

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 – 5:30 P.M.

Via: Teams Meeting

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

TBD

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / 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

Trustees

Carol Bryden
Jennifer McCann

Principal Representatives

Stephanie Orrange
Lisa Walker

Board Advisors

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

Guests

Dr. Kim Schonert-Reichl
Scott Johnson

Regrets

Ryan Allaer
Tracey Haddy

Absent

Brenda Roby

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome & Opening Prayer and Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands
- B. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - February 28, 2022
MOTION BY Jennifer McCann and **seconded by** Michelle Park **to adopt the SEAC Agenda of February 28, 2022. CARRIED.**
- C. Review of SEAC Minutes – January 17, 2022
MOTION BY Jennifer McCann and **seconded by** Steve Stokley **to approve the SEAC Minutes of January 17, 2022. CARRIED.**

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Social Emotional Learning - Why and How? Dr. Kim Schonert-Reichl
- Promotion of student’s social and emotional learning (SEL) and well-being is vital for the future of our society
 - SEL is teachable and should be a priority of classrooms, schools, and communities
 - For SEL to be effective, the well-being of administrators, educators, and students needs to be promoted in the context of supportive school, classroom, and family environments
 - A recent rapid, systematic review of the mental health of children and adolescents during COVID-19 found that “pandemics cause stress, worry, helplessness, and social and risky behavioural problems among children and adolescents” (p.1; Meheralli et al, 2021)
 - By using the practices and principles of system-wide SEL (CASEL), it attends to children's social emotional needs and benefits all students across all grade levels and across all schools
 - The time is now to promote the resilience and well-being of our children, youth and educators
 - The key message is to support the children by supporting the adults
 - The CASEL 5 has five broad, interrelated areas of competence: components: **self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making**
 - Five strategies to implement the program includes, but is not limited to taking a systematic approach to SEL, supporting the well-being of educators, building resilience by promoting positive relationships, using a trauma informed approach, and listening to the voices of the children

3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter Tracey Haddy
- Regrets
- B. Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent TBD
- N/A
- C. Community Living Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley
- Received a four year top accreditation
- D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby
- Regrets

- 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
- Recruiting new board members
 - If anyone knows anyone looking to help youth, please contact

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Mental Health & Wellbeing Updates Chris Preece
- Promoting mental health well being with staff initiatives on the Learning Hub
 - Pink Shirt Day is February 23rd to promote kindness
 - Jack.org was presented to grade 7- 12 students and Jack.org will be back during Mental Health Week, the first week in May
 - National Unplugging Day is March 4th
 - #Share the Good - collecting stories throughout our board #Mental Health Schools
 - Share the Love at St. Pat’s High School - shared that they made 1300 treats, one for every student
- B. Preschool Transition Updates Lisa Thompson-Power
- Meetings with parents have been going well
 - The process is as welcoming and seamless as possible
 - In Chatham-Kent, there were eight preschool transition meetings and in Sarnia-Lambton there were three meetings
 - Follow up meetings will be held at the school in June and September
- C. Gr. 8-9 Parent Information Evening Hollie Sparling
- On February 24, St. Clair Catholic hosted its first ever information night, regarding the transition from grade 8 to 9
 - The virtual event was entitled, “Preparing for Grade 9: The Transition Process for Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP)” and was attended by 27 families
 - It was promoted on Edsby, on social media platforms, and through elementary school teams.
 - The session was a collaboration between the Special Education, Curriculum and Well-being departments, and the agenda included information about secondary pathways, destreaming, course selection, UCC and St. Patrick’s High School information, mental health and well-being supports, and parent resources

- Presenters included Jen Morrow, Principal of Special Education; Hollie Sparling, Special Education Consultant; Brian Breault and Paul Cogghe, Pathways to Success Teachers; Jacqui Matthews and Dureck Culverwell, Secondary Resource Department Heads; Chris Preece, Mental Health Lead and Mary Ann McCrae, UCC Vice-Principal
- After the presentation was complete, there was a Q&A session. Ten door prizes of school swag donated by UCC and St. Patrick's were awarded to students
- All of the feedback received was positive
- We look forward to hosting a similar event next year
- A PDF version of the slideshow was shared with all of the participants and elementary Program Resource Teachers

D. Enhanced Gr. 8-9 Transition Meeting Updates

Hollie Sparling

- Our enhanced transition meetings are for our highest needs students and were held virtually again this year. They occurred in February to allow ample time for secondary school teams to plan for a seamless transition and to begin preliminary staffing considerations
- In the south, four enhanced transition meetings were held. In the north, one meeting took place, but up to three additional enhanced transition meetings from students transferring from the LKDSB are anticipated. This number will be confirmed on March 9 when transition packages for transferring students are exchanged with our coterminous board
- Due to the uncertainty about school visits at this time, elementary school teams intend to share videos about their students over the next couple of months with secondary resource departments. The videos will provide an opportunity to see the students, and to become familiarized with their strengths, needs, interests, routines and programming
- If public health protocols permit later in the spring, secondary staff will visit the Grade 8 students at their respective elementary schools. Then grade 8 students, along with staff from their elementary school and their parents/guardians, will be invited to visit their secondary school

E. Gr. 8-9 Transition Process/ Next Steps

Hollie Sparling

- All transition packages are due to the CEC on March 4 and will be shared with the Resource Departments at UCC and St. Patrick's High Schools during the following week
- The secondary and elementary school teams are currently working together to schedule individual transition meetings for every student with an Individual Education Plan. These meetings will occur in April and May and will be attended by the student, their parents or guardians, their elementary classroom teacher and Program Resource Teacher, and their secondary Program Resource Teacher and Guidance Counsellor. The meetings are an excellent opportunity for students and their families to meet the secondary school staff, to share information, to discuss academic matters such as pathways and course selections and to also ask questions about other topics of interest, such as uniforms, lockers, bus transportation, extra-curricular clubs and teams
- In May or June, if public health protocols permit, grade 8 students will be invited to visit their secondary schools to meet staff members and to tour the facilities
- The Special Education department (including the ABA team and secondary resource staff) has been collaborating with the Pathways to Success teachers in the Curriculum department to identify a

number of topics that students need extra support with now, while they are in grade 8, in order to be successful in their transition to any secondary school pathway. These topics are not academic in nature, but are very important and reflect fears that many students have about high school. Topics include using a locker, navigating a large school, organizing binders and lockers, how to self-advocate, how to track assignments and homework, and social concerns such as what to do at lunch

- This team is working together to gather and create resources that will be shared with every elementary school and could be utilized by grade 8 teachers, resource teachers and system-level staff to support grade 8 students. These resources will be housed in Google classrooms and will include helpful tips, links to websites, transition videos and books, social stories and student testimonials. The intention is to start this project this year and add new and updated resources each year

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- A. Moving ahead with two new school builds - one in Chatham and one in Sarnia
- B. Lisa Harnarine has taken the position of Principal at UCC, and Ray Power has taken the role of Vice Principal
- C. The Board is starting a 50/50 draw to help finance items that are not covered by the Ministry
- D. The Menstrual Equity program is starting in our schools where the dispensers for feminine hygiene products will be free

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

March 21, 2022

April 25, 2022

May 16, 2022

June 20, 2022

11. CLOSING PRAYER

12. ADJOURNMENT

Carol Bryden formally adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Motion By Jennifer McCann and seconded by Michelle Parks. CARRIED.