

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 – 5:30 P.M.

Via: Teams Meeting

Please contact Kim Wells at kim.wells@st-clair.net, or 1-866-336-6139 ext. 10227 if you are unable to attend this meeting.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Community Living Wallaceburg

Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Wellness & Emotional Support for Youth Online

Trustees

Principal Representatives

Board Advisors

Guests

Absent

Tracey Haddy

TBD

Steve Stokley

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

Kim D’Hooghe

Michelle Parks

Carol Bryden
Jennifer McCann

Stephanie Orrange
Lisa Walker

Lisa Demers
Jennifer Morrow
Chris Preece
Terri Rawlings
Lisa Thompson-Power
Hollie Sparling

Dr. Nancy Wise
Laura Callaghan

Rachel Veilleux
Ryan Allaer
Wendy Smith
Jennifer McCann
Stephanie Orrange



1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

B. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - April 25, 2022

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Michelle Parks **to adopt the SEAC Agenda of April 25, 2022.** **CARRIED.**

C. Review of SEAC Minutes - March 21, 2022

MOTION BY Michelle Parks and seconded by Brenda Roby **to adopt the SEAC Minutes of March 21, 2022.** **CARRIED.**

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. French Immersion For ALL

Dr. Nancy Wise
Laura Callaghan

Dr. Nancy Wise is an educational consultant who specializes in French immersion. She has a Ph.D. in Second Language Education and a M.Ed. in Special Education from OISE/University of Toronto. Nancy worked for 28 years as a Special Education teacher for the York Region District School Board. She spent 20 of those years in the French immersion context, advocating for students with diverse learning needs. Nancy has done presentations for school boards, teacher organizations, and parent groups. Her research has been published by the Ontario Ministry of Education and in peer-reviewed educational journals.

Dr. Wise will discuss the barriers that often restrict access to the FI program for some learners through an examination of beliefs about FI that often are based on widespread but unsubstantiated myths about second/additional language learning. Nancy will share research supporting inclusivity in French Immersion and implications for leaders.

- Dr. Wise is presenting her current research on French Immersion. She has presented this information to the administrators of SCCDSB.
- Is French immersion “suitable” for some but not all learners? Dr. Wise shared that French Immersion should be accessible to ALL learners; French Immersion should have access to a wide range of supports similar to those in the regular English program.
- The presentation focused on:
 - barriers that restrict access to French Immersion for some learners
 - common myths about 2nd/additional language learning vs. the available research evidence
- To the extent possible, students enrolled in the program should have access to the appropriate support that they require. The tools they need can benefit other students as well. The earlier students enroll in a French Immersion program, the better they do.



- The majority of children, including those with special education needs, meet success with the appropriate support in place. Children with special needs can acquire language/be bilingual within the limits of their disability with proper support in place.

3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| A. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter | Tracey Haddy |
| • N/A | |
| B. Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent | TBD |
| • N/A | |
| C. Community Living Chatham-Kent | Steve Stokley |
| • May is Community Living Month. | |
| • May 3, 2022 is the flag raising with the Mayor at the Civic Center in Chatham. | |
| D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton | Brenda Roby |
| • Summer Employment Transitions was approved for 17 positions for the summer of 2022 (15 job coaches and 2 coordinators). A total of \$82,725 was put toward the program. | |
| • We are about to enter our next jobPath session on May 9 th which is full, and there is a waiting list. Instead of going to a traditional co-op, they will go to jobPath for 6 weeks. They will then move into employment as they are graduating in June and not returning to school. Employment becomes the priority. | |
| • April was a great month for us where, so far, we had 8 people move into permanent employment. | |
| E. Community Living Wallaceburg | Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith |
| • N/A | |
| 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 Updates Chris Preece
- Clinical training specific to our Social Workers is on-going
 - Earth Month Activities:
 - Inclusive activities in all schools, i.e.: 64 families participated in Indigenous cooking as part of the Parent Engagement grant
 - 400 treeplings were given out to each graduate from UCC and St. Patrick's. Each graduate was also provided a wellbeing activity and a prayer.
 - Tea kits were shared - partnered with Cortnee Gore
 - Wonderfully Made Lunches have started up again with Margaret Palmer, Drew Bowman, and Chris Preece. Visits to schools are made at lunchtime to share faith, prayer, and lunch.
 - Mental Health Week Activities - jack.org will speak to students about how social media affects wellbeing. The discussion is called "Follow and Unfollow."
 - Social Emotional Learning work continues with Kim Schonert Reichl. A framework is currently being developed by all interdisciplinary teams. Implementation is planned for September 2022.
- B. Collaborative Support Team Classroom Support Pilot Lisa Thompson-Power
- The Collaborative Support Team is starting a pilot project for the months of May and June at St. Matthew and St. Angela Merici Catholic Schools.
 - One classroom in each school has volunteered to participate. A teacher and CYW from the CST team will work in each school, in collaboration with the classroom teacher and staff to support, model, implement, and practice co-regulation, and support self-regulation within the daily routine of the classroom.
- C. Access to Assessments Jen Morrow
- The Ministry is providing targeted funding to address waitlists.
 - We are focusing on SLP assessments. The plan is to contract Speech Pathologists over the summer to complete outstanding assessments. SLPs will be doing summer learning camps and performing phonological screening as well.
 - Another focus is Psychoeducational assessments. The full allotment of psychoeducational assessments is complete for this school year. Although, with the additional funding, we will be adding assessments to be completed this year.
 - KTEA-3 (Kaufman Test of Educational Assessment) assessments will also be targeted. The KTEA-3 is an in-school assessment implemented by PRTs to gain a baseline of student achievement. We are exploring options to support PRTs in the completion of KTEA-3 assessments.
- D. ELL Code Project Update Jen Morrow
- As part of the CODE project funds, a teacher has been hired to help support multilingual learners at Holy Trinity Catholic School. The teacher has TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other



Languages) training and is well versed in MLLs, As well, their background and the experiences they bring to the classroom environment may help shape student success at school.

- The teacher is placed at Holy Trinity for a specific number of days. Holy Trinity had 19 new MLL students register this year. The teacher is also available to Gregory Hogan Catholic school due to the high number of MLLs in attendance.
- The STEP assessment tool is being used to determine the literacy needs of the students upon registration. The teacher is also able to support the school staff in understanding the cultural differences MLL students bring to school. She is helping to make the cultural connections that help everyone be successful.
- There has been positive feedback from staff based on this support in the school(s).
- A 0.5 FTE MLL teacher position has been posted for the 2022-2023 school year.

E. Student Census

Lisa Demers

- In order to meet compliance with the Anti-Racism Data Standards, to enhance equity, diversity and inclusion, and to better know our learners, we are doing a voluntary student census. This is an opportunity for students to voluntarily share about themselves with the goal of removing barriers, making the Board become a better place for all.
- The four pillars where data must be collected are: Indigenous Identity, Ethnic Origin, Race, and Religion.
- Additional pillars where voluntary information may be shared are: First Language, Status in Canada, Gender Identity, Socio-economic Status, and Disability.
- In creating the survey, there was collaboration with the Diocese of London, Regional Catholic School Boards, OESC (Ontario Education Services Corporation) Working Group, and Indigenous Partners.
- The survey is voluntary and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Survey questions can be skipped if someone does not want to share a response. Implementation is scheduled for May 16 to May 27, 2022, and will be called the Stronger Together Census Campaign. Results will be reported in the Fall of 2022.
- Students from FDK through grade 8 must have a parent complete the survey with them. Secondary students can complete the survey in the school setting independently.
- The results will be included in the Board Improvement Equity Action Plan next year.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- Chris Kehoe presented to the Board on destreaming in grade 9
- A Structured Literacy presentation was shared with the Board highlighting a change to the way literacy will be taught
- There were many Principal and Vice Principal moves shared at the Board meeting. Congratulations to all!
- There was a recent AGM for Trustees around the province. Those who attended will share information with the Board
- Currently working on the budget which will be presented at a future SEAC meeting



8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- N/A

9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- N/A

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

May 16, 2022

June 20, 2022

11. CLOSING PRAYER

12. ADJOURNMENT

Carol Bryden formally adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Michelle Parks.

CARRIED.