

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
 ~ Thursday, April 16, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. at W.D.S.S., Room 141

Present:	Elizabeth Hudie – Trustee (Acting Chair) Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Eva Lizotte – Community Living, Wallaceburg Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” Gordon Crompton – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Lori Turner – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Jack Fletcher - Trustee Jean MacIntyre – Member “at large”	
Regrets:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services Candace Service, Public Educator, Epilepsy Support Centre – Sarnia Branch Christy Bressette – First Nation Representative George Melendy – Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision	
Resource Staff:	Dave Doey, Superintendent of Education Pam Graham, System Coordinator of Special Education Rhonda Leystra, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Liz Zantingh, Special Education Coordinator Debbie Seager, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guests:	Julie Kingma, Public Educator, Epilepsy Support Centre – Sarnia Branch	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Hudie, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order, citing the names of those members who had to send their regrets Jack moved, Eva seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour 	
Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julia moved, Jennifer seconded “<i>That the Minutes be approved</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori
Business Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave noted that a letter to the Ministry regarding Ontario Regulation 274 was prepared, as per SEAC’s request at its March Meeting; Elizabeth suggested this item be discussed during the ‘Correspondence’ portion of the meeting 	
Presentation on Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julia MacKellar shared pamphlets regarding their organization (linked documents) She noted the Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent offers tutoring programs for those identified with a learning disability, or, where a learning disability is suspected Julia noted that they provide tutoring in basic subject areas, assist elementary children in the development of social skills and, if necessary, anger management They also provide assistive technology training, and offer resource assistance through a resource lending library and information meetings Julia noted that parents often contact their organization to inquire about the signs of a learning disability, and, they also inquire about testing and are surprised at how expensive a psycho-educational assessment is The LDA works alongside parents to help them understand the paperwork they receive when their child is identified, and sometimes they accompany them at meetings at their child’s school Julia oversees the tutoring, which is focused on reading, spelling, math, penmanship, etc. with 1:1 instruction provided by local high school students SoAR is a 9 week high-school preparation class (Grades 6 – 9) offered two times a year and focused on different methods of learning, self-advocacy, etc. 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Presentation on Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is \$50 for a one year family membership to the LDA which, in addition to their services, includes their newsletter and access to their library; Julia said if paying the fee would present a financial hardship to the family, the LDA may be able to offer some financial relief • The LDA is predominantly funded through the United Way of Chatham-Kent, but they also sell Nevada tickets, etc. to provide funding for the program • Julia noted their location within CKSS is very helpful, having this site allows them to run the program cost-effectively; she said they are the only LD Association in Ontario that is located within a school • Dave asked if the Board’s Resource Teachers promote the SOAR program?; Julia said that the LDA shares information with the schools but often find that new contacts are referred to them by another family; Dave wonders if we can be more direct in helping to get the information out through Report Cards, newsletters, etc.?; Dave asked Julia to provide the SOAR brochure electronically so that we can share it, as appropriate • With regard to potential anxiety about entering high school, Rhonda suggested having students come visit the school when it’s quiet so they can see it’s not a scary place; she finds that Grade 9 students have problems with organization, note-taking, studying, etc. and require support in those areas • Eva asked if they track participants?; Julia said that while they would like to, they don’t because they don’t have the resources necessary to be able to do this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia
Presentation on Lambton County Development Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry Knight shared resources regarding Lambton County Development Services (LCDS) (linked documents) • He noted that LCDS started as a grass-roots effort by a group of parents in the Petrolia area who saw gaps in the education system; their organization has grown to support 163 clients • LCDS supports people in their homes to provide meaningful day options focused on innovative models • People they support receive various residential support options, including: group living, supported independent living, live-in options, or home sharing • Their Resource Centre provides learning services focused on safety, geography, history, as well as cooking skills, safe food-handling, menu planning and more • Their organization recently received \$140,000 in Trillium funding to build a modern fully-accessible kitchen for their clients to use • Employment programs focus on resume-writing assistance, interview techniques, job coaching, and one-on-one support • Social enterprise operations include <i>Suds and Duds</i>, <i>Catering by Kitchen Creations</i>, and the <i>Olde Post Office Gift Shoppe</i> which includes an Ice Cream Parlour • Jerry noted that a literacy program that had been offered by the Separate School Board was cut due to a lack of funding; Dave wonders if there is a way for the LKDSB to support the program that had to be cut?; Jerry said that the issue was that many of their clients don’t meet the typical requirements around literacy • Liz asked about the respite services; Jerry said they don’t offer typical respite programming, but do offer a Weekend Recreation Program; she also asked how many families are waiting for a residence; Jerry said there are lots • Dave asked if there are secondary students doing co-op placements in their organization; Jerry said there are • Dave said a Specialist High Skills Major program, with a focus on the human service sector, is being considered, noting it might be of value for agencies represented here to take part 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Presentation on Community Living Chatham-Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gord Crompton shared their organization’s 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan (linked document) • He spoke about their intention to focus on how social media (and other forms of technology) can add value to the lives of those they serve • They are planning to create and operate one more new social enterprise; there are many reasons why these enterprises are beneficial, including helping those they serve to experience meaningful social connections • Their organization is mainly focused on adult services and they are going to help their clients to realize social capital • They will engage families more; this will include all aspects of planning • Dave wondered if there are ways that our work can intersect with their organization, such as co-op students?; Gord believes that they already utilize students; Dave wonders if there might be ways for our students to get involved in these new initiatives”; Gord said it’s quite possible • Jerry noted that co-op students now must be called ‘unpaid learners’ and there are all sorts of ramifications associated with that 	
Special Education Report Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz provided an overview of the updates to the Special Education Report in Sections 1, 2, and 3; she noted that the information on the number of IPRC referrals, reviews and appeals was not available in time for the meeting and will be brought to the May meeting • Elizabeth said she is happy to see the Anxiety training that was offered; Liz said it was well-attended and focused on strategies to deal with anxiety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori
Board Budget Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave advised SEAC members that there will be a 1 – 2% cut to funding, so departments are looking for efficiencies • For example, they are exploring re-allocating resources that use technology such as Transition Learning Disability courses; currently there is one in the North and one in South; because of improvements in our technology we will be able to support students across the Board by closing the programs and integrating the students into regular classrooms, and using secondary assistive technology teachers (we have 2) to support them as a part of their workload ; this would save approximately \$200,000, but further cuts will be needed • Another potential area for savings would be with CYWs; with the appropriate set-up, they are able to support students more effectively • Savings may be achieved through the EA staffing process but it’s not likely; we currently have 270 EAs and there will be 90 JK students who will require part or full-time EA support; classrooms will be set up so they can intervene earlier • As an aside, he noted there are 2 after-school workshops for Principals planned that will focus on pyramids of intervention, and school supports • The Ministry is re-allocating high needs funding and the LKDSB may end up receiving additional funds through this part of the equation • Dave stated that part of the budget reduction will occur naturally because fewer teachers are required due to declining enrollment • Dave said there are more budget workshops coming up and he will keep the members of SEAC updated on the process 	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsequent to SEAC’s direction at its March meeting, Dave shared a copy of the letter drafted for the Ministry concerning Regulation 274; the Chair will be asked to sign the letter on behalf of SEAC at the next meeting • SEAC received a letter from the Upper Grand District School Board regarding Special Education being a mandatory component of the two-year program taken by prospective teachers and a prerequisite for registration with the Ontario College of Teachers; there was no action taken • SEAC received a letter from the Northeastern Catholic District School Board regarding Regulation 274; because SEAC will be sending a letter to the Ministry on this matter, no further action was taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori G./Rose

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia asked how special education students are counted?; Pam said it would include exceptional pupils with a formal identification; Pam noted, however, that approximately 40% of LKDSB students are accessing Special Education programs and services, both those who are identified, and some who are not • Julia asked about the Care, Custody & Treatment Classes, and whether we've received funding?; Pam reported that we have re-applied for annual funding; as well, an application was submitted for a Rebound Classroom, recognized as a Section 23 program and funded that way; we will find out mid-May if our applications were approved; Pam also mentioned the new 4 R's program that is delivered in partnership with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board (each of the two classes currently have 10 students) • Chris noted that May is Community Living month, and they'll be having their Annual Mayor's Luncheon and 'Back 40' Challenge; he noted that their organization is currently working on updating its Strategic Directions • Eva had a family inquire about why students aren't accelerated through the grade system anymore?; she told them the Board can provide enrichment programs and advised them to speak to the Principal; Rhonda said that students can earn 8 credits in a year, so the student could participate in summer school to earn extra credits; as well, there are some dual-credit programs available; Debbie added that the parents could speak to Rosanna Waldram from the Enrichment Team • Eva said their organization is looking at its 5-year plan; she reported that they will be doing their boxed lunch program soon and will be delivering 1,600 lunches • Eva said she would like to make a presentation to SEAC at the May meeting • Pam said the final training on the IEP Writer is scheduled; the Annual Reviews were pushed back a bit, but will be happening once the training is done • Lori Turner said there are lots of social learning opportunities coming up and noted that everything is posted on their website; she advised SEAC they are starting a new group for teens who may have Asperger's, etc. • Jack said that the Resiliency Workshop that was offered was excellent; the presenter spoke about the kidshealth.org website, and recommends SEAC members check it out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori G. • All
Questions from the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no questions, but Julie Kingma advised SEAC members that she is leaving Epilepsy Support to work as an EA, so this will be her last meeting 	
Discussion of SEAC Meeting Start Time & Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave asked members to think about the meeting start time and format; would members prefer to start meetings at 6:00 p.m. and/or would they prefer the meetings to be conducted via video-conference?; this can be discussed at the May meeting once everyone has had some time to think about it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva will make a presentation regarding their organization; if anyone else is interested in making a presentation about their organization, let Lori know • Another future agenda item could be a presentation on Community Integration through Cooperative Education ; Jack agreed to coordinate this • There will be an update provided on the Special Needs Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All • Jack • Pam
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at W.D.S.S., Room 141 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. 	