

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.

Via: Teams Meeting

Please contact [Kim Wells](mailto:Kim.Wells@scsb.ca) at 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

Frank Torti
Lisa Walker

Board Advisors

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

Guests

Scott Johnson
Jenelle Vanthuyne-Ball

Regrets

Kim D’Hooghe
Frank Torti

Absent

Rachel Veilleux
Michelle Parks
Ryan Allaer

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome & Opening Prayer
- B. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - October 18, 2021
MOTION BY Jennifer McCann
SECONDED BY Tracey Haddy
MOTION PASSED
- C. Review of SEAC Minutes – September 20, 2021
MOTION BY Jennifer McCann
SECONDED BY Steve Stokley
MOTION PASSED

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Autism Transitional Classroom Jennifer Morrow
- Nicole Leger, classroom teacher, was unable to attend but will be invited to a later SEAC meeting
 - Jen Morrow shared Nicole's slidedeck presentation including videos from the classroom
 - The ATC is a partnership between Chatham-Kent Children's Services, the SCCDSB and LKDSB
 - Staff includes a psychologist and a Developmental Services Worker from CKCS, and a Classroom Teacher, Principal, Program Resource Consultant and Educational Assistant from the SCCDSB
 - The ATC builds capacity in our community and throughout the province through training, Geneva Symposium presentations, and by hosting students from Fanshawe College's Autism and Behaviour Science program
- B. School Climate Survey Results Chris Preece
- Last school climate survey was completed pre-pandemic, in 2018
 - Current school climate survey was completed during a seven week period in April and May of 2021, during a period of virtual learning in Ontario
 - Results for each school were shared with principals initially in September, and then shared with staff during October 8 Professional Activity Day
 - The survey included a bullying definition, and examples of the types of bullying to ensure understanding of the respondents
 - 862 parent responses, 408 staff responses, 1787 students grade 4-8, 1169 students grade 9-12; 46% male, 48% female, 6% non identified and 7% identified as First Nations, Inuit, Metis in elementary and 44% male, 53% female, 3% non identified; 4.5% identified as First Nations, Inuit, Metis in secondary

Elementary School Climate Results:

- 79% of students reported feeling that school is a safe place some, most or all of the time
- 75% of students reported feeling that they fit in at school



- Top three issues affecting mental health were: pressure to do well in school (new issue), feeling nervous or afraid, and pandemic issues
- 73% of students reported feeling excited to learn
- 36% reported verbal bullying; verbal bullying was reported to be more prevalent than physical, social or cyber bullying
- 63% of students reported having at least one caring adult at school
- 64% reported worrying about school work
- 49% understood the connection between faith and well-being; this will be explored by the team
- 62% report their overall health as being good, very good or excellent

Secondary School Climate Results:

- 76% of students reported feeling that school is a safe place some, most or all of the time
- 75% of students reported feeling that they fit in at school
- Top three issues affecting mental health were: pressure to do well in school, being nervous or afraid, and sadness
- 68% of students reported feeling excited to learn
- 29% reported verbal bullying (less than in elementary schools)
- 79% of students reported having at least one caring adult at school
- 83% reported worrying about school work
- 54% understood the connection between faith and well-being
- 45% report their overall health as being good, very good or excellent

Important Findings / Next Steps:

- Three new issues affecting mental health were reported this year: pressure to do well in school (particularly during virtual learning), pandemic issues and sadness
- Researcher employed by the board is assessing the qualitative data in order to prepare a report with recommendations for the Executive Council
- Recommended enhancement of existing work needs to be done to identify caring adults, address bullying and safety in schools, build social-emotional skills (on a continuum, starting with self-awareness, working toward self-regulation), and to educate students, families and staff about well-being supports that are available in schools

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 Stokely |



- The organization is currently going through an accreditation process, which will be completed next month.

D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

- The organization has a new facilitator, who is leading the development of a new strategic plan, which will be shared upon completion.

E. Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

- The organization is holding *Food for Good* fundraising events this month in Wallaceburg and in Dresden to raise funds to help clients find and maintain employment.

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

A. Review of SEAC Minutes – June 14, 2021

MOTION BY Brenda Roby

SECONDED BY Jennifer McCann

MOTION PASSED

5. NEW BUSINESS

- N/A

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Math Pilot Project

Hollie Sparling

- This is an exciting collaboration between the Curriculum and Special Education departments.
- The purpose of the project is two-fold: to explore effective strategies to support all learners in Mathematics, and to build a partnership between elementary to secondary mathematics and special education.
- This is a timely project as Grade 9 Mathematics courses are now destreamed.
- The pilot program will target Grades 3-8 classes.
- The first round of the pilot involves 6 schools from across the system: Georges P. Vanier, Holy Trinity, St. Joseph Corunna, St. Angela Merici, Holy Family and St. Matthew.
- In the new year, another six schools will have the opportunity to participate in the pilot.

B. Literacy Project

Terri Rawlings



- The curriculum and special education departments are partnering to explore emergent and early reading development.
- Research in the cognitive and neuroscience domains has shed light on how children develop reading skills, suggesting that all students benefit from explicit, systematic, cumulative and multisensory instruction.
- Beginning with flexibly working with sounds and then moving to orthographic mapping, children crack the reading code.
- Eight schools will be supported this term, and others will be supported in term 2.
- Updates will be provided to this committee throughout the year.

C. SEAiT Update

Terri Rawlings

- Over the past three years, the IT and Special Education departments have been working together to implement a program called SEAiT.
- This program is designed to organize submissions, track orders, inventory and deployment of equipment for students identified as needing special equipment to access the curriculum.
- On September 15, 2021, all Program Resource Teachers were trained by Adam Morton from Learn Style on using the SEAiT to submit claims for the students in their schools.

D. New PRT Orientation

Lisa Thompson-Power

- We welcomed 12 new or returning Program Resource Teachers at our Orientation sessions in September.
- The sessions were held on September 10 and September 24, 2021. They were overseen by Jen Morrow, the Program Resource Consultants, Joan Martell, and Mirra Lefort.
- New PRTs always have their school Consultant to rely on; however, we also try to pair them with a peer mentor to help with questions when they arise.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- Recently thanked outgoing Director of Education, Deb Crawford, and welcomed Scott Johnson, as the new Director of Education
- Deb Crawford presented the Director's Annual Report 2021 before her retirement.
- The SCCDSB participated in Truth and Reconciliation activities throughout September, in every school.
- Capital projects completed over the summer included roofing, new asphalt and HVAC upgrades.
- We are pleased to welcome the clergy back into our schools, after an absence due to the pandemic. Health protocols will be followed.
- Secondary school sports have resumed and details will come shortly regarding the possibility of parent/guardian spectators. Spectators will be required to be fully vaccinated and health protocols will be followed.
- Covid check-ups are done in all schools. Some classes had to self-isolate, but there have been no school closures to date.

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



- N/A

9. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- N/A

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

November 15, 2021
December 13, 2021
January 17, 2022
February 28, 2022
March 21, 2022
April 25, 2022
May 16, 2022
June 20, 2022

11. ADJOURNMENT at 6:40 p.m.

MOTION BY Brenda Roby
SECONDED BY Stephen Stokley
MOTION PASSED