

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 14, 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

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: Lauri Doig, Alendra de Boer

Regrets: Kim D’Hooghe, Tracey Haddy, Ryan Allaer

Absent: Jessica Constancio, Michelle Parks

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**MOTION BY** Wendy Smith and seconded by Jennifer McCann to adopt the SEAC Agenda of June 14, 2021 **CARRIED**

- C. Review of SEAC Minutes from May 17, 2021

**MOTION BY** Jennifer McCann and seconded by Brenda Roby to accept the minutes from the May 17, 2021, SEAC meeting. **CARRIED**

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Streamer Closed Captioning Lauri Doig & Alendra de Boer
  - The Streamer automated closed captioning system was piloted this year and is currently being used by 6 students in the SCCDSB
  - Streamer will pick up what is being said and present the spoken text at the bottom of the computer screen
  - Streamer works in over 200 languages- have recently provided a student with english to spanish translation
  - Streamer is another vehicle for access in the classroom- with permission from classroom teacher the transcript can be saved- a secure password is required by both teacher and student to access the information
  - Streamer subscription for 1 year is approximately \$100 US dollars
  - Alendra de Boer- shared her experience using Streamer this year- Streamer has helped Alendra to better understand the teacher during in person learning- masks make it difficult to hear and understand- She would like to continue using Streamer next year
  - When using Streamer during virtual learning- Alendra indicated that it helps her understand what the teacher is saying but at same time it is difficult to see my teacher - need to move between 2 tabs
  - Captioning works for everyone- it is a universal design, often students are curious about new ways to learn
  - Teachers have embraced Streamer this year- Alendra is a phenomenal advocate for the use of streamer in the classroom and will be able to demonstrate to other students how Steamer works
- B. Employee Recognition Lisa Demers & Jen Morrow
  - Michelle Toutant- Thank You for her one year commitment to the role of Special Education Consultant for the 2020-2021 school year
  - Janet Boyle- Recognition and Thank You for her years of service and commitment to the students, parents and staff of the SCCDSB. Janet is retiring at the end of June 2021

**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
  - Will be running a summer program this year
  - There is funding for 6 university students- all jobs are filled
  - Working on getting all agency employees their second vaccination

- D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Brenda Roby
- Summer employment transitions has 28 students registered and 8 job coaches
  - The City of Sarnia is hiring 9 students in the area of parks, fire, HR, public works and accounting
  - The County is hiring 6 students in various roles throughout the county
  - JobPath started its 4<sup>th</sup> virtual session on Monday June 7th
  - Employment Transitions has placed 14 people on ODSP into the workforce so far this year. Hoping now that things are opening up we will be able to easily double that (and hopefully more)
  - Children's Respite Camp- *We expect to have 15 campers* during any one week throughout the summer. In years past, Summer Youth Adventures-supported around 60 children sometime during the summer. This year it may be about 30 to 35 kids, but we don't know for sure yet, as the registration deadline is Friday, June 18th
  - Weekly registrations will be announced on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after June 18<sup>th</sup> will be approved based on any availability that remains.
  - In addition, we'll be continuing with two nights per week dedicated to kids with mental health challenges who have been referred by FCC, with one night specified for a small group of 3-5 girls and another night for a small group of 3-5 boys. Referrals from FCC
- E. Community Living Wallaceburg Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith
- Currently in the process of hiring 1 summer student in the employment section
  - All other positions have been filled
- 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

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Mental Health Update Chris Preece
- Clinical Supports: Social worker clinical counselling and child and youth worker supports are planned for the summer months
  - Secondary School Transitions: All grade 8's entering grade 9 in our system will receive two phone calls from school board personnel and will receive a call at the end of August from a secondary school student. The Student Support and Wellbeing team is partnering with Curriculum and the Special Education Department to do three grade 8 check ins this summer
  - Social Emotional and Physical Literacy Camp: There will be a field test for 2 days of camp in both north and south for students entering grade 4 and 5 in our system. These days will be held at St. Matthews on August 23rd and 24th and at St. Angela Merici on August 26th and 27<sup>th</sup>. Bussing along with snacks will be provided. Focus is on building social emotional skills for students returning back to school in September. Registration link is <https://forms.gle/pzEtb9dk1my5dwcQA>
  - Summer Learning Camp: CYWs and SWs will be participating in summer learning this year for grades 1-8 beginning July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 23rd
  - Planning for return to school has begun and is a partnership between curriculum and wellbeing team. Focus will be on creating welcoming school environments. Activities and resources will be provided to all staff that will be distributed at the first PD days in September
- B. Summer Learning Jen Morrow
- A variety of summer learning camps will be taking place July 5th to July 23rd, Monday-Friday from 8:30-11:30 am.

- Each of the camps will be staffed with a teacher, CYW and EA
- Grades 1-6 have been offered a virtual camp experience to stay connected with learning
- ELL Camp – for learners whose first language is not English
- FSL Camp so that learners can learn in French- for grades 1-4
- Makers, Math and More – for students in grades 7 and 8, staffed by secondary teachers, students will have opportunities to work on math concepts, construction technology, visual arts and textiles
- Kinder Camp – for students in Junior and Senior Kindergarten, the camps will focus on phonological awareness skills. Students will attend two, 20 minute sessions each week

C. ASSDP Summer Programming

Michelle Toutant

- During the month of July, Hilary Grieve- BCBA with the board, will be running 2 social skills groups (virtually) with a total of 7 students
- The July social skills groups are a continuation of the groups that Hilary facilitated during the school year- the groups will be scheduled for 30 minute blocks
- Students will continue to work on a variety of goals including conversation skills, understanding the perspectives of others, starting and ending conversations using jamboard, kahoot, videos, social skills activities
- In August, we are offering two coding camp opportunities for students with ASD through LearnStyle
- These camps will focus on learning social skills in a natural environment, basic coding concepts, developing problem-solving strategies and provide an opportunity to build friendships through a shared interest in computers, coding & robotics
- There will be approximately five students in each camp. Hilary Grieve will be attending the camp periodically to ensure that the skills learned can be generalized to our classrooms. We anticipate the camps we will run two separate weeks and are very excited to begin our partnership with Learnstyle.
- Both of these opportunities for our students are funded through the After Schools Skill Development Program

D. Transition Support Planning

Michelle Toutant

- School boards in Ontario have been tasked by the Ministry of Education to provide Summer Transition Support for students with complex special needs during the last 2 weeks of August (it works out to about 7 days)
- We are currently in the process of planning to offer transition support (school visits) to approximately 350 students within our school board
- We have 8 staff members that have committed to facilitating the August transition support visits within our schools
- Our plan is to schedule staff at schools on specific days and provide parents/students an opportunity to sign up for a time slot that works best for them
- The purpose of the visit is to familiarize students with the school environment and include a student activity
- All COVID protocols will be followed- Parents/students will take part in self-led tours and student activity- staff will be on hand to support the visits
- The summer transition support visits are in addition to the transition meetings schools typically hold

E. Public Posting of K-12 Education Standards Development Committee Initial Recommendations Report

Lisa Demers

- The Ministry of Education has shared a public posting and encourages participation in the public consultation on the K-12 Standards Development Committee's (K-12 SDC) Initial Recommendations Report
- In Ontario, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* outlines the legislated process for the development of new accessibility standards through Standards Development Committees. These Committees are responsible for developing and reviewing accessibility standards in Ontario.

- The mandate of the K-12 Education SDC is to provide recommendations to government on removing and preventing accessibility barriers in the publicly funded education system
- The Initial Report is now available for public comment through an online survey at the following link: [Consultation: Initial recommendations for the development of proposed Kindergarten to Grade 12 \(K-12\) education accessibility standards | Ontario.ca.](#)
- Members of Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) are encouraged to participate in the survey

#### **7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

- New Candidates to the Vice Principal Leadership Pool: Ryan Hare, Jessica Verstraeten, Mark Tremblay, Angele Monette, Mike Giroux, Sara Vadovic
- Work on the budget is ongoing
- The planning for the new school builds in Sarnia and Chatham are continuing

#### **8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

#### **10. FUTURE MEETING DATE**

TBD

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Brenda Roby and seconded by Wendy Smith to adjourn the SEAC Meeting at 6:30 p.m.  
**CARRIED**