

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
~ Thursday, January 14, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Jack Fletcher – LKDSB Trustee Elizabeth Hudie – LKDSB Trustee (Vice-Chair) Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Rhonda Leystra, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators' Association Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Eva Lizotte – Community Living Wallaceburg Kylie White for Rupali Sharma – Epilepsy Support Centre Gordon Crompton – Community Living Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” Jean MacIntyre – Member “at large” Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision	
Regrets:	Christy Bressette – First Nation Representative George Melendy – Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large”	
Resource Staff:	Dave Doey, Superintendent of Education Pam Graham, System Coordinator of Special Education Bruce Davidson, Special Education Coordinator - Secondary Shelley Martsch-Litt, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guests:	Ellie Fraser, Mental Health Lead for the Lambton Kent District School Board	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose called the meeting to order • She shared regrets from those unable to be at the meeting and welcomed Kylie White who is the new ‘alternate’ member representing the Epilepsy Support Centre • Chris Moved, Elizabeth Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; all in favour 	
Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually, there is an election for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions • Elizabeth Hudie agreed to allow her name to stand for the position of Vice-Chair, while Rose Gallaway agreed to allow her name to stand for the position of Chair • Rose asked if anyone else was interested in nominating themselves or another member for either position • There were no further nominations, so Janet Moved, Jean Seconded “<i>That Rose Gallaway be elected as Chair and Elizabeth Hudie be elected as Vice-Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee</i>”; all in favour 	
Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Moved, Julia Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of December 10, 2015 be approved</i>”; all in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori
Business Arising from the Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no business arising from the Minutes 	

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Special Education Plan Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items 2.1.1 (Preamble); 2.1.2 (Mission Statement); 2.1.3 (Philosophy of Special Education); 2.2 (Roles and Responsibilities in Special Education); 2.7 (Categories of Exceptionalities and Definitions); 2.3.1 (Early Identification), and 2.3.2 (Intervention Strategies) of the Special Education Plan were provided to the members of SEAC for their review and comment • Pam noted that the title in first sentence of second paragraph of the Preamble will be changed to read: <i>Comprehensive Report on Special Education Programs and Services 2016</i>; the members concurred, and there were no suggestions for further amendments • Pam reported that, currently, the ‘Categories of Exceptionalities and Definitions’ haven’t changed, but Section 2.7 will need to be revisited because the Ministry is expected to provide updated information to Boards • Pam advised that the hyperlinks for ‘Early Identification’ and ‘Intervention Strategies’ provided to members are not showing the most up-to-date information, so they will need to be checked/updated and brought back to SEAC for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori • Dave/Pam • Lori
Presentation: Mental Health – Board Priorities and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellie Fraser, Mental Health Lead for the Lambton Kent District School Board, provided an update on mental health initiatives that have taken place, and highlighted plans for the future • The Board delivers tiered support focused on: mental health promotion programs and social-emotional learning; prevention for students that may be at risk; and, intervention and support for students in crisis to guide them to pathways for care within the community • Ellie spoke about the staff, programs, and other supports in place to ensure students are able to maintain their overall mental health and wellbeing, and seek out help when needed • Some training is targeted to specific employees based on their role, while other opportunities and after-school programs are open to any employee of the Board • Ellie explained that the foundation for the future will include: a suicide prevention protocol; a decision support tool; ongoing professional development opportunities; a review and update of mental health information on the Board’s website, and, a refresh of the mental health strategy • Key stakeholders/groups are being surveyed to allow the Board to respond to current needs through its MH Strategy; SEAC members were encouraged to complete the Survey and to share it with others that might want to provide their input • As the Board moves forward, it will be focused on pathways to care and working with mental health agencies to develop a common language around mental health • The Board will continue to build capacity and empower staff and students 	

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Presentation: Mental Health – Board Priorities and Next Steps (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth spoke about the stigma surrounding ‘mental health’; Ellie said more education is needed so people understand that <i>everyone</i> has mental health, but there are variants; she showed a YouTube video clip that was developed to help clarify terms such ‘mental health’ and ‘mental wellness and/or mental illness’ • One member noted that it seems that children are experiencing anxiety at an earlier age in life and wondered how they can be helped?; Ellie said that there are various levels of anxiety experienced during various growth stages and feels that explicit age-appropriate problem-solving techniques for managing stress, anxiety and depression should be ingrained as a part of the teaching process • Pam said staff are seeing anxiety being demonstrated through a student’s reluctance to attend school; strategies are put into place to help support them as they return to their classes • Ellie said there are many supports in place within the Board and, while there are occasionally barriers, it is extremely important that the student has a trusted and caring adult with a willingness to collaborate with whomever they need to in order to provide support • In response to a query about training opportunities, it was noted that a mental health series is available through eLearning and is open to all employees; after-school workshops are open to all staff too (provided they register through PD Place) 	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no correspondence submitted to SEAC 	
Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris said Community Living Sarnia-Lambton will be hosting a volleyball tournament Feb. 19, 20 & 21 to raise funds and awareness for their organization • They were recently advised that United Way in Sarnia-Lambton is continuing to provide much-needed funding for their organization • February 18th is their organization’s annual “Pasta Fest” fundraiser • Elizabeth advised the members that the Board is hoping to get Dr. Jean Clinton to come make a presentation on brain development; she will keep the group updated • Eva said their new Executive Director, Deborah Hook, has started; they are in the throes of finalizing their Five Year Strategic Plan, Eva thinks it will be interesting to see what the future brings with new leadership and a new Strategic Plan • Julia said they are wrapping up their current programming at Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent and will be taking new registrations soon; she also noted that they are upgrading their technology and will be able to move away from one-on-one support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth

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Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia said parents have been calling them to say students in Grade 8 (who are in the area of CKSS) are being told they should register at JMSS and she wonders why?; without knowing specifics, Pam and Bruce explained that the students are likely being recommended for an 'Essential' program and said that JMSS is a full-service school that offers both ABLE and Essential programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam asked Julia to provide more feedback, if possible, so that if there is a misunderstanding, it can be cleared up 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam reported that Kevin Cameron recently provided VTRA Level 1 training, and it is hoped that he will be returning in March or April to provide VTRA Level 2 training 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose said Sue Barnes has taken over as St. Clair Child and Youth's Executive Director; as well, they've begun using a new software program, so there have been some recent changes 	
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth stated that the Social Justice presentation made by CKSS students at the December meeting was excellent, and feels it would be great if other schools could offer this type of integration and support for the students • Chris agreed and said the students asked for SEAC's support; it would be good to know exactly what they were hoping to see in terms of support from SEAC • Pam advised SEAC that the Ministry did not accept the plan for the Special Needs Strategy as originally submitted; a meeting was held so the Steering Committee could answer some questions; a decision is pending • Pam said the feedback received at Christmas was relative to what was submitted in June and there has been no feedback, to date, on what was submitted in October • Pam committed to bring the information back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave • Pam
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, February 18, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. via Video-Conference 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry Moved, Elizabeth Seconded '<i>That the meeting be adjourned</i>'; all in favour • The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. 	