

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
~ Thursday, September 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. ~

Present:	Jack Fletcher – LKDSB Trustee (Acting Chair) Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Rupali Sharma – Epilepsy Support Centre Norma Hills (on behalf of Chris King) – Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Christy Bressette – First Nation Representative Gordon Crompton – Community Living Chatham-Kent George Melendy – Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large”	
Regrets:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services Elizabeth Hudie – LKDSB Trustee Jean MacIntyre – Member “at large” Eva Lizotte – Community Living Wallaceburg Lori Turner – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision Pam Graham, System Coordinator of Special Education	
Resource Staff:	Dave Doey, Superintendent of Education Rhonda Leystra, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Shelley Martsch-Litt, Special Education Coordinator Bruce Davidson, Special Education Coordinator - Secondary Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack explained that because both Rose (Chair) and Elizabeth (Vice-Chair) were unable to attend, he had agreed to be the Acting Chair • Jack welcomed Rupali Sharma who is the new representative of the Epilepsy Support Centre, replacing Candace Service • Jack reported that several members sent their regrets, and asked those present if they felt it would be best to postpone the Priority-Setting Exercise?; everyone agreed to wait until October 15th • Jack asked if there were any further additions or amendments to the Agenda; since there were no further changes, the Agenda was approved, as amended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Moved, Gord Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of June 11, 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"> • The revised 2015-2016 SEAC Meeting Schedule – changing the start time of the December Video-Conference Meeting to 6:00 p.m. – was distributed to the membership 	
Introduction of New Mental Health Lead for the LKDSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave advised the members of SEAC that Lori Brush resigned • He was hoping to be able to name her replacement tonight, but the announcement is still pending • Jack asked about the stability of the funding for the position?; Dave said the government had only been providing one-time funding but, recently, they began to include the position as a part of <i>Safe and Accepting Schools</i> annualized funding • Christy suggested that when the new person starts they be made aware of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; she’ll forward the information to Lori to share with the membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave • Lori

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2014 – 2015 Annual Accessibility Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce stated that he has been a part of the Accessibility Committee for several years; members are tasked to identify barriers • He advised SEAC that, beginning in 2013, staff were trained to look for barriers of <u>all</u> types, not just those that are physical in nature • George Moved, Christy Seconded “<i>That the 2014-2015 Accessibility Report be approved</i>”; All in favour • Christy asked if all of the projects that were proposed last year were completed?; Bruce said that he would have to look into that; Dave said that he will bring an answer back to the next meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori • Dave
Special Education Plan Available Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn Szucs, Web Technologist with the Board, was in attendance to present the new online version of the Special Education Plan • She said she was glad that Bruce spoke about the Accessibility Report prior to her presentation because accessibility is so much more than physical barriers and was the impetus for the changes in the way the Plan is presented on the Board’s website • Jenn showed the members how the new-format Special Education Plan will be displayed on the Board’s website -- with each section broken down to include separate links for each item or appendix • Jenn said that the Plan is not only accessible but is also fully searchable, which is something that wasn’t possible with the former .pdf version • Jenn demonstrated how documents can be created to ensure that anyone can access/review them, even if they require an assistive device to help them • At the conclusion of Jenn’s presentation, George said that the ‘tagging’ within the document is very important and, as an example, indicated that information that is tagged can be sent up to ‘the Cloud’ and turned into Braille within a short amount of time • Jennifer G. asked if Teachers are teaching their students to tag documents they create, to ensure accessibility?; she feels that once students learn to create documents that way it will become second nature and there will be more documents available in an accessible format ... and this will eventually spill over into workplaces and documents posted on the Internet; Dave said that we aren’t doing that yet, but said it was an excellent point, and said that he will share the idea with the Assistive Technology Team • Since the Special Education Plan is available on the Board’s website, the binders will no longer be maintained for SEAC members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave
2014 - 2015 SEA Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley said SEA stands for ‘Special Equipment Amount’; funding allows for the purchase of items needed to help students access the curriculum, and she spoke about the types of equipment purchased • Shelley noted that a professional assessment from a Clinician is required; but, said a student does not have to be identified as having special needs in order to receive equipment • Dave reported that the assistive technology team has been increased by 2 (elementary) staff members to help increase the capacity to support students • Dave said that if the entire amount isn’t spent each year, the Board may carry over the surplus funds 	

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2014 - 2015 SEA Claims (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia asked if money is left over because not all of the student needs were met?; Dave believes it was because we had been advantaged by the funding formula, and, because the process is managed well (including re-deploying equipment whenever possible) • Shelley said that last year the Board purchased equipment for 131 students at a cost of \$533,414.86, less taxes, with the cost to the Board being \$104,800.00 	
Summary of Exceptional Pupil Suspension Data (2010 – 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were provided with the data on the number of pupil suspensions, by exceptionality, from 2010 through to last year • Dave said that there has been a reduction in suspensions and he thinks it's, in part, because of better interventions • Dave said he would like to bring some information back that breaks the information down further as there may be multiple suspensions for the same students, as well, he said he would like to be able to see if there is a predominant type of suspension that is occurring; Jack agrees that it would be helpful to know what type(s) of behaviour students are being suspended for • Jennifer G. asked if, in actuality, behaviour has been improving or the guidelines for what's considered grounds for a suspension have changed?; Dave indicated that the grounds for suspension have been consistent over an extended period of time and believes the reduction is the result of earlier and better interventions • Jennifer wonders if there is a disproportionate number of special education students being suspended versus other students?; Dave said that we would have to look at the data to provide that answer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori/Dave • Lori/Dave
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack referenced the letters that were included in the Agenda Package, stating that some were acknowledgements of correspondence that the LKDSB SEAC had sent off while others were seeking SEAC's input on Regulation 274/12 and/or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder • Jack suggested that since SEAC had already submitted correspondence to OPSBA et al on Reg. 274/12 and FASD, no further action was required; everyone agreed 	
Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George said they're busy with programming for the new school year • Julia said they are gearing up their programs too; she will send Lori some pamphlets that can be circulated; she also noted that there will be an interesting presentation on assistive technology at their Annual General Meeting on September 30th • Gord said he was pleased to hear that the Board had placed a person Community Living has been supporting • Christy will forward Lori a link to the Final Report of the <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada</i> to share with SEAC; Christy said that Walpole Island is having a Career Fair on September 20th • Rupali said they are making presentations on epilepsy; Dave asked if she needed help coordinating contacts?; she will let us know 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori • Lori • Rupali
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted earlier, the Priority-Setting Exercise will take place during the October meeting 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, October 15, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. in Room 141 at WDSS 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. 	