

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, March 22, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

Present:	Jack Fletcher – Trustee (Acting Chair) Elizabeth Hudie – Board Chair Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Sherry Nelson, Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Kayla Murphy – Community Living, Wallaceburg Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision	
Regrets:	Jean MacIntyre – Member “at large” The Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Representative Tabitha Cook, Epilepsy Support Centre Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair)	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Sheila Richardson, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guests:	Superintendent Helen Lane Cal McCabe, International Education Coordinator Mnologiizhgad, Indigenous Lead	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack called the meeting to order and read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment; he then shared the regrets submitted Sherry Nelson introduced herself as the new representative of Autism Ontario’s Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton Chapters; Jack welcomed her and the other members introduced themselves Janet Moved, Chris Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour 	
Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julia Moved, Elizabeth Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of January 18, 2018 be approved</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack asked for clarification regarding when the ASD presentation (that was to have been made at the last meeting that had to be cancelled because of the weather) would be made?; Sandra advised that the individuals making the presentation were unavailable to attend tonight’s meeting but they will be at the April Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori
Presentation – What is Our Response to Cultural Diversity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Helen Lane introduced Cal McCabe, and Mnologiizhgad She began the presentation by having the members think of any policies that have impacted (or are still impacting) equity in Canada She said it’s important to think about the impacts of inequity and encouraged the members to share their ideas, they included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal covenants for subdivisions Residential schools 	

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<p>Presentation – <i>What is Our Response to Cultural Diversity (continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residential facilities such as the Southwest Regional Centre ○ Access to health care ○ Funding for educational needs ○ Immigration policies ○ School designations – private, catholic, public ○ Washrooms (gender-based) ○ Funding for various programs and services ○ Access to clean water and housing ○ Child welfare, including foster care for teens ○ Headwear (certain articles of clothing aren't permitted) ○ Equal pay for equal work ○ Transgender issues ○ Marriage laws ○ Access to transportation ○ Access to the Internet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helen thanked everyone for their participation and stated that the items mentioned do, in fact, oppress a number of people; she went on to say that we grew up in a different era and must recognize that, while many of these things happened in the past, we need to help bring about a positive change for the future ● Copies of <i>Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan</i> and the <i>Lambton Kent District School Board's 2016-2017 Annual Report</i> were distributed for the members' information and future reference ● Helen said that one of the Board's Belief Statements is that: "A safe and caring learning environment is strengthened by embracing diversity and respecting self, others and the world around us" ● She highlighted initiatives designed to ensure equity and inclusion, such as: school climate surveys, mental health support, and the provision of technology in the classroom through the TELP project ● Helen said key components of the <i>Ontario Education Equity Action Plan</i> include enhancing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School and classroom practices ○ Leadership, governance and human resource practices ○ Data collection, integration and reporting ○ Organizational cultural change ● She stated that 'sameness' doesn't mean 'equitable' <p><u>Black Heritage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helen spoke about a black heritage symposium held in May 2017 and indicated that a large number of students were bussed in for the day ● As well, a workshop was held for educators to help them learn to teach black history <p><u>English Language Learners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Laurie Brownlee, ELL Teacher, has been gathering information to share the student's voice 	

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<p>Presentation – <i>What is Our Response to Cultural Diversity (continued)</i></p>	<p><u>Indigenous Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mnogiizhgd said he’s seen firsthand the effects of oppression and noted that many people don’t even know about what happened to First Nation children at the residential schools; the Truth and Reconciliation Process was organized by the parties of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and has resulted in 94 Calls to Action; Mnogiizhgd said these have been broken into pillars and there are many actions that are related to education • He said in order to help bring about healing it’s important to support the individuals who share their stories of oppression • He said that the Lambton Kent District School Board has come a long way as a partner and informed SEAC that there is an Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) that meets monthly to discuss matters related to education to see if there are ways to make improvements; as well, there is an effort to ensure there is more collaboration with the indigenous community • An ‘NBE’ (Native Studies) course now contains indigenous content and focuses on contemporary First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Voices • Mnogiizhgd spoke about how, at the ILC, it was decided to offer four community-focused student symposiums that had an indigenous theme; the program allows participants to understand more about indigenous culture • Helen talked about data collection and reporting, and how the Board is working to close the indigenous knowledge gap; she said that, statistically, there is a 20% spread in achievement between indigenous and non-indigenous students; she said that Board administrators need to understand the data, ask the questions and seek the answers • Mnogiizhgd said they are working to create a cultural change in schools and talked about a working group ‘unpacking privilege’; Helen said that the conversation is just beginning and they are trying to understand the various socio-economic factors, etc. • Helen said the Board is working to create a cultural change in schools and is working intensively to support the revitalization of native languages because there is an inextricable connection between culture and language; Mnogiizhgd informed SEAC that the Board is preparing to offer an Ojibwa language courses at A.A. Wright • Helen spoke about a P.D. Day in April that will allow administrators, teachers, ECEs and EAs to learn more about indigenous education <p><u>International Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cal said we have more than 100 international students attending 11 secondary schools and 4 elementary schools; they are learning about the English language and culture, and our students learn about other cultures in this way too 	

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<p>Presentation – <i>What is Our Response to Cultural Diversity (continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He spoke about the changes in international education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been a shift from short-term stays to long-term stays ○ There is an academic focus ○ We have a greater diversity of students (coming from more countries) ○ We are offering more short-term opportunities for our Board’s students to go abroad which allows our students to develop global competencies ○ International students are paired up with a buddy in their grade who can help them get familiar with being in our schools and participating fully ● Helen wrapped up the presentation by saying that it’s a very diverse portfolio and that she has an amazing team in place to help our students become the global leaders of tomorrow ● Jack said there used to be a focus on our international students on the front page of our website and he’d like to see more of these; Helen said that the international education information has been moved to its own page(s), but she’ll share his thoughts about wanting the information to be more front and centre with the Board’s Community Relations Officer, Heather Hughes ● Jack spoke about our focus on Safe Schools and said that he has noticed that kids don’t discriminate but they learn from what they see from the adults in their life; we need to teach our students to be tolerant; in response Helen said that she met with members of the Local Immigration Partnership recently and the one thing that keeps coming up is that newcomers value the fact that our communities are safe and welcoming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helen Lane
<p>Special Education Report – Items to be Reviewed in February and March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sandra Perkins provided an overview of the sections and appendices reviewed and any amendments that were made ● Section 2.3 was not reviewed at this meeting as it has been dealt with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix 2.3.1 had a 2010 Draft Quote replaced by a quote about ‘The Kindergarten Program 2016’; also, in three instances the term Junior and Senior Kindergarten was replaced by ‘Kindergarten Year 1 and Year 2’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Julia asked why there was a change in the wording?; Angie said it was a result of a change in terminology used by the Province, so we are trying to ensure that our terminology matches theirs ○ Appendix 2.3.2 was not revised ○ Appendix 2.3.2.2 was not revised ○ Appendix 2.3.3 was not revised ○ Appendix 2.3.4 was not revised ○ Appendix 2.3.5 was not revised 	

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<p>Special Education Report – Items to be Reviewed in February and March (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.5 was not revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix 2.5.1 was not revised ○ Appendix 2.5.2 was amended to remove all references to ‘CCAC’ (Community Care Access Centre) and replace them with ‘ESC LHIN’ (Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network) as a result of organizational change between those two entities • Section 2.6 was amended to remove all references to ‘CCAC’ (Community Care Access Centre) and replace them with ‘ESC LHIN’ (Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network) as a result of organizational change between those two entities • Section 2.8 was not revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix 2.8.3 was not revised ○ Appendix 2.8.9 was not revised • Section 2.9 was revised on Page 3 to reflect the current name of the Lambton Kent District School Board • Section 2.10 was amended to reflect the number of LKDSB students currently enrolled at Amethyst, E.C. Drury, Robarts, Trillium, and W. Ross Macdonald • Section 2.11 Point 2.7 on Page 2 reflects information about the ‘Itinerant Student Support Teacher’ role; and, on Page 3 the word “training” was removed from Point 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix 2.13.1 was not revised • Appendix 2.13.2 was not revised • Section 2.13 was revised on Page 2, Bullet (iii) to clarify language about the acquisition of SEA equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix 2.13.1 was not revised ○ Appendix 2.13.2 was revised on Page 1 to reword the information under the heading ‘What is Covered by SEA?’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandra noted that it indicated that parents should attend to learn about the equipment and so the wording was changed to reflect what’s happening now, with the students being trained; she said that the mantra is “necessary for some, good for all” ▪ Chris asked if parents still have access to the training?; Sandra said that they do, but it’s just to recognize <i>all</i> of the needs and to allow a holistic approach that takes into consideration the parents needs • Section 2.15 was not revised • Jack indicated that all of the updates were outlined in the Agenda Package and asked the members if they had any questions or concerns about any of the proposed changes; there were no questions and no concerns were raised, so, the amendments were deemed to have been approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori

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Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from the Conseil Scolaire Catholique Franco-Nord Special Education Advisory Committee regarding the Strategy for Students with Special Needs was received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The letter was received for information, but no action was taken 	
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Hudie informed SEAC that \$27-million was received from the Ministry for the construction of a K-12 school in Forest; as well, she said that Brooke Central received a designation of being an ‘Apple-Distinguished School’ and spoke about the fact that it’s a lot of work to be recognized in this way • Kayla provided information about Community Living Wallaceburg’s Boxed Luncheon set for April 19th; proceeds from this fundraiser will help the agency enhance the programs and services they offer to their 400+ clients across Chatham-Kent • She also said that they are hosting a performance at the Victoria Playhouse on May 10th called <i>Good Ol’ Country Gospel – How Sweet the Sounds</i> featuring Canadian country music star Diane Chase; the performance will be given in an accessible manner • Steve said that Community Living Chatham-Kent is promoting the fact that applications are again being accepted from/on behalf of persons who have an intellectual disability for the Ron McLanders “Make a Dream Come True Fund”; two awards of \$1,000 are available to assist the successful applicants make what is now only a dream become a reality; individuals selected will be identified during the Community Living Month Flag Raising at the Civic Centre in Chatham in May • Chris said that they are partnering with Lambton County Developmental Services to host a session on <i>Bill 148 and Direct Funding</i> on April 9th at the Wyoming Legion that will provide information for families that will outline the Bill’s effect on wages, holiday pay, scheduling, leaves of absence, refusal of shifts and more • Members were also advised that Community Living Sarnia-Lambton is preparing to officially launch their new website; in the spirit of cooperation, community partners can submit information to be posted on CLSL’s website and should contact Chris if there is anything they would like to have added • Community Living Sarnia-Lambton’s Strategic Plan was the impetus for the agency purchasing a new group home that will result in 8 new supported independent living spots being made available for their members’ use • Janet said that VIEWS for the Visually Impaired is offering a <i>Summer Music Camp for Braille Users</i> aged 8 and over that have an appreciation for music; the camp will be offered July 15th – 21st at the W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford; contact the information for further information 	

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Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherry said that Autism Ontario holds bingos to help raise funds for their needs but, unfortunately, they are having trouble recruiting volunteers to work at these events; if anyone is interested in helping the organization in raising funds through bingos, please contact them • Angie informed SEAC's members that the Board has been invited to be part of a Provincial Project called <i>'Everyday Mental Health in the Classroom'</i> that is being developed in cooperation with the Mental Health ASSIST and other partners; the end result of the project's work will help educators across the Province to support mental health and wellness in their classroom; Jack congratulated them on this accomplishment and spoke about the important connection between physical and mental wellbeing • Sandra advised SEAC's members that the Ministry recognized that the Board's "Options" Program is a leader within the Province, and that the LKDSB received funding for a 2-year project that will ultimately see other Board's implementing/expanding their own programs. 	
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions for future agenda items were put forward by the membership 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, April 19, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m., WDSS – Room 141 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. 	