

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



St. Clair Catholic  
District School Board



Catholic  
Education  
Future  
Ready



**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2022 – 5:30 P.M.

**Via:** Teams Meeting

Please contact Kim Wells at [kim.wells@st-clair.net](mailto: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	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
Regrets	Lisa Walker
Absent	Michelle Parks Wendy Smith



## 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

B. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - March 21, 2022

**MOTION BY** Brenda Roby and seconded by Jennifer McCann **to adopt the SEAC Agenda of March 21, 2022.** **CARRIED.**

C. Review of SEAC Minutes – February 28, 2022

**MOTION BY** Steve Stokley and seconded by Jennifer McCann **to adopt the SEAC Minutes of February 28, 2022.** **CARRIED.**

## 2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Inclusion

Jen Morrow, Terri Rawlings,  
Lisa Thompson-Power,  
Hollie Sparling

- This presentation was shared at a February 16, 2022 Program Resource Teacher In-Service to highlight the importance of inclusion
- Great work is being done regarding inclusion in the SCCDSB but we need to go further to continue challenging the status quo and breaking down barriers for our students
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission's *Right to Read* report was released on February 28, 2022 stressing that reading is a fundamental skill that students must have to navigate their school experience and their later lives
- Destreaming supports inclusion - choosing a stream so early in school career inadvertently limits pathways for future opportunities
- We need to consider implications when putting students on IEPs and be cautious about implementing modifications too early, as this affects a student's future pathway
- We need to create more opportunities for independence and inclusion
- In practice, inclusive education looks like:
  - Students learning together
  - Providing support for students to learn better together
  - Providing support for teachers to teach students of all abilities
  - Support for all students to participate and contribute to the life of the school
- Developing dependence on an adult has long-term consequences for children, affecting their self-esteem, social relationships, and ability to think and act for themselves
- The goal for EA support should be to help a child develop independent learning skills and management over their own learning
- Inclusion benefits everyone through peer relationships, more prosocial behaviors, greater empathy, maturity, leadership and positivity
- Five videos highlighting inclusion in the SCCDSB were shared



### 3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter Tracey Haddy
- World Autism Day - April 2, 2022 - Local events will be virtual
- B. Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent TBD
- N/A
- C. Community Living Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley
- N/A
- D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby
- Volunteering in the community has been able to resume under new health protocols
  - Job Path group just started and 16 individuals are participating, ranging from 19-29 years of age
  - Job Path marketing efforts will feature past participant stores, share success stories and spotlight inclusive employers
  - Applications for 15 government-funded summer positions have been filed
- 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

- From September 1 - December 31, 2021, the Student Support and Wellbeing Team supported 864 students consisting of 300 secondary, 564 elementary; 350 male, 503 female, 11 non-specified
- Of the 864 students, 600 were supported face-to-face, 200 were supported remotely and 64 were supported both in person and remotely
- Top three issues were: anxiety, depression and physical aggression

### B. Practical Functional Assessment & Skills Based Training

Hollie Sparling

- The ABA Team is engaged in very exciting professional development to support students with challenging behaviours - our Tier 3 students. These innovative, research-based practices are called Practical Functional Assessment & School-Based Treatment. Students do not require an Autism diagnosis to benefit
- The first element of this approach is the PFA, which is a behaviour assessment to gather information from the family, student and staff about the conditions that influence behaviours, possibly interfering with learning. Behaviour is observed in challenging conditions (in a planned, safe and dignified manner) and in the absence of those conditions. The PFA can take place in one or two sessions. The purpose of the PFA is to collect information to gain an understanding of why a challenging behaviours are occurring and to help inform changes in practice that may better support the child such as:
  - Changes to the support strategies that are being used in the school setting
  - Environmental changes to help meet the student's strengths and needs
  - Development of a Safe Response Plan
- The PFA is used to develop a Skill-Based Teaching Plan to help increase the student's successful participation at school by focusing on communication, toleration, and flexibility across academics, classroom routines, and other aspects of the school day
- The ABA team looks forward to giving a presentation about PFA and SBT at an upcoming SEAC meeting

### C. Sonderly Training

Hollie Sparling

- Once again, the Ministry of Education has provided school boards with funding for the Ontario Educator Online Autism Training Program. Currently, there are St. Clair Catholic staff taking three different courses. Participants include EAs, classroom teachers, and PRTs
- The first course, called *Supporting Play-Based Learning for Kids with ASD*, explores the impact of play in kindergarten children with ASD; how to identify prerequisites for play; and how to use behavioural strategies to support a child with ASD to acquire and expand play and language skills. There are 23 staff members throughout the board enrolled in this course



- The second course, called *ABA for Educators II*, focuses on how to implement prompting and reinforcement strategies more effectively. This course currently has five SCCDSB participants
- The third course, called *Charting a Path to Success*, is more comprehensive. This course focuses on the characteristics of ASD as well as evidence-based strategies to support effective teaching practices. Currently, there are five staff members at Holy Family taking this course together, and a group of six staff at St. Anne, Sarnia, taking the course as a group

#### D. Structured Literacy Project

Terri Rawlings

- In response to the Ontario Human Rights Commission's *Right to Read Report*, our board has started to implement a five-year Structured Literacy Plan
- One goal is increasing staff knowledge, so on April 6, 2022, PRTs will receive a presentation about the project
- At the beginning of May, 2022, PRTs, SLPs and the ABA team will be trained and able to help with programming to meet our student's needs
- On June 10, 2022, EAs will have an opportunity to learn about the structured literacy programs happening in our schools
- In May, 2022, Brenda Corchis will be presenting to this group to review the Five Year Plan

### 7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- There has not been another board meeting since the last SEAC meeting
- 50/50 Fundraiser concludes on March 31, 2022, and will be very beneficial to our schools
- The Ministry of Education granted approval for extensive renovations at Sacred Heart, Port Lambton, which will benefit the entire community
- The Board is committed to moving ahead with two new builds (Sarnia and Chatham), working through municipal permits and Ministry of Education approvals
- The next Board Meetings are scheduled for March 22 and March 29, 2022

### 8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- N/A

### 9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- N/A

### 10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

April 25, 2022  
May 16, 2022  
June 20, 2022



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## 11. CLOSING PRAYER

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

Carol Bryden formally adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

**Motion By** Brenda Roby and seconded by Tracey Haddy. **CARRIED.**