

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA



Date: Monday, May 16, 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	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	Brenda Corchis Terri Sinasac
Regrets	Lisa Walker Wendy Smith Hollie Sparling Kim D’Hooghe Tracey Haddy



1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

B. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - May 16, 2022

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Michelle Parks **to adopt the SEAC Agenda of May 16, 2022.**
CARRIED.

C. Review of SEAC Minutes - April 25, 2022

MOTION BY Jennifer McCann and seconded by Brenda Roby **to adopt the SEAC Minutes of April 25, 2022.**
CARRIED.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Right to Read / Structured Literacy

Brenda Corchis, Terri Sinasac

- introduced the Right to Read report and the overview of the five areas, a copy of the report is available on the Learning Hub
- there is now an Early Reading Instruction Guide for teachers available on our website in the Learning Hub
- September 2023 - the Ministry of Education will be releasing a new Language Curriculum
- the term 'Science of Reading' refers to a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction that research has shown is effective for all students and essential for students with Dyslexia
- Literacy team is looking at how do we support students in tier one, tier two and tier three
- reviewed the resources on the Learning Hub
- many of our teachers have shown a lot of interest in the Structured Literacy Program and there is a positive buzz in our schools
- when looking at material to support the program, chose Fly Leaf because they have done a great job of making decodable books interesting with beautiful illustrations that hold the students' interest
- working cross-curricular to ensure we meet the needs of all of our students

B. Special Education Report

Jen Morrow

- Has been updated to reflect the new board logo and changes to our program
- The Speech Language Pathologists are available to consult with Program Resource Teachers and classroom teachers regarding the need for individualized programming for struggling students and to provide additional classroom strategies focused on oral language development.
- The Transition Classrooms, currently operating at St. Matthew Catholic School in Sarnia and St. Ursula Catholic School in Chatham, is a one-year pilot which will end June 29, 2022. The funds that had been in place to operate these classrooms will be re-allocated to provide additional support at various schools throughout the board.
- Starting in March 2022, children with an Autism diagnosis and entering school for the first time were eligible to attend the Ontario Autism Program Entry to School. Locally, this program is offered at the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent and Pathways in Sarnia.
- There have been changes made to the Parent Guide to Special Education and a number of the appendices were updated with the new board templates.
- Components of the SEA applicants/claims process have changed, which has resulted in changes to all SEA (Special Education Amount) application forms



3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter Tracey Haddy
- Nothing to report at this time
- B. Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent TBD
- Nothing to report at this time
- C. Community Living Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley
- Nothing to report at this time
- D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby
- The Executive Director, John Hagans is off on leave for the next little while and we are thrilled that Jenny Greensmith has agreed to assist the organization as Interim Executive Director during the remainder of the time John is away. Jenny has a wide range of experience in our sector.
 - We recently partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to take part in our SET program. This will be the first year the Chamber has taken part in the program and will be onboarding a summer student.
 - We plan to put forward eight candidates for election on June 2, who will be working at the polling stations.
- E. Community Living Wallaceburg Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith
- Nothing to report at this time
- F. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County Kim D’Hooghe
- Nothing to report at this time
- G. Wellness & Emotional Support for Youth Online Michelle Parks
- Nothing to report at this time

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Chris shared the statistics learned from School Mental Health Ontario about mental health in students. SSWT hosted three presentations by Jack Org called ‘Follow, Unfollow’ on May 16,17, and 18. These sessions were for all students in grades 7-12, focusing on how social media has an impact on one’s mental health.
- B. VTRA Training
- a great opportunity to have Kevin Cameron train in partnership with our community
 - eighty people were trained over two days which included principals, vice principals and social workers



- this training is important and is based on scientific research on the importance of violence intervention
 - the focus is knowing our students well and knowing what they are doing
 - there was a lot of information on how to respond and that it is a community response, and there are things that lead into violent behaviour that we need to be aware of
 - this is not a disciplinary issue, we need to look at the WHY and the child's needs and wrap around the child
- C. Stronger Together Student Census
- May 2022, SCCDSB will be conducting a survey on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, requesting students at all schools share their experiences. Our goal is to better understand how we can remove barriers and create a more inclusive community for all
 - the census survey can be found on our public website, as well as stories from our ambassadors

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- Budget talks are ongoing and very challenging to meet the needs of our students and schools within our budget
- Capital funds are being used to make improvements on our schools over the summer

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

June 20, 2022

11. CLOSING PRAYER

12. ADJOURNMENT

Carol Bryden formally adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

MOTION BY Brenda Roby and seconded by Jennifer McCann. **CARRIED.**