

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, May 19, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

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| Present: | Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Eva Lizotte – Community Living, Wallaceburg George Melendy – Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Jack Fletcher - Trustee Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision Kylie White, Epilepsy Support Centre Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” | |
| Regrets: | Elizabeth Hudie – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Jean McIntyre – Member “at large” Jen Scheuneman – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Gordon Crompton – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Christy Bressette – First Nation Representative Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services | |
| Resource Staff: | Dave Doey, Superintendent of Education Pam Graham, System Coordinator of Special Education Elsa Natvik, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Shelley Martsch-Litt, Special Education Coordinator Bruce Davidson, Special Education Coordinator - Secondary Lori Gall, Recording Secretary | |
| Guests: | Bob Vansickle, Manager of Employment Options – Community Living Sarnia Lambton Kathy Hoof, Toolkits for Transition Coordinator – Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Sandy Anderson, Manager of Financial Services, Lambton Kent District School Board | |
| Agenda Item | Details/Discussion | Action Items |
| Call to Order and Approval of Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose called the meeting to order Janet Moved, Eva Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour | |
| Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eva Moved, George Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of April 14, 2016 be approved.</i>”; All in favour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori |
| Business Arising from Minutes | <p><u>Evaluation of Suspension/Expulsion Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave indicated that Western University had been retained by the Ministry to study the effectiveness of suspension/expulsion programs for students, and that the Board has been contacted by the research team; he looks forward to the team’s findings on ways to support students <p><u>Provincial Schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave shared information provided by Christine Davenport, Manager of Psychological Services, regarding Minister Sandals’ visit to Amethyst to speak with the students and their parents; as well, it was reported that the online service tool is being well utilized <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam said the LKDSB did Amethyst interviews last week and there were no extensions identified beyond 2016 – 2017 Eva believes ‘the writing is on the wall’ and asked about the Board’s plan for supporting Provincial school students; Pam said students who apply to Amethyst but aren’t accepted are supported by the Board using various methods; Provincial school students would be supported in a similar fashion, based on their needs Dave added that, if the students are going to be kept at home, we need to be able to tap into Provincial practices to support them | |

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| Presentation: Toolkits for Transition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob VanSickle and Kathy Hoof introduced themselves • Bob informed SEAC their organization received provincial funding to develop seamless services for its clients in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton so individuals with developmental disabilities can participate fully in the workforce • He noted that a minimum of 70% of their clients must be working in order for the organization to continue to receive its funding • Toolkits were developed for the JobStart Pre-employment Program & Summer Employment Transitions program • JobStart is a 6 week workshop developed to allow participants to explore their employability, while interacting in a group setting; staff ensure clients are motivated, dependable & reliable • The Summer Jobs Program is for all students with a disability • Kathy shared a synopsis of the information contained in the Transitions Toolkit and advised SEAC that participants enjoy the 6-week program • Dave said that the material is outstanding – the professionalism and quality of the Toolkits is to be commended • Chris spoke about the pending closure of sheltered workshops, saying that preparations need to be made to ensure appropriate supports are in place • He applauded the LKDSB for being involved with the Toolkits for Transition initiative from the beginning | |
| Presentation: LKDSB 2016 – 2017 Budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy Anderson noted that there weren't a lot of changes to the 2016 – 2017 budget as the funding structure has not changed • The LKDSB will receive approximately \$23-million for the upcoming school year • It is predicted that there will be a decrease of 178 students in the elementary program and 311 in the secondary program • Sandy noted that changes for 2016 – 2017 consist of salary increases and the Provincial benefit transformation; details of the Special Education Grant include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An increase of \$52,935 to the Special Education Per Pupil Amount ○ An increase of \$212,907 to the SEA Equipment Amount ○ An increase of \$706,640 to the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount ○ There is no change to the Special Incidence Portion ○ There is no change to Section 23 ○ An increase of \$620 for Behavioural Expertise • The Special Education GSN increased by \$973,102 and will be referred to as the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) • Sandy also shared information on other grants provided to the LKDSB | |
| Special Education Report Amendments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.0 – The Board's Consultation Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pam noted that the wording was changed to reflect that the Special Education Report is now available online now ○ Jennifer asked that the dates for the review of each Program be added; Lori will include that information • Appendix 1.1 – Process for Revision of Special Education Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Details regarding the sections/appendices of the Report reviewed from January through May were added • Appendix 2.12.1 – Planning for Staff Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information outlining 2015 – 2016 initiatives was added • Section 2.4 – IPRC Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The information on the number of reviews was updated • Appendix 2.4.3 – SEAC Insert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The insert had been revised to reflect changes in membership however, since the Agenda Packages were sent out, the Epilepsy Support Centre's representative changed, so Lori will include that change too • There was no change to the List of Appendices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori • Lori |

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| Special Education Report Amendments (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossary of Terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In addition to changes highlighted in SEAC’s Agenda Package, Pam identified additional areas (regarding KeyMath, the DDP program and CAT 4) that should also be removed/updated and she outlined those changes for the group’s information; Lori will remove/update the information as identified • There was no change to the List of Acronyms • Jack Moved, Chris Seconded <i>“That the list of areas of the Special Education Report reviewed/amended, as detailed in Appendix 1.1, be approved”</i>; All in favour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori • Lori |
| Correspondence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Principals from Demonstration School Parent Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After discussion, members agreed that a letter be sent to the Ministry on behalf of SEAC requesting that adequate funding and resources be made available to support affected students • Ontario News Release, dated May 4, 2016: Ontario Promoting Student Well-Being in Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dave said student well-being is one of the Ministry’s four goals; supports for students will include First Nation, Métis and Inuit perspectives that reflect a holistic approach in raising and educating children • Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education – Communication: Collaborating with the Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jack spoke about the Advisory Committee to the Minister that was provided by OBSPA; Pam will submit the information that’s being sought from the Board, and a copy will be provided to SEAC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spec. Ed. Team • Pam |
| Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam said a Board team was recently sent to a Ministry meeting on the new Math strategy and someone from Spec. Ed. was part of that team; they are going to explore why many special education students are in remedial math • Pam said that Special Education has had to make some significant cuts and will be down 10 Educational Assistants next year; the team has been looking at ways of doing things differently and is exploring models focused on both student needs and staff needs; 10 EAs will be used for transitional support • Pam said that 1.33 teaching positions will be lost • Elementary EQAO is starting next week and with so many students having iPads it has required a lot of work from the Assistive Technology Team to ensure students are prepared • Shelley said that the Pre-School Intake Meetings have been completed in both the North and South, with packages still being received for late arrivals; there will be approximately 75 new pupils • Julia said they are getting ready to wrap up the programs that are currently running and will be starting the summer programming • Eva said she went to hear Dr. Jean Clinton’s presentation on Raising Resilient Kids; the speaker stressed the wisdom of the elders and spoke about how the “r” in resiliency is for “relationships” • George said they are wrapping up some programs for the year and will be launching their entrepreneurial program for high school students • Bruce shared information about the Jump Start event planned for May 31st at CKSS; a complimentary dinner will be provided; those interested in registering should contact him • Dave said there is an ALLP class at A.A. Wright that supports 6 students and those students will be moving to W.D.S.S. in September; there will not be any students to be placed in the class at A.A. Wright in the Fall but there may be more in about a year and, if so, a class will be started to accommodate those students | |
| Next Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Room 141 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All |
| Adjournment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. | |