

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
~ Thursday, October 15, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Elizabeth Hudie – LKDSB Trustee (Vice-Chair) Jack Fletcher – LKDSB Trustee Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Eva Lizotte – Community Living Wallaceburg Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision Rupali Sharma – Epilepsy Support Centre Chris King – Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Christy Bressette – First Nation Representative George Melendy – Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Jean MacIntyre – Member “at large”
Regrets:	Dave Doey, Superintendent of Education Gordon Crompton – Community Living Chatham-Kent Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” Elsa Natvik, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association
Resource Staff:	Pam Graham, System Coordinator of Special Education Liz Zantingh, Special Education Coordinator Lisa Valade, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose called the meeting to order. Lisa Valade, the new Special Education Coordinator, introduced herself to the group. 	
Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack Moved, George Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of September 17, 2015 be approved, as is</i>”; all in favour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori
Business Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam informed SEAC that Ellie Fraser was hired as the new Mental Health Lead for the Board. She comes to us from CMHA Lambton Kent where she was the Mental Health Promotions Specialist. In that role she was involved in the development and implementation of mental health literacy programming designed to reduce the stigma around mental illnesses, and to encourage help-seeking behaviour. She also developed/maintained partnerships with private and public organizations. Through her role as Mental Health Lead with the Board, she will continue to play a key role in the development of a broad-based suicide prevention strategy for Lambton Kent. An introductory video created by Ellie can be viewed online. Ellie will attend a SEAC Meeting at a later date to provide information on the work completed to date, and talk about upcoming items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave/Pam/Ellie
Special Education Information (2015 – 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa went over the information that was shared with SEAC regarding the 2015 - 2016 <i>Special Education Department Responsibilities</i>, and the list of the <i>Special Education Coordinator’s Schools</i>. There were no questions. 	

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Updates to Special Education Brochures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz reviewed the <i>Special Education Advisory Committee</i> brochure, and <i>Your Child, School and Special Education</i> brochures that were updated for SEAC's review and comment. • Julia noted that under <i>Other</i>, there is still one instance of the term exceptional; Liz thanked Julia and said that the brochure will be updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori
2015 – 2016 Priority Setting Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the priority-setting exercise was productive, Pam suggested that when members break into their groups they consider the following topics: <i>Differentiated Supports; Needs Management; Community Partnerships; Technology; Mental Health; Role of the Resource Teacher; and Other</i>, and come up with at least 3 questions for each topic. • At the conclusion of the exercise, some of the questions brought forward included the following: • <u>Role of Resource Teacher</u> – <i>is there a way to decrease the paperwork Resource Teachers must complete?; what is the role of the resource teacher versus that of the Classroom Teacher and the EA?; can Resource Teachers be allowed to have more of an advisory role?</i> • <u>Needs Management</u> – <i>how can we balance the cost of technology versus human supports?; how are you prioritizing the needs that exist?; what are the priorities?; is there a FASD strategy?</i> • <u>Community Partnerships</u> - <i>how can support groups get easier access to schools?; can we seek feedback from parents regarding challenges they face?; can more information about funding for special education be provided?; in what ways can SEAC make a case for adequate Ministry funding?; is there a way to connect with major employers to see what their needs are and what jobs they may have?; can SEAC have a presence on Parent & Teacher Nights?; to what extent does the Board collaborate with community agencies?</i> • <u>Differentiated Supports</u> – <i>what is the Board doing, other than technology?; how do we accommodate culture and diversity?</i> • <u>Mental Health</u> – <i>what professional development is offered to staff?; what current supports are in place and what is still being planned?; is mental health support diagnosis-oriented?; can there be a Board-wide initiative to raise awareness of the legacy of Residential Schools?</i> • <u>Technology</u> – <i>where is the Board on universal design?; how are we preparing students for 21st century global competencies?; what is the impact of technology as it relates to socialization and communication for/with exceptional students?</i> • <u>Other</u> – <i>what is the sexuality curriculum's effect on special needs students?; what programs haven't been reviewed in a while and therefore need to be reviewed?; what is being done to help students who are transitioning through grades or who are graduating?; how do students get on a CYW's caseload?</i> 	

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2015 – 2016 Priority Setting Exercise (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone comes up with anything else, they can email Pam or Lori to have the questions added to the list • All of the questions gathered will be discussed by the Spec. Ed. Team so they can prepare a schedule of agenda items/presentations for SEAC to receive during the school year; the list will be brought back to SEAC for input/approval • Pam noted that ARCs will be starting soon; Jack suggested that administration prepare a list of items pertaining to Spec. Ed. needs/supports that should be considered at the ARCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All • Spec. Ed. Team • Dave/Pam
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Upper Canada District School Board forwarded correspondence with regard to changes in funding formulas for the High Needs Amount, excluding SIP. • Pam noted that our Board’s High Needs Amount increased, but the Top Up decreased, so the overall funding is fairly consistent • Pam explained the SIP funding process and noted that staff must be in place, and then an application is forwarded to the Ministry for reimbursement 	
Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth noted that Top Up Funding for rural schools is being reduced, which will result in cuts and the need to close classrooms, etc.; she said that the Board is offering rental space to agencies/organizations that are an appropriate fit • Jack said the Capital Report that was just prepared was well done, and suggests members take a moment to review it • Christy said Wab Kinew, Author of “<i>The Reason You Walk</i>”, was at the Sarnia Library for a book signing recently; she said some of the things he speaks about relate to mental health • Eva noted that their Executive Director, David Katzman, is retiring after more than 25 years of service • Chris said they just had their AGM; their summer programming was very successful • Chris said Bob Van Sickle of Community Living Sarnia-Lambton is connected to the Ontario Disability Employment Network to find jobs/placements within the community for their clients; Chris said he could ask Bob to make a presentation to SEAC in April; everyone was in favour of the presentation • Chris has spoken to people about our SEAC Meetings and Minutes, and wonders if highlights from SEAC can be included in the Spec. Ed. Updates; Pam said that we could do this • Lisa said the Enrichment team will continue the Inspirations Project; it will involve WDSS and Walpole Island schools • Pam said the Board was successful in receiving continued funding for the Children in Care Project (4 R’s, with CAS and Sarnia Rebound); the program currently supports 8 students, with more on a wait list; she noted that the St. Clair Catholic District School Board has withdrawn from the program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris/Lori • Pam/Lori

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Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George said their organization is a United Way funded agency; because UW campaigns are under way, he reminded everyone of the importance of donating • Rose said they have a new Director and are looking forward to working with her; the Dual Diagnosis Program is continuing, but will be changed a bit; the sexuality program continues to be offered and they will be going to LCCVI; it is a 6 week program; Rose said that students can opt-out if requested; she also noted the Walk-in Clinic is available and very popular 	
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam noted that Exceptional Pupil Suspension Information will be brought to the next meeting, as well as the list of Priorities for SEAC for the 2015 – 2016 school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave/Pam
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, November 19, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. in Room 141 at WDSS 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. 	