle Parks

- N/A

## **4. Pathways Health Centre for Children**

Melanie Coll

- Summer programs are wrapping up and the Lifelong Learning Program and school-based services have started
- Mustang Sally Rally event returned on September 13, 2025 after a hiatus and was a very successful and warmly received event

## **5. Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County**

Garth Lepine

- Funding has been secured for a Speech Camp again this year
- November 21, 2025 – fundraiser featuring guitarist Cliff Erickson at the Sarnia library
- October 18, 2025 - Down Syndrome Association of Ontario 2025 Conference in Parry Sound, ON with a "Down Right Inspiring" theme

## **6. Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent** TBD

- N/A

## **7. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton**

Kristy Bodkin

- This year was the biggest summer camp yet with 83 children registered
- Centre-based respite activity group resumed this Fall and is available for any children who have a developmental disability or physical disability

## **D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

- N/A

## **E. NEW BUSINESS (Motion)**

- N/A



## F. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 1. Mental Health and Well Being Updates

Chris Preece

- Noelle's Gift is seeking sponsors for each school's [Noelle's Gift Closet](#)
- This is Chris Preece's last SEAC meeting before she retires; Lori Brush has been working with her this month to successfully transition into the Mental Health Lead role
- Multi-tiered system of mental health support in school focuses on promotion, prevention and early intervention, where community mental health partners provide more intensive support
- Tier 1 - prevention; Tier 2 - supporting students with emerging issues; Tier 3 - assessment and treatment services, referrals to community supports; Tier 4 - intensive services, community-based and in-home treatment or in-patient live-in treatment (Linck for Chatham-Kent, St. Clair Child and Youth for Sarnia-Lambton)
- SCCDSB does short-term clinical counselling
- SCCDSB well-being team includes Social Workers, Attendance Counsellors, Child & Youth Workers
- Adopted a comprehensive approach to Social Emotional Learning for adults and students; SEL promotes mental health and is a preventative evidence-based approach that supports mental health early, reduces behaviour challenges, strengthens relationships, builds resilience, and increases academic success by approximately 10%
- This year there is a Principal Learning Network for a collaborative SEL inquiry
- Suicide Protocols help build capacity in school staffs by providing a framework of three questions that can be asked by any staff (non-clinicians)
- A learning module entitled "Crisis to Connection: Building Safe Response to Big Behaviours" has been developed by well-being, CST and ABA teams, and it can be used a debriefing tool
- Key findings of School Climate Data reflect provincial trends: increase in bullying, higher levels of cyber bullying, disordered eating and mental health concerns (worrying about their families and appearance) in secondary schools
- Goals based on key findings include increasing student awareness of mental health supports in system, working with Religion departments to understand that our relationships with God support mental health, enhancing family support awareness, parent mental health literacy, student wellness committee action plans, and expanding SEL across the board



## 2. Update Staffing

Stephanie Orrange

- Funding is in place to investigate a ProjectSEARCH location in Chatham-Kent
- Additional hires: 3 additional EAs, 3 additional CYWs, 1 SW, 1 RBA (ABA team)
- SLP team now includes 2 permanent; one SLP is on maternity leave but no replacement could be secured so an additional 1.8 CDAs were hired

## 3. CTEP Classrooms with LK

Stephanie Orrange/Jen Morrow

- New Ministry guidelines for Care, Treatment, Education Programs (CTEP) in partnership with LKDSB
- SCCDSB runs the ATC in partnership with TLC (no longer need to apply for funding annually)
- Additional \$150,000 in funding ensures access to four other CTEPs administered by the LKDSB: JMSS Day Treatment (Gr. 7-12), Northern Day Treatment (Gr. 7-12), Rebound Youth Justice Program (Gr. 7-12), Rebound Mental Health Program (Gr. 7-12), Crossroads (formerly Transitions II - Gr. 9-12)

## 4. Back on Track

Stephanie Orrange/Jen Morrow

- The YMCA is funding this alternative suspension program that is new to Chatham-Kent (Gr. 7-12)
- In Sarnia-Lambton, a similar program has been in place for several years in partnership with Rebound (Gr. 3-12)

## 5. Developing Your Housing Action Plan

Stephanie Orrange

- 10-week facilitated *Crafting Your Individualized Housing Action Plan* workshop for families to gain practical tools, expert guidance, and a supportive space to take real steps toward helping their family members create a home of their own
- This workshop runs from September 23-December 2, 2025 @ 6:30-8:30 p.m. with 6 whole-group sessions, 3 facilitation sessions, and 1 consultation

## G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- Brief meeting included details of one school sale and one school renovation

## H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- N/A

## I. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- N/A



## J. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Monday, October 20, 2025

Monday, November 17, 2025

Monday, December 15, 2025

Monday, January 19, 2026

Monday, February 9, 2026

Monday, March 23, 2026

Monday, April 13, 2026

Monday, May 11, 2026

Monday, June 15, 2026

## K. CLOSING PRAYER

## L. ADJOURNMENT (Motion)

**Motion By** Patricia Peters and seconded by Steve Stokely to adjourn the SEAC meeting of Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. **Carried.**