

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

“Teams” virtual meeting

### MINUTES

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

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: Deb Crawford, Martin Smit, Jennifer Hunter

Regrets: Kim D’Hooghe

Absent: Jessica Constancio

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome & Opening Prayer
- B. Adoption of SEAC Agenda

**MOTION BY** Brenda Roby and seconded by Jennifer McCann to adopt the SEAC Agenda of January 18, 2021

**CARRIED**

- C. Review of SEAC Minutes from November 16, 2020

**MOTION BY** Jennifer McCann and seconded by Brenda Roby to accept the minutes from the November 16, 2020, SEAC meeting.

**CARRIED**

## 2. PRESENTATIONS

### A. LD@Home

Martin Smit

- The purpose of LDAO is to improve the lives of children, youth and adults living with learning disabilities.
- LD@Home is a brand new resource. It houses resources to support families and parents who are affected by learning disabilities. It shares information on all aspects of LDs. All of the information is written with the parent in mind. It helps parents understand what is going on in the education system. It also gives a good sense of all the terminology used in the education system pertaining to learning disabilities.
- There are many sections to explore. For example, there is expert advice, personal stories, articles specific to LDs, webinars and a media section.
- LD@School is funded by the Ministry of Education. It's main purpose is to provide resources for educators, schools, boards, teachers, EAs, etc. There are many resources that are helpful to parents despite being directed more toward educators. There is a specific area dedicated to learning at home for parents. This section shares information on how to support students as we learn at home during the pandemic.
- All of the resources provided on both sites are free to use and can be shared.
- The presenters contact information is [martin@ldao.ca](mailto:martin@ldao.ca)
- SCCDSB has created an infographic to share with principals on January 19, 2021. The information will then be shared board wide within each school community so that parents know how to access the information at both LD@school and LD@home.

### B. Coordinated Service Planning

Jennifer Hunter

- The overall philosophy of CSP is the same in both Chatham Kent and Sarnia Lambton. It is a family centered approach for those with multiple complex needs. CSP came together in 2017 in order to help families get timely and effective service at school and in their homes during school years and into adulthood. CSP helps families reach goals they have identified for children and youth and helps to ensure the goals are being followed through in the community.
- People can access CSP up to the age of 18 years or 21 years of age if still in school. There may be periods of inactivity however, at any time they can connect again to re-engage with CSP. Discharge happens if parents identify they no longer need the service, they move out of the area, or the child ages out.
- There are many community partners working with CSP to meet the needs and support the families. There is a referral and a screening process. The screening tool is to be completed by the referring agency with the parent, youth, school team, etc. It is then reviewed by the CSP to determine next steps. Self referrals by parents or youth can also be made by calling Pathways in Sarnia Lambton and Children's Treatment Centre in Chatham Kent. All of the CSP information and referral forms are on the website of each of these agencies.
- CSP is completely voluntary. Consent is required from the family. CSP is a one point of access for the family so their story does not have to continue to be repeated. It helps to eliminate the feeling of being overwhelmed by the well intentioned supports and services. CSP is a facilitator to help the family connect with community support and organize all of the contacts, appointments, etc.

### 3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. Community Living Wallaceburg Ryan Allaer
- N/A
- B. Community Living Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley
- N/A
- C. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Brenda Roby
- N/A
- D. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County Kim D’Hooghe
- N/A
- E. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter Tracey Haddy
- N/A
- F. Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Jessica Constancio
- N/A
- G. Wellness & Emotional Support For Youth Online Michelle Parks
- Meeting January 19, 2021 to work on the new strategic plan for next 5 years
  - Have hired 2 additional counsellors due to current demand for service
  - This is the link to register for service <https://wesforyouth.privacemail.com/idex.php?page=register>

### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

N/A

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

N/A

### 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. MACSE Survey Lisa Demers
- The survey was sent to SEAC members. It is looking to get to know people on SEAC and their perspective on special education supports and services; voices of the community.
  - Please return the surveys to Morgan Brown who will send them back to MACSE after all of the information has been compiled.
  - The compiled information will be shared at our next SEAC meeting.
- B. Mental Health and Well-Being Update Chris Preece
- We have registered for access to the Ontario Telehealth Network. Social Workers are using it to do secure private counselling. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health has purchased this service for school board use.
  - SCCDSB is hosting a speaker series for the next 6 months. The first presentation in the series occurred on January 12, 2021. The topic was The Dangers of Human Trafficking. Each presentation will be one hour in length. Chris Preece has the names of the upcoming speakers and topics. Each session is open to anyone who would like to address mental health and wellbeing. They are open to staff and parents.
  - Holiday highlights for student health and wellbeing was a success. A lot of great ideas were entered and are shared on the Board website.
  - School Mental Health Ontario released a Student Mental Health Action kit. It was developed by teachers, for teachers. Unveiling and Rolling out the kit is the next step with both the Curriculum and the Special Education departments. The kit includes daily lesson plans to help with student mental health.

- C. EA Support in Remote Classrooms Jen Morrow
- On the November 20, 2020 PD day, we provided additional training to EAs on virtual digital platforms. The EAs requested additional training in smaller groups. Additional training for EAs, by EAs was provided. The EA trainers gathered resources, created visuals, and created videos to train their peers. As a result, 4 introductory sessions on the basics were provided to 128 EAs; 2 more sessions were provided on advanced applications in Google where 74 EAs attended.
  - All EAs are currently very interactive in our classrooms with online learning. They are participating in whole classrooms with teachers, leading small group sessions focused on specific interventions, working 1:1 with students in breakout rooms, etc.
- D. Enhanced Transitions Michelle Toutant
- Grade 8 -9 transition packages for all students with IEPs, for both in-person and virtual schools, will be compiled and shared with the receiving high school. An enhanced transition meeting, for the smaller group of students who require deeper planning for their success at high school, will occur in February 2021. The main purpose of the enhanced meetings this year will be to allow the parents to meet with the high school team virtually, to ask/answer questions, discuss potential schedule options, locker location and lock options (1 digit lock), uniform concerns, lunch supervision, busing options, medical needs, etc. These meetings will primarily take place for students who will attend the Life Skills program/classroom for all or a portion of their school day.
  - In the Spring a second transition meeting will be hosted virtually by the secondary school. The secondary special education department head, the secondary PRT, or a member of the secondary admin team will chair the meeting. The Spring meeting will focus on ensuring that all questions are answered and that decisions for transportation, the length of day, classes to be attended, lunch, safety, hygiene routines, EA support as well as a plan for academic and/or behaviour programming are in place.
- E. Kinderstart Janet Boyle
- Due to COVID regulations, the process for KinderSTART has been modified this year. A virtual KinderSTART experience for families will take place. There will be one virtual Meet opportunity for each school on **February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** This 15 minute virtual meeting with the school staff will introduce families to the school, provide a virtual look inside the school and Early Years program, engage the child and provide an opportunity for questions.
  - Promotion for KinderSTART will officially kick off on Tuesday, January 19 with a social media campaign and information will be included on the Board website
- F. Preschool Transition Process Lisa Thompson-Power
- All Preschool Transition planning is done in collaboration with the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham Kent, Pathways Health Centre for Children, the Lambton Kent DSB as well as the French school board.
  - The Preschool Transition Parent Evenings have been changed to virtual events. The parent evening in Chatham Kent was held on November 25, 2020. The families who attended found the information to be most helpful. The attendance was lower than it has been in previous years. The parent evening in Sarnia Lambton will be held on January 28, 2021.
  - The Initial Intake meetings for SCCDSB are scheduled for February 24, 2021 and February 25, 2021 in Chatham Kent and on March 2, 2021 and March 3, 2021 in Sarnia Lambton. All Initial Intake meetings will be held virtually. All of the required information will be included in the letter of invitation to parents. We will accommodate families who are unable to attend using the virtual platform. These initial meetings are to plan for incoming students, new to school, who are considered to have high to moderate needs and will require support as they enter school in September 2021.
  - Follow up planning meetings will be held virtually in the Spring with the school team, family, and community partners to receive updates and confirm planning to ensure a smooth transition in September 2021 for the student.

**7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

- Weekly meetings are held with the Director of Education and the Minister of Education to share information and updates on changes and the effects of COVID in the educational environment. The Board is staying well informed.
- When circumstances allow, the Board will continue to move forward with the new school in South Chatham and the new French school in Sarnia.
- Most committees are moving forward with virtual meetings and the minutes are posted on the Board website.
- Recently the Trustees attended workshops for PD. The main topic was Parish Home and School Connections. Another session on Human Rights occurred and was outstanding. The presenters were students affected by discrimination on some level. It was moderated by Student Trustees.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2021.

**8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- N/A

**9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- N/A

**10. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

February 22, 2021

March 22, 2021

April 19, 2021

May 17, 2021

June 14, 2021

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Steve Stokley and seconded by Tracey Haddy to adjourn the SEAC Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

**CARRIED**