

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
~ Thursday, February 18, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. Via MS Teams ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Sandra Pidduck – Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Wendy Smith – Community Living, Wallaceburg Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative	
Regrets:	Derek Robertson - Trustee	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator – Special Education Chris Moore, System Coordinator – Multidisciplinary Teams Angie Moule, Special Education Coordinator Adam Davis, Special Education Coordinator Jayson Campeau, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators' Association Lucy Rizzetto, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators' Association Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guest(s):	Katie Colameco, Supervisor of Social Work Lis Hoskins, LKDSB Attendance Officer Jeff Brosh, Elementary Resource Teacher	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair called the meeting to order Sandra Pidduck Moved, Julia MacKellar Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour 	
Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment 	
Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Barnes Moved, Jean MacIntyre Seconded, “<i>That the Minutes of January 21, 2021 be approved</i>.”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Gall
Business Arising from the Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Barrese reported that, to date, two members of SEAC had expressed interest in creating a sub-committee to review the PAAC on SEAC information; she asked the other members of SEAC to let Lori Gall know, by noon February 19th, if they were interested in participating too 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All
Presentation – <i>School Mental Health's Learn-Inspire-Teach</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Barrese introduced Supervisor of Social Work, Katie Colameco Katie said School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) developed a 3-tier ‘Aligned and Integrated Model’ that: helps students to feel welcome and included; that helps staff identify students who need some support; and, that provides assistance when more intensive/wrap-around support is required for students She said lesson plans and curriculum was created by SMHO and has been provided to teachers to help support mental health and wellbeing for all students; she provided a quick overview of the six modules available Katie said anxiety and depression are some of the mental health issues that are prevalent now, and it is important for staff to be able to access tools that can help, and be aware of pathways that can be utilized when additional support is needed A Mental Health Action Kit has been created to provide information and includes some resources specific to maintaining mental wellness during the pandemic Angie Barrese said that the Ministry provides funding for mental health, which includes the wages for the 8 social workers that support secondary students, and she noted that the Board has received additional funding for the promotion of the resources Katie spoke about; the funding will help to leverage the work that Christine Davenport and her Team and doing to support elementary students, and that Katie Colameco and her Team are using to support secondary students 	

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Presentation – School Mental Health’s Learn-Inspire-Teach (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicki Ware asked if Indigenous Mental Wellness Workers might be able to access the resources Katie spoke about?; Katie said the SMHO website is public, and said that she would look into whether access might be able to be provided for the resources that are <i>not</i> public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie Colameco
Presentation – Community Living, Chatham-Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Stokley said each Community Living agency operates independently; the Chatham-Kent branch supports over 550 people and employs more than 270 people Their goal is to ensure that those they serve live in a state of dignity, are able to live in the community, and are able to participate in all aspects of life COVID has made things difficult because it has resulted in many activities/events being cancelled to ensure safety Community Living Chatham-Kent (CLC-K) operates several residential homes, offers various respite programs, and day programs Steve outlined the different requirements for accessing their services, depending on whether the individual is under 18, or over 18 Their ‘Passport’ program provides funding for community engagement and support workers, however COVID has impacted the ability to deliver the program Steve said host families volunteer to foster individuals with intellectual disabilities; CLC-K works with the Ministry to provide the necessary resources and supports He spoke about their ‘People First’, ‘Aktion Club’, ‘Leaders Within’, and ‘Advocates Against Abuse’ initiatives A ‘Community Supports’ program is in place to link individuals they support with connections in the community and to provide assistance whenever needed Steve oversees the ‘Making it Happen’ program that aids adults age 18 – 28 in acquiring the skills necessary to transition from school, to life in the community; after leaving high school, individuals they support often lose their social networks, so the program fills that void by creating social activities and connections Their ‘JobWorx’ program provides individualized job training to allow participants to find meaningful work, gain new skills, self-confidence and independence Their agency is also involved with the ‘Options’ program which a partnership between CLC-K, the LKDSB, and St. Clair College that helps to build a bridge between school, the community and the workplace; the program is up to 2 years in length and students must be 18 – 21 years of age to participate Steve said they also offer a ‘Summer Employment’ program where high school-aged students do paid work in the morning and then volunteer in the afternoon in order to provide work experience and help them meet the requirements for graduation Steve was thanked for delivering a very informative presentation about all of the good work that their agency does 	
2021 Special Education Plan Items to be Reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandra Perkins outlined the amendments made to the Special Education Plan during the February review, providing the reasons why each addition, deletion and/or update was made 	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence, dated February 9, 2021, from the Durham District School Board, regarding online learning supports/universal design for learning was received Chris King asked if the Board is experiencing similar issues with online learning?; Superintendent Barrese said the LKDSB has good structures in place for all schools, including the virtual schools, however, attendance has been problematic (students might not attend all day or every day), however that's not unique to our Board Chris Moore said a “Student I.T.” was set up so students could email to get support from the Board’s I.T. Department and/or Assistive Technology Team; while the transition to online learning was challenging at first, problems were dealt with quickly; if access to Wi-Fi was a problem, the Board found solutions Chris noted that he’s part of an Administrator Group which includes Reps. from other Boards and, as he listens to the issues they’re dealing with, he feels proud of the planning, creativity and hard work that has helped to ensure LKDSB students have the technology and staff supports they need to be successful 	

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Correspondence (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris also noted that some Boards put new Administrators into their virtual schools, but our Board went with experienced Principals, and moved the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) members to those schools, which meant that there was a lot of experience available to problem-solve; this has resulted in less issues and fewer students opting to return to in-school learning than other Boards are seeing • Chris King said many of the issues raised in the letter relate to a lack of Ministry supports and he asked if what the Ministry is providing to the Board is adequate, or is the LKDSB ‘just getting it done’? Angie Barrese said the Ministry has adjusted some supports as the pandemic has continued, for instance, the LKDSB was able to use 2% of its reserves for additional staffing needs and other necessities; as well, she said some additional funding has been provided along the way, however, collective agreements, class-size caps, etc. all remain in place and that is resulting in some empty spaces across the system • Superintendent Barrese said it took hours of planning and the utilization of existing staff to get by; the Special Education Department has temporarily lost Chris Moore and the MDT to the initiative; the Ministry did not fund the new virtual schools, so adjustments had to be made to leverage existing resources; some of the funding provided has helped, but there have been sacrifices made in order to staff schools • She said that the Board doesn’t know if funding will be in place if the virtual schools have to operate again next year, and losing the MDT to the virtual schools has resulted in some gaps in support available to students in regular schools • Chris King suggested that SEAC submit a letter to the Ministry indicating that more funding is required to provide summer programming, virtual schooling, and adequate technological and staff supports for students in the future? • Chris Moore noted that he’s running a virtual school with 2,000 students; he believes that some students are being underserved because of the demands on families who opted for their child(ren) to attend school virtually, so if virtual learning continues in future years, adequate funding needs to be made available • Chris King asked about whether summer programming might be made available again in 2021? Superintendent Barrese thinks we’ll get funding, but she doesn’t know how much money it will be, or the scope of work required, but she believes there will be specific funding to support students with autism • Chris King Moved, and Sandra Pidduck Seconded <i>“That a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education regarding the need for dedicated funding for online/virtual schools, including technological and staffing needs”</i>; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melani Rich reminded everyone that Autism Ontario has information, parent support groups, and fun activities available to support families who have a child with autism • Sandra Pidduck continues to deliver school presentations; March is Epilepsy Awareness Month; their organization is holding a virtual Gala, and will have activities for students in schools • Chris King said Community Living Sarnia Lambton received \$143,500 in Trillium funding for a Community Hub • Steve Stokley said the Lambton Kent Jumpstart Committee – which holds the Carousels – is making plans to offer the events virtually; he will let Lori know about the date once it’s decided • Julia MacKellar said they’re continuing to offer on-line tutoring; they’ve noticed some students were feeling overwhelmed and had to take a break, but that has allowed other students who were on the Wait List to participate; their Backyard Camps C-K ‘Sharing the Love’ Activity Boxes recently went out to 362 youth • Vicki Ware said First Nation schools (with the exception of the Delaware Nation’s JK/SK program) re-opened this week; she said they now have a dedicated Resource Room at Aamjiwnaang that will provide one-on-one support for students • Angie Moule said there have been challenges with utilizing funding for the Social Skills program for students with autism due to the school closures; the Ministry is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Stokley /Lori Gall

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Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<p>providing an extension to allow for the Board to utilize the funding through the summer; one idea is to create outdoor sensory paths installed at schools, another is to provide training to students for a ‘Peer Support for Social Skills at Recess’ program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie also said a 15-hour course, provided by the Geneva Centre for Autism, entitled ‘Charting a Path to Success’ is being offered to staff • Angie Barrese reported that the Executive Team is planning for 2021-2022, including the ‘Return to School’; she also said the Board is rolling out plans for voluntary asymptomatic COVID-19 testing • Jeff Brosh said the A.T. Team is really enjoying supporting students in person; they are working to further develop resources and training offerings • Adam Davis said the Enrichment Team will be offering the OLSAT testing to Grade 4 students; it’s a late start because of the school closures; he said the Board has purchased a new assessment (C-CAT) that will be rolled out to Grade 4s in conjunction with the testing, then rolled out to all students in the Fall; C-CAT provides a profile for all students, not just those identified for enrichment • Rose said they’re re-opening their agency beginning next week and will be accepting referrals and will be working to meet the needs of children and their families 	
Change of Date for April SEAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsequent to the Ministry of Education moving the March Break to April 12 – 16, 2021, Superintendent Barrese recommended that the April 15, 2021 SEAC Meeting be rescheduled to April 22, 2021 • Sandra Pidduck Moved, Melani Rich Seconded “<i>That the April SEAC Meeting be moved to April 22, 2021</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori/All
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.; meeting location and details will be confirmed later • A MS Teams invitation will be sent out for those who want/need to attend virtually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All • Lori Gall
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. 	