

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Conference Call

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

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

Cynthia Blair
Colleen Cogghe
Daniella Mancusi
Stacy Shepley

Board Advisors

Lisa Demers
Brendan Deery
Janet Boyle
Chris Preece
Lisa Thompson-Power
Sara Vadovic

Guests: Amy Janssens, Jennifer Morrow

Regrets: Tracey Haddy, Kim D’Hooghe

Absent: Cynthia Blair, Ryan Allaer, Wendy Smith

Brenda Rumble
SEAC Chairperson

Lisa Demers
Board Advisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

B. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Steve Stokley to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

C. Review of Minutes from May 11, 2020

MOTION BY Michelle Parks and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the minutes from the May 11, 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Special Education Budget 2019-2020 Fredback/2020-2021 Suggestions Amy Janssesns

- Typically a draft budget would be ready for approval by the Board of Trustees at this point in the year, however this year it will not be complete until the end of August due to the delays experienced as a result of COVID 19 . The Grant for Student Needs (GSN) has not yet been released by the Ministry.
- The Board will plan for a baseline budget for 2020 -21 at the recommendation of the Ministry.
- Staffing will be based on that of 2019 - 2020 school year. There are no plans for significant changes in staffing for 2020 - 2021.
- Amy will plan to bring the final budget to one of the first SEAC meetings in 2020-21 to share with the group.

B. Accessibility Report Lisa Demers

- The report was shared with SEAC last week for review for the meeting tonight.
- The purpose of the accessibility report is to ensure people have the opportunity to have accessibility needs met in our schools and Board facilities
- Lisa Demers highlighted 5 key barrier areas in the report: 1. Attitudinal barriers which reflect our inclusive nature at SCCDSB as well as implementing the Suicide Protocol for SCCDSB. 2. Architectural and Physical barriers which reflect how our buildings meet all necessary guidelines. 3. Technological barriers which reflect the training in Google Read and Write for students and teachers and equipment upgrades where needed throughout the Board. 4. Information and Communication barriers which reflect the additional wifi provided in buildings in the Board, as well as the continuation to implement and upgrade software and equipment, providing the technology students need. 5. Policy and procedure barriers which are addressed by following the direction provided by the Ministry and is approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Feedback from students always provides great input. The committed looks forward to engaging more students in this on-going process annually.
- Feedback was provided by community agencies and was favourable and no additional suggestions were offered
- As a next step, the report will be shared with the Board of Trustees

C. Work of the ABA Team During Distance Learning Sara Vadovic

- Sara shared information on what is being done for schools and families. A PDF update was shared with the group electronically for reference.
- The ABA team has provided various supports to school teams, students and families
- The supports have included the gathering of resources for the Parent Hub and the Teacher Hub
- They have been collaborating with school teams to meet the needs of the students
- They have been reaching out and offering support and resources to families
- They have been engaged in direct virtual meetings with students
- The work being done by the ABA team has been focused on individual student needs and how to support each child and their family's unique experiences with distance learning.
- In addition to student and family support, the ABA team has also been working on their own Professional Development in the areas of learning how to create interactive educational materials,

creating a resource bank for alternate learning skills as well as using various technology to enhance the team's work when schools reopen.

- The ABA team created 9 training modules using Google Classroom for Educational Assistants currently. The modules can be used in the future to train additional staff.
- The ABA team is also supporting students and school teams with transition supports

D. Work of the CST Team During Distance Learning

Lisa Thompson Power

- The Collaborative Support Team has been working very hard to meet the needs of our staff and students in the schools.
- The Collaborative Support Team has developed two groups of learning modules for the Educational Assistants to participate in at this time. The first modules developed were a progression of the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions model by Dr. Ross Greene. The most recent group of modules developed are on Dr. Stuart Shanker's Self-Reg model.
- Connections have been made for 52 students and parents by the CST. The focus has been on the students and parent(s) with whom the team have worked in the past and have an on-going relationship. Some circumstances resulted in a one-time only connection. Some circumstances resulted in multiple, on-going connections with the student and parent(s) whereby weekly or bi-weekly virtual meetings continue with the student.
- The nature of the team's work has been directed at maintaining the relationship with the student and parent(s) so that they know we care and that we haven't forgotten about them, to provide a connection to a familiar face, to provide an opportunity to share what the student has been doing during distance learning – school based and play based (what's been keeping them busy all day, every day) and to help them troubleshoot areas in which they may be struggling. The conversations are light hearted and fun, allowing the student to take the lead and share. We also want the students to move forward with the CST once we return to school and build on their relationship. The students and parent(s) will remember the efforts made during the distance learning.
- Overall, the response has been overwhelmingly positive from students, parents and school staff. The students and parents have been very responsive and accommodating so that the scheduled virtual meetings could take place. The students have been extremely excited and responsive to the team members during the calls. One boy asked the team member if she could call him every day! The school staff members have expressed their gratitude to the team for connecting with the students in this way. It has proven to be another positive school connection for the student and parent(s) aside from the classroom expectations.
- All of the conversations with staff, parents and students were had under the lens of Collaborative and Proactive Solutions and Self-Regulation.

E. Work of the Speech Language Pathologists During Distance Learning

Janet Boyle

- The Speech Language Pathologists have been very engaged with supporting staff, students and their families during this period of distance learning.
- They have compiled resources (tip sheets, general suggestions) specific to students with communication disorders (e.g. articulation or language-based) or early reading difficulties (e.g. phonological awareness skills) for both the Teacher and Parent Learning Hubs on the Board's website. They have attended School Based Team meetings with school teams to discuss student programming.
- The Speech Language Pathologists also developed five different training modules covering strategies for articulation, oral language, phonological awareness, decoding, and augmentative communication to enhance the learning of our Educational Assistants.
- The team also has been providing direct speech-language therapy virtually using the TEAMS platform as well as individualized home programming support to students and their families.
- Initial contact was made via email to 132 students on their caseload and their families to offer information regarding the link to the Parent Learning Hub and to offer support. Of 68 families

contacted, 27 have accepted therapy via video sessions. 13 families preferred to receive weekly individualized home programming support.

- A positive side of the distance learning experience is that some parents have had the opportunity to be more involved in their child's speech-language sessions.

3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

- N/A

B. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

- Their focus remains mainly on residential locations keeping all staff and residents healthy and safe
- The residents are being kept busy and happy as they begin to feel the effects of isolation and distancing themselves
- Their summer program will run. It will consist of 10 students who will be 1:1 with a university student for the closed day programs where 5 students will attend every other day taking all safety precautions into consideration.

C. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

- N/A

D. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

- N/A

E. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D'Hooghe

- N/A

F. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

- As reported by Lisa Demers: there will not be any summer camps running through Autism Ontario this year
- Online activities are being created. Parent groups, online groups for various ages and information sessions around funding.
- We would encourage families to check out the website at www.autismontario.com

G. Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

- They have started to get secured ZOOM to do more telepractice support online
- SLP and OT doing therapy online and parents have been more hands on and have been participating in the online activities
- In office visits for SLP, OT, and PT are slowly being reintroduced

H. Wellness & Emotional Support For Youth Online

Michelle Parks

- They provide free online counselling services for all youth in Ontario and have been very busy
- Counselling is starting to reopen

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

N/A

5. NEW BUSINESS

N/A

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Autism Pilot 2020-2021

Brendan Deery

- At this time we cannot guarantee the autism pilot will run in 2020 - 2021 due to the fact the GSN has not yet been shared and it is the GSN that funds the pilot.

B. Lexia Update 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

Brendan Deery

- Greenfield Learning supplied 5300 licenses to our Board during distance learning. These licenses will not be available to the Board next year.
- SCCDSB continues to have 750 Board licenses as well as 250 SEA licenses which are allocated to students with an IPRC exceptionality of a learning disability.
- In 2020 - 2021, the Board will continue with the current practice to support students in grades 2, 3, and 4, who are not meeting the benchmark in reading, providing them with a Lexia license.

C. Autism Skill Development Program 2020-2021

Brendan Deery

- Funding remains for the Autism Skill Development Program for the next 2 years
- The focus of the program remains social skills development
- Work with students in a variety of schools will start up in the Fall 2020

D. Format for Next Year - Dinner 5:30 p.m. start

Brendan Deery

- SEAC meetings in 2020- 2021 will begin at 5:30 pm and a light meal will be provided as it currently stands. If plans change, SEAC will be notified.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- St. Angela Merici Catholic school to be complete in the summer months at which time moving in can commence so that everything is ready for school start up in September 2020.
- It has been announced that Ridgekids will provide the childcare at St. Angela Merici Catholic School
- The Board is working on plans for the reopening of schools in September 2020. All work is based on the announcements being made by the Ministry and Board of Health.
- Currently arrangements are being made for students and parents to pick up student belongings from schools.
- The budget for 2020-2021 is yet to come as presented by Amy Janssens

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Kathy Arucuri-Arnott has been on SEAC for 13 or 14 years and is graduating from her position as of tonight's meeting. Kathy expressed her kindest regards to the Board and SEAC members. Both Lisa Demers and Carol Bryden acknowledged Kathy and thanked her for her service.
- Both Carol Bryden and Lisa Demers acknowledged Brendan Deery and his retirement from the SCCDSB with a CPCO prayer and recognition of his career with the Board. Brendan expressed his gratitude and thanks to SEAC with regard to his full circle career.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES

TBD

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- N/A

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Kathy Arucuri-Arnott and seconded by Michelle Parks to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

CARRIED

Carol Bryden
SEAC Chairperson

Lisa Demers
Board Advisor