

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
 ~ Thursday, December 10, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m. Via Videoconference ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Elizabeth Hudie – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Eva Lizotte – Community Living, Wallaceburg George Melendy – Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Gordon Crompton – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Jean McIntyre – Member “at large”	
Regrets:	Dave Doey, Superintendent of Education Rupali Sharma, Epilepsy Support Centre Christy Bressette – First Nation Representative Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” Jack Fletcher - Trustee	
Resource Staff:	Pam Graham, System Coordinator of Special Education Elsa Natvik, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Lisa Valade, Special Education Coordinator Liz Zantingh, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guests:	Stephanie Kennedy, Ian Kennedy - Teachers at CKSS, & Bryce Claeys, Konnor Zruna, Tyrone Mulder, Bailey Cumming, Tori Ramsden, Cole Osborne, and Austin Detailleur – Students at CKSS	
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 and gave regrets from those unable to attend; it was noted that Dave couldn’t be in attendance because he is at the Regional Special Education Council meetings Jean moved, Elizabeth seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour 	
Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Moved, and Eva seconded “<i>That the Minutes of November 19, 2015 be approved</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori
Business Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam Graham reviewed the revised Priority-Setting Information for 2015-2016, as amended in response to input received from members of SEAC at the November meeting; there were no further requests for change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori et al
Presentation: CKSS Student’s Partnership with the ALL Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from Mrs. Kennedy’s <i>Equity and Social Justice</i> class were in attendance, along with a student from Mr. Kennedy’s Alternative Learning and Life Skills (ALLP) class, to talk about Architects of Education; this student-directed project seeks to ensure special education students at CKSS are integrated into mainstream classes so things are more equitable for <i>all</i> students Once a week the Equity and Social Justice class and the Life Skills classes at CKSS get together to play games, socialize and support one another Some students have been so impacted by their interactions with the students in the Life Skills and have changed their plans around post-secondary education The students in Mrs. Kennedy’s class feel that “a safe and caring learning environment is strengthened by embracing diversity and respecting self, others and the world around us” The students from Mrs. Kennedy’s class want to promote what they’re doing to as many other schools as possible so that they, too, can reap the benefits of integrating with the special needs students within their schools SEAC was informed that CKSS is considering a collaborative program because they realize that the ALLP students have provided a lot to their counterparts 	

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Presentation: CKSS Student's Partnership with the ALL Program (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One student shared that she was initially nervous about integrating with the life skills class, but then realized that it was a great experience; she said she goes down to the classroom on her spare each day, and, has changed her post-secondary education plans so that she can focus on working with individuals with special needs • A couple of the students said that they spend quite a bit of time in the ALLP class modeling appropriate behaviour for the students • Another student said that, until he took this course, he had no idea how much the Lifeskills students do for the school (i.e. washing all of the sports jerseys, fundraising, supporting the breakfast program, etc.) • The students believe that it would be beneficial to create a collaborative program and are hoping to receive SEAC's support for the initiative, and for an end-of-year field trip; an email asking for SEAC's support will be forwarded soon • Mr. Kennedy said that often their class sizes are small so, by working with the other students, they are able to do more • It was noted that the overall attitude towards special needs students in the school has changed – previously, not everyone in the school was nice to ALLP students but the students in Mrs. Kennedy's class have observed special needs students being more supported within the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Exceptional Pupil Numbers – October 31, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam noted that we have fewer exceptional pupils – there are more in elementary, and less in secondary; she provided a summary of the difference between the 2014 – 2015 numbers and the 2015 – 2016 numbers • Chris asked if the decrease is representative of the overall statistics for the Board?; Pam said that it is • Julia is concerned about the reduced number of LD students and wonders if it is because testing is being done later?; Pam said that students are generally not tested before the end of Grade 3, in this way, they can develop as much as possible prior to testing; Julia said they are seeing students in Grade 3 who've <i>not</i> been tested and told they need to wait; Pam said that, in those instances, accommodations are being put in place to support the student • With regard to the concern about the amount of testing, Liz noted that two additional Psychoeducational clinicians were hired last year, and all of them are conducting the maximum number of tests they can; Pam said if there are concerns around specific schools, Julia should let them know • Julia wonders about students with speech impairment; it was noted that the students would be receiving support from the Speech and Language Pathologists without a formal identification being in place • Eva asked where the medically fragile students are listed?; Pam said that, typically, they would be captured within the 'multiple' exceptionality 	
Assistive Technology Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz reported that the assistive technology team is very busy; requests are growing as a result of more students getting more technology in their hands • Last year was a year of flux because of all of the new iPads, and things are settling more this year (all Grade 7s got their iPads at the same time so there was no differentiation – they had received training on their Apps beforehand so that they hit the ground running) • Students and teachers are receiving instruction and support; they are modeling how to use the equipment • Read/Write for Google has been beneficial because students have access to all of the accessibility features they need whenever they log into their Google account; by offering training on the program; Assistive Technology Coaches have an increased opportunity to get into classrooms to support teachers and students; Liz said Mike Adam will present on this topic in the new year 	

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Assistive Technology Update (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LD students at JMSS and AMSS are being supported in their classrooms; the teachers are dedicated and have ensured that even those without SEA equipment are able to be supported on a 1:1 ratio by providing iPads; a more detailed presentation regarding this project will occur in April • Jennifer asked about the problems with WiFi in the schools because of ‘pockets’; while progress is being made, some schools (i.e. JMSS) are still needing to be upgraded; all schools will have more routers, etc. and the problems will no longer exist; the General Learning Skills class has reported that they do not have issues accessing WiFi for their class • In response to a query, it was noted that the Board is looking into allowing students to bring their own devices 	
Overview of Pending Special Education Report Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori noted that the information in the member’s packages provides an overview of the items that will be reviewed and/or updates for the membership’s consideration; if anyone believes that any other part(s) of the Report should be reviewed, please bring your suggestions forward either before, or at, the next meeting so that they can be factored into the schedule • Lori said it is possible that the timeline will be adjusted so that all items will be reviewed by May so that the approval being granted at the June meeting 	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence was received from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board re: FASD Strategy; because SEAC had already submitted a letter to OPSBA in May of 2015, no further action was taken 	
Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris said their Strategic Plans continues to be developed and will guide them through the next 3 – 5 years; once it gets rolling, there will be significant changes • Pam reported that there has been a lot of In-Servicing for Resource and New to Resource, and, that Special Education will be involved in the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) • Elizabeth advised the membership that a FASD Committee was recently developed, and said that they have developed surveys, etc.; Pam noted that Ellie Fraser has been the Board’s representative on the Committee • Liz noted that Dr. Zayed recently made an excellent presentation regarding the impact of trauma on children; the Spec. Ed. Team spent a fair amount of time going through the information with their Resource Teachers and emphasized that the important piece is the relationship that’s developed with the child 	
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris will confirm that Bob Van Sickle of Ontario Disability Employment Network will be in attendance at the April Meeting, and that will be added to the April Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. via Video-Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. 	