

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, September 15, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

Present:	Elizabeth Hudie – Trustee (Acting Chair) Gordon Crompton – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Eva Lizotte – Community Living, Wallaceburg Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Jack Fletcher - Trustee Jen Scheuneman – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Jean McIntyre – Member “at large”	
Regrets:	Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” Christy Bressette – First Nation Representative Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Kylie White, Epilepsy Support Centre George Melendy – Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth 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	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth called the meeting to order • She noted that two items were received after the Package had gone out to the membership and therefore need to be added to the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015-2016 LKDSB Accessibility Report • Memo re: 2015-2016 SEA Equipment Claims • Janet Moved, Julia Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved, as amended</i>”; All in favour 	
Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon Moved, Jerry Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of June 16, 2016 be approved</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori
Business Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no business arising from the Minutes 	
Number of Exceptional Students Suspended (Out of School), By School Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave shared statistics showing the number of exceptional students that received out of school suspensions during the 2015 – 2016 school year noting that the number of suspensions has declined slightly year over year • He said he would like Principals to identify, on a student-by-student basis, how the Board is responding to student infractions • It is important to determine whether there were mitigating circumstances that could have been avoided • He said, in order to do that, it would be helpful to revisit a document released several years ago citing appropriate responses to inappropriate behaviour exhibited by special needs students • Eva asked if the percentage of students with special needs is increasing?; Dave said there are more children receiving differentiated supports for different reasons; he said he could bring a graph to the next meeting to illustrate that • Jack asked how long the typical suspension is?; Dave said most are for one day and explained that single day suspensions are quite effective; statistics show that 85% of students who are suspended for one day are never suspended again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave

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# of Exceptional Students Suspended (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean asked if the summary shows the number of students or incidents?; the Heading indicates it's the "Number of Students", but Dave said that it will be confirmed at the next meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave/Lori
Update on the Special Needs Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave provided an update regarding how participating service providers are coming together to align their practices to make the most of their funding, while providing families a seamless process whenever they're seeking services He said that the Working Groups have been pulling together Action Plans; feedback has been received from The Ministry and meetings will be scheduled in the Fall to allow Ministry staff to meet with representatives from the agencies Dave reported that there will be a soft launch of the new service delivery model in the Spring, with the actual adoption of the process being enacted in the Fall Dave advised SEAC that there are still some issues/barriers that need to be worked out at the Provincial level Eva asked if families were included in the discussions?; Dave said there were Focus Groups conducted by both the Ministry and the agencies involved to ensure that the viewpoints of family members were considered Dave also reported that the Plan will entail having Service Co-ordinators to support families and assist them in acquiring services The new model will integrate service delivery and resources from partner agencies and will ensure students/families don't have to re-tell their story if they need to engage with multiple agencies An information update will soon be released by each agency involved; when the communication is released by all agencies, it will be shared with SEAC Elizabeth commented that the program extends beyond our community to even support individuals moving from one community to another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave/Lori
Learning Disabilities Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam informed the membership that the Learning Disabilities Review had to be put on hold while the Ministry worked to outline suitable definitions She said the review will take place both through the monthly SEAC Meetings as well as Committees/Groups outside of SEAC She noted that retired Superintendent Mike Gilfoyle will help to guide the process 	
eLite Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelley noted that eLite creates and tracks IEPs for students and schedules IPRC meetings and referrals, and she informed the members that the program is up and running for this school year As part of the start of a new school year, staff have been fine-tuning start-up procedures and training new RTs and ALLP teachers 	
2015-2015 Accessibility Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce provided an overview of the Report, noting that awareness training is provided to ensure that all staff are familiar with the types of barriers that exist and are given ideas to overcome barriers that are identified Bruce cited the various training initiatives that have taken place over the past year and spoke about the teams that are in place to support individuals with special needs; as well, we noted that our Board hosts students from other countries and works to ensure those students don't encounter barriers during their time in our schools He noted that information technology is becoming more and more beneficial in helping to remove barriers He referenced items listed in Appendix B noting that the Building Services Department is working to ensure buildings are barrier-free Chris noted that the Report is well written but asked about the accountability for completing the things detailed in Sections 6.2 and 6.3; Bruce noted that the Report comes back annually and items completed would be listed along with any new initiatives that are being planned Jack Moved, Chris Seconded "That the 2015-2016 Accessibility Report be approved"; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori

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Priority-Setting Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave said, in past, the group’s members have used a “sticky note” process to identify areas of interest; it was decided to do things differently this year to ensure there is a focus on four Provincial goals which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing confidence in public education • Improving student achievement • Closing achievement gaps • Improving student well-being • Relative to closing gaps, Dave said that the Lambton Kent Board works with Andy Hargreaves; Dave said Mr. Hargreaves has stated that more has been done to close achievement gaps in Ontario than anywhere else in the world • Pam said that the Department is working on “<i>this learning, for this student, at this time</i>” in relation to individual pupil needs and recognizing the different needs that each student has, and the different demographics represented in each school • When looking at how to maximize resources for the Department, the response is based on the needs and this year a variety of different things are being offered in different schools • Pam said they are wondering if SEAC has particular interest regarding people they would like to hear from?; and, she stated that the Team is looking at getting SEAC more involved • Dave said that part of the Board’s accountability to SEAC is to report back and to provide answers to specific requests made by the membership; he said that bringing back information enriches the context of the report and allows the membership to be in a position to share information about initiatives being undertaken by the Board • Chris said that the information presented at SEAC helps to inform best practices within their own organizations; for instance, their organization is in the process of creating a website that is accessible as a result of the presentation that LKDSB Web Technologist Jennifer Szucs made about accessibility online • Eva asked – in relation to the goal of improving student achievement – if eLite is helping students to reach their potential?; Pam said the Team could pull up data year over year but noted that the system can’t measure differences, so that type of work would have to be done manually • Pam suggested that the group could hear a presentation on “<i>Goals identified through IEP audits</i>” • Eva said that sounded like a good presentation, and noted that it’s important for SEAC members to understand that IEPs are not just pieces of paper that are ‘required’, but actual living documents that are being followed • Dave noted that the recent resource teacher in-service highlighted linking the IEP to the student’s Report Card • Chris is happy that their organization’s Toolkit is going forward within the Board and would like to hear how it’s being implemented, and, if there are successes • Chris said the Ministry is requiring their organization to create 70 IEPs on the individuals they support; staff, experienced in creating an IEP within their organization, is limited so it might be beneficial if staff from the Board can help them in creating the IEP • Chris suggested that follow-ups on some previous presentations that were made might be helpful to keep the membership up to date • Pam wonders if information on <i>Functions of Behaviour for High Needs Individuals</i> and <i>Universal Supports</i> that are put in place might be of interest?; the members agreed that it would be • Jack wonders what specific strategies the Special Education Department is employing to ‘do more, with less’, i.e. fewer EAs, etc.; Dave said they can identify different ways that training is being provided to support the new model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team

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Priority-Setting Exercise (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the Ministry is focusing on supporting individuals with Learning Disabilities to do better in math, so it would be appropriate to bring information forward on that initiative later on in the school year • Elizabeth wonders if there will be additional funds available to help students with Autism as a result of the changes they've put into place?; Pam said that it is uncertain how things are going to unfold; they have received more funding in some places and less in others; Shelley said the Board is committed to the 'Connections for Students' • Gord stated that the Team is very responsive to inquiries, and he appreciates that • Pam asked if the group would be interested in receiving more information about Learning Disabilities, presented in a similar format as the info. that was shared this evening?; the membership agreed that they would like that • It was noted that the LD Review process will involve volunteers from SEAC, as well as students, parents, teachers, etc.; Mike Gilfoyle will be coming forward with more information in the future; Pam said there may even be sub-committees that need to be created • It was noted that information about the Fetal Alcohol Initiative will be presented to SEAC in the future • Elsa wonders if it would be helpful for the members to review an IEP's structure?; she feels it would be helpful for the members to see the different types of accommodations that are in place for students with various exceptionalities, including: what key pieces need to be there?; how is the goal measured?; and how is it linked back to the Report Card? • Jack noted that there are a variety of programs in place to track and communicate with families and students, and it would be interesting to hear more about those • Jean asked if there is a way to illustrate different approaches to special education by different countries?; Dave said that that information could be prepared • Eva said, nationally, there is a heightened awareness of Indigenous peoples and she wonders how this translates to the education system?; Dave said students learn better when they are recognized and feel they belong, so it's important to "know the students" and where they come from; there are things that various schools are doing to know their students better, and these can be discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team • All • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team • Spec. Ed. Team
2015-2016 SEA Claims - LKDSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The memo citing details for SEA Equipment purchases made during the 2015-2016 school year was handed out; Elizabeth said that after members have a chance to review it they can ask questions at the next meeting, if they wish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter, dated June 22, 2016, from the Peel District School Board re: Ontario Autism Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth stated that it would be good for SEAC to send a letter of support; a letter will be drafted and brought back to the next SEAC Meeting • Letter, dated July 5, 2016, from Dr. June Rogers of the Ministry of Education re: Provincial and Demonstration Schools sent in response to a letter SEAC submitted on the matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter was received but there was no further action taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave/Lori
Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris said that their <i>Summer Support Employment Program</i> was offered again this year; they had 70 students placed in part-time jobs across 76 employers for a total of 86 jobs being supported by numerous job coaches • They had 45 students involved in their <i>Youth Adventures Program</i>, and had 20 support staff involved • Toolkits were purchased throughout the summer from locations across the country and they can see the momentum growing; Chris noted that they are grateful for the work that Dave and Bruce are doing • Julia said their tutoring program will begin on the 26th; through Lori, she will provide the pamphlet to everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia/Lori

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Associated Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva said their organization is celebrating its 60th Anniversary; they recently had a baseball game and other activities; they will also be holding a Sock Hop and their AGM will take place at the end of this month • Bruce said that the School Board is once again taking part in the teen transition “Jump Start” program; last year they held two transitions fairs (one in the north and one in the south) • They will be offering the Transition Fairs again this year – October 25th at CKSS and October 26th at AMSS – and will have representatives from a variety of agencies in attendance • More information about the Transition Fair will be sent out closer to the date; but SEAC members were advised that, again this year, there will be a free dinner provided, with an information Carousel to follow • Elizabeth said that there will be a Special Board Meeting on October 4th to review the Capital Plan and ARC information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Bruce • Bruce/Lori
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, October 20, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m., W.D.S.S., Library Learning Commons Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. 	