

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

“Teams” virtual meeting

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Brenda Roby

Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

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: Amy Janssens, Catherine Day, Amy Hawkes, Sheila McLaren, Hilary Grieve

Regrets: Kim D’Hooghe, Frank Torti

Absent: Jessica Constancio, Steve Stokley

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Michelle Parks to adopt the SEAC Agenda of March 22, 2021

CARRIED

- C. Review of SEAC Minutes from February 22, 2021

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Tracey Haddy to accept the minutes from the February 22, 2021, SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Budget

Amy Janssens / Catherine Day

- Amy and Catherine reviewed the Special Education budget for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Due to COVID, this is the first time this budget is being shared with SEAC.
- This presentation shared the revised estimates and the slight variances from the Board approved budget, approved in August 2020. Both Revenues and Expenses were shared.
- There were some additional budget items that were not accounted for when the original budget planning was completed. For example, Special Education Mental Health workers, Jordan's Principle Educational Assistants, and COVID considerations for Special Education and Mental Health as well as stabilization funding due to changes in enrolment.
- Additional one time revenues were included in the budget in trying to support students this year during COVID. Any budget items related to COVID are not expected to continue beyond this school year.
- With regard to Expenses, there were significant changes due to COVID. These expenses were offset by the stabilization funding in the revenue.
- The provincial budget is due to be released this Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

B. ABA Services

Amy Hawkes / Sheila McLaren / Hilary Grieve

- Amy, Sheila and Hilary are each a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) who work throughout our school board.
- They shared the types of supports and services offered to our school teams and students by the ABA team.
- Universal Supports are the core of the supports and services offered by the ABA team. They incorporate Safety, Inclusion and Learning. Universal Supports are essential to some of our students and beneficial for all students.
- There are 7 Universal Supports: Visual and Organizational Supports, Functional Communication Systems and Supports, Classroom Supports, Data Collection, Peer to Peer and Social Supports, Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports, and Educational Strategies and Supports.

3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

- World Autism Day is April 2, 2021
- Autism Ontario will be celebrated on April 6, 2021. There will be a virtual raising of the flag.
- All information can be found on the Autism Ontario website

B. Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

- N/A

C. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

- N/A

D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Brenda Roby

- If anyone is interested, the Partners for Planning workshop on the topic of Passport funding (particularly the changes during the pandemic) is available online until April 11/21. Here is the link <https://www.planningnetwork.ca/webinar/passport-funding-overview-03-11>
- jobPath continues to be going very well. We just began our 3rd virtual jobPath group last Monday, March 15th. We have learned a lot over the course of the last 2 groups and continue to tweak and adapt the virtual component. In the last 2 weeks, we have placed 6 people from previous jobPath groups into employment. This is wonderful considering the current employment and COVID challenges.
- As for Summer Employment, we are still waiting to hear if we will receive funding from the federal government for the Canada Summer Job Grant. Usually, we hear near the end of March or early April. If we receive the funding and COVID rules permit, our plan is to get back on track with the Summer Employment program and get some summer jobs for students. So far we have had 4 families reach out to see if we will be running the program and we have been in contact with the schools in order to get the applications sent out asap. We are moving forward with business as usual right now until we are told any different

E. Community Living Wallaceburg

Wendy Smith

- Employment program has been extremely busy. A lot of manufacturing in CK is making for more jobs than there are people to fill them.
- COVID is affecting the staff with regard to people having to stay home to isolate.

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

N/A

5. NEW BUSINESS

N/A

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Mental Health and Wellbeing Update

Chris Preece

- This week Dr. Kim Schonert-Reichl is speaking to parents and staff on “Developing Social Emotional Skills We Want Our Children to Have”. She is from the Collaborative Centre for Social Emotional Learning in the United States. Funding from the PRO grant is supporting this Speaker Series.
- The webinar will take place on March 25, 2021 starting at 3:30 pm. All are welcome to register. If you register, you get the link to the recording afterward, in the event you were not able to attend in real time.
- The School Climate Survey will be distributed on April 6, 2021 to students, staff, and parents. School mental health, well being and bullying prevention are the core of the survey. The survey will be open for approximately 6 weeks and will close Friday May 21st at 4:30 pm. The link for the parent survey will be posted to the website and EDSBY.

B. Grade 4 & 5 CTCS Assessments

Lisa Thompson-Power

- The Canadian Test of Cognitive Skills (CTCS) is the assessment used to screen all Grade 4 students in the Board annually. It is a reliable academic aptitude test that measures cognitive ability. CTCS includes scores for three critical cognitive factors—verbal, non-verbal and memory. It measures selected abilities, such as understanding verbal and non-verbal concepts and comprehending relationships between ideas. CTCS Student booklets contain four subtests in the area of sequences, analogies, memory and verbal reasoning.
- This year we will assess all Grade 4 and Grade 5 students who are participating in face-to-face learning environments. Grade 4 and 5 students who are currently participating in the Virtual School will be assessed upon their return to in-person learning in the Fall of 2021.
- Individual student scores determine eligibility for the Board’s Enrichment Opportunity. Canadian norms are used to determine student scores.

C. Update to Autism Training Program Funding

Michelle Toutant

- In early March 2021, the SCCDSB received additional funding from the Ontario Educator Online Autism Training Program.
- This additional funding will allow SCCDSB to offer the “*Supporting Play-Based Learning for Kids with ASD*” training opportunity to the 32 EAs, Kindergarten teachers and ECE teaching partners on the waitlist for this course.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- We, like other Boards, have had some positive COVID incidences and have done well in keeping things contained.
- Asymptomatic testing sites are up and running in conjunction with the other three Boards in our area - all at one site. The testing is voluntary. Our hope is that this is successful in curbing the spread of COVID.
- Noelle’s Gift is a blessing for some of our families who are in need of this generous gift. Over \$116 thousand dollars has been funnelled to our schools for students in need, since its inception in 2018.
- Noelle’s Gift reaches beyond Sarnia now to other areas within our Board.

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- N/A

9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- On April 19, 2021, Michael Jacques will come to speak with us and share his story about living with Autism.

10. FUTURE MEETING DATE

April 19, 2021
May 17, 2021
June 14, 2021

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Wendy Smith to adjourn the SEAC Meeting at 6:44 p.m.

CARRIED