

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 17, 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: Lauri Doig, Alendra de Boer

Absent: Jessica Constancio, Ryan Allaer, Kim D’Hooghe, Michelle Parks

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Steve Stokley to adopt the SEAC Agenda of May 17, 2021
CARRIED

- C. Review of SEAC Minutes from April 19, 2021

MOTION BY Wendy Smith and seconded by Tracey Haddy to accept the minutes from the April 19, 2021, SEAC meeting.
CARRIED

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Streamer Closed Captioning Lauri Doig & Alendra de Boer
 - Defer to the SEAC meeting on June 14, 2021-internet outage
- B. Special Education Plan Jennifer Morrow
 - Jen shared the changes in the Special Education Plan to be shared with the Ministry of Education representing Special Education in SCCDSB for the 2020 - 2021 school year.
 - A page with Special Education acronyms and their meanings was added to the document as a guide to the acronyms used within the report.
 - Jen shared in detail, information for a Special Education flowchart and a Tiers of Intervention infographic. The information is not new, it is shared in a different format.
 - Jen also shared new information on the Transition Classrooms that will open within SCCDSB in September 2021.
 - The information regarding the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) has been updated to reflect current practice in the province.
 - The transportation section will include the name "CLASS" to be more specific with regard to who is responsible for decisions made.
 - All changes, additions and deletions reflect the current practice in Special Education in SCCDSB.
 - The final version of the Special Education Plan is shared publicly on the Board's website.
 - The SEAC members will receive a copy of the finalized version of the Special Education Plan upon its completion.

3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. Community Living Wallaceburg Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith
 - All areas for summer staff have all been hired except for a student for the employment program.
 - There will be a small summer program this year.
 - The strategic plan was launched last month.
- B. Community Living Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley
 - There will be a summer program with the focus being on a blend of employment and recreation.
 - The summer program will be 1:1 where a university student will be paired with a high school student.
 - There are only 12 spots available and 6 spots are taken already.
- C. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Brenda Roby
 - Three new accessible vehicles have been purchased.
 - The new strategic plan is being worked on with the hope to have it completed by the Fall of 2021.
 - All residents have had their first COVID vaccine.
 - Summer employment grants for students have been received. The deadline for applications is May 21, 2021.
 - Job path has placed 11 people into employment this year.

- D. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County Kim D’Hooghe
 • N/A
- E. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter Tracey Haddy
 • Work is being done on putting together summer programs with outdoor activities being the focus.
 • The summer programs will differ from region to region and chapter to chapter.
 • The Autism Ontario website will show the activities depending on the region/chapter.
- F. Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Jessica Constancio
 • 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
- There is an overwhelming need for mental health and wellbeing supports and services at this time in both community agencies as well as in our school board.
 - Dan Edwards has been invited to speak with our youth in grades 5 to 12 with regard to vaping throughout the month of May 2021. Evidence informed knowledge is being shared with students on a weekly basis. He speaks to one secondary grade every Wednesday and one elementary grade every Thursday. Grades 5, 6 and 9 are complete.
 - The speaker series during Education Week was a huge success. Dr. Lauren McNamara and Dr. Amanda Stanec each provided a well attended presentation during Education week.
 - Anne Jameson opened our Catholic Education week and spoke on “Nurturing Hope”.
 - Michael Fullan will speak to our administrators on June 3, 2021. All SEAC members will be invited to attend.
 - We are planning for summer. Wellbeing partnering with Curriculum to transition and support students with counselling through the summer months. Summer curriculum learning will be virtual. The wellbeing team will join classrooms virtually.
 - The Summer Learning Camp in August will take place in both Chatham Kent and Sarnia Lambton and will include both physical literacy and social emotional learning.
- B. Accessibility Report Lisa Demers
- Lisa shared key points and highlights in the Accessibility Plan 2021 - 2022.
 - Student Voice was expanded upon in this year’s plan as part of our mental health and wellbeing strategy.
 - Dan Edwards spoke directly to students (approximately 271 classes) to get their input and feedback with regard to various aspects of the Accessibility Plan.
 - In speaking to the students, Dan’s mission is to give students tools so that they can face adversity in their own lives.
 - Students were asked to reflect on ways to reduce attitudinal barriers.
 - A focus this year was on Breaking Down Technological Barriers. Examples being providing hotspots to vulnerable populations and use of platforms that have closed captioning options, among others.
 - Additionally, Breaking Down Information and Communication Barriers was highlighted. Examples include live sessions including ASL interpretation, mental health and special education support virtually, as well as a chat line on the Board website for questions. This is reflective of a whole system approach to support one another in our work.

- SEAC members will receive the final version of the Accessibility Plan. It will also be available on the SCCDSB website where parents can comment. Parent comments are taken into consideration for the Accessibility Plan the following year.

C. ELL Update

Lisa Thompson-Power

- Curriculum and Special Education have been working together on a CODE Project specific to English Language Learners (ELL).
- CODE Project Network sessions have been on-going to guide and direct the project's goals of supporting multilingual learners.
- Our goal is to ensure timely access to resources and supports, particularly in digital format, during the pandemic and beyond.
- We are building a resource bank to support students, their families, and staff throughout the school board. The resource bank will provide stakeholders with access to up-to-date, evidence based practices; training videos; information on how to use the Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) resource to inform teacher practice and assess ELL students; as well as provide access to digital resources and community resources to support ELL students and their families.
- Working toward completion, our stages of development include: information gathering, creation of a flowchart, updates to the SCCDSB Learning Hub for both staff and parents, and developing training modules.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- The Board has secured property for the south Chatham school as well as an architect to design the new school. The architect is currently consulting with stakeholders to design the school.
- A search team is currently reaching out to various stakeholders in the Board, looking for input toward the search for a new Director of Education for SCCDSB.
- The GSNs have recently been released. Senior administration is working on a budget for the 2021 - 2022 school year and hope to have it available before the end of this school year.

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Streamer Closed Captioning
 - Deferred from the May 17, 2021 SEAC Meeting

Lauri Doig & Alendra de Boer

10. FUTURE MEETING DATE

June 14, 2021

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Jennifer McCann and seconded by Brenda Roby to adjourn the SEAC Meeting at 6:55 p.m.

CARRIED