

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
 ~ Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. Via MS Teams ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Derek Robertson - Trustee Sandra Pidduck – Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Wendy Smith – Community Living, Wallaceburg Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator – Special Education Chris Moore, System Coordinator – Multidisciplinary Teams Tara Mitchell, Special Education Coordinator Heather Touzin, Special Education Coordinator Jayson Campeau, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Regrets:	Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Melani Rich – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Elizabeth Townsend, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators’ Association	
Guest(s):	Beth George-Watson, Assessor and Service Navigator, Developmental Services Ontario Jeff Brosh, Elementary Assistive Technology Resource Teacher	
Members of the Public:	Alecia Atterbury	
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, Chris King 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 February 18, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Janet Barnes Moved, Sandra Pidduck Seconded, “<i>That the Minutes of February 18, 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"> There was no business arising from the Minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting 	
Presentation – <i>Developmental Services Ontario</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King introduced Beth George-Watson, an Assessor and Service Navigator with Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) who provided an overview of the services that the DSO agency offers Individuals supported must exhibit significant cognitive and/or adaptive functioning limitations prior to the age of 18 in order to be eligible for Ministry-funded adult developmental services and supports in accordance with the Services and Support to Promote the Social Inclusion of Adults with Developmental Disabilities Act Chris King believes information on DSO should be shared with Resource Teachers; Beth said she has presented to ALLP Teachers in the past and she’d be willing to make additional presentations because it’s important for eligible students to apply as soon as possible Heather Touzin said when students who may be eligible turn 16 years old, representatives from partner agencies are invited to participate in the IPRC meeting to provide additional insight and support (with the parent(s) permission) 	
Presentation – <i>MDT Sharing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Moore, the System Coordinator of the Multidisciplinary Team, shared information on what the Team’s been up to He explained that there are 2 sets of MDT Teams, there is a Board-level team consisting of 5 elementary teachers and 1 secondary teacher, as well as School-level teams that include the Principal, Resource and Guidance staff and other caring adults 	

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Presentation – <i>MDT Sharing</i> (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When students are struggling, there are often other issues at play and the Team members work together to resolve the problem(s) as a whole • Chris Moore said the School Climate Survey provided the context for the Team’s focus and they were working to ensure students felt connected to one caring adult; then COVID hit and the Team’s focus had to become one of creating an environment where students could learn virtually and be successful • A new Climate Survey will be conducted soon, and its results will be compared to the last survey’s results to determine how students are managing through the pandemic, and where additional supports may be required • Chris noted that Transition Teams will help re-establish each student’s connection to their home school; he said some students prefer virtual learning and may choose to continue learning that way if it’s an option • He believes the MDT helps support the overall well-being of students and noted that the pandemic has allowed many students to recalibrate what’s truly important in life • Sandra Perkins said with Chris being at the helm of the virtual elementary school, it allowed him to gain a different perspective which then presents new opportunities for connections to serve the Board and its students well • Superintendent Barrese asked the members of SEAC to encourage parents and students to complete the survey so there’s lots of data/input to work with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
5-Year Overview of Exceptional Pupil Numbers, By Exceptionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese cited the trends in the data, including more students being identified with autism and/or developmental disabilities • Chris King asked if the data can be shared with each members’ respective organization in order to be used as a client planning tool?; Angie said it’s not confidential, so it may be shared • Relative to an increase in some identification categories, Superintendent Barrese credited the Board’s updated testing tools with helping to identify students • Jean MacIntyre asked about the reduction in the number of students identified as ‘Gifted’; Superintendent Barrese explained that there are more students being identified as ‘Multiple’ and so that may include someone who is Gifted but who also has a Learning Disability or Autism, etc. 	
2021-2022 SEAC Meeting Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members reviewed the proposed scheduled and were in agreement with the meeting dates selected • Trustee Derek Robertson Moved; Steve Stokley Seconded “<i>That the 2021-2022 Schedule for Special Advisory Committee Meetings be approved.</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall
2021 Special Education Plan Items to be Reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins outlined amendments made to the Special Education Plan and cited the reasons for any additions, deletions and/or updates • She informed the members that while Julia MacKellar couldn’t attend the meeting, she had posed a question about why the exemplar (Appendix 2.9.1) was deleted; Sandra explained there are actually a series of exemplars that don’t need to be included in the Plan but they’re being archived to be used as teaching tools • Sandra Pidduck asked about the specialized health support services (Appendix 2.6.1) and noted that, if their clients require rescue medications, training is required and that’s provided by their organization; Sandra Perkins said the Special Education Team will consider <i>where</i> that type of information should be captured (i.e. perhaps in an Administrative Procedure rather than in the Plan) • Chris King asked if the Ministry is still conducting IEP audits?; Sandra Perkins said the Board has not had formal audits in a while, but internal audits are completed as a teaching tool; unfortunately, COVID-19 caused this practice to be put on hold; Chris Moore said with MDT members acting as Resource Teachers in the virtual schools, they looked at IEPs to ensure they were suitable, so he believes he and his Team can work with Sandra Perkins and her Team to do an internal audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins

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2021 Special Education Plan Items to be Reviewed (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris King asked about the students who are attending Robarts and asked if they're commuting?; Sandra Perkins said, because of cohorting, students might reside at the school through the week and then return home on weekends; Chris King asked whether, in a normal year, students would be commuting?; Sandra said, if they're within a prescribed distance, they would commute but, this year, some agencies chose to have students attend virtually one week and then reside at the school the next week; she will look into this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At its February Meeting, SEAC requested that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education regarding funding for the technological and staffing requirements of operating virtual schools; after reviewing the draft letter, Chris King Moved and Janet Barnes Seconded <i>"That the letter be sent to the Minister of Education"</i>. • A letter from Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board dated February 19, 2021, regarding prioritization of vaccinations during Phase 2 in support of students with special education needs, as well as staff who support them, was received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chris King asked if the Board is lobbying for vaccinations for medically fragile students?; Superintendent Barrese said Director Howitt and Superintendents Mancini and Hazzard meet with the Medical Officers of Health on a regular basis and they advocate for students and staff with medical needs to receive a vaccination as soon as possible ○ Chris King wonders if public health staff might be permitted to attend schools to vaccinate students and staff?; Superintendent Barrese will ask the Director to include vaccination information in his weekly staff updates ○ Superintendent Barrese noted that ALLP classrooms have engaged in a hybrid model of face-to-face and virtual learning which has resulted in higher student retention rates; she noted the Board was recognized by the Ministry for its flexibility in supporting ALLP students and said this model might be able to be utilized in the future, when an ALLP student's not well enough to attend school in person, but wants to stay engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall • Superintendent Barrese
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vicki Ware said she's concerned about students being absent and/or not engaging online, and asked how these issues are being addressed?; Superintendent Barrese said they should connect separately since they cannot discuss specifics • In response to a comment Vicki made about a student having trouble wearing a mask, Superintendent Barrese said there is a process to request a mask exemption • Steve Stokley said they are hoping to be able to operate their summer programs • Heather Touzin said they're finding parents are more apt to attend Grade 8 – 9 IPRC meetings when they're held virtually • Jeff Brosh said the Assistive Technology Team is updating their training modules to link directly to resources, in this way it's easier for staff to find information • Wendy Smith said they are hoping to be able to offer their summer programs; their Employment Services Program has been very busy; and, she reported that Community Living Wallaceburg just launched a new Strategic Plan • Chris King said they're waiting to hear whether their summer programs can run • Sandra Perkins said the Board is in the middle of preschool intake, and high needs students are being met virtually; Kindergarten Registration is also taking place • Sandra Pidduck said March is Epilepsy Awareness Month, and spoke about the events and fundraisers planned • Tara Mitchell said Ministry funding was provided for some hearing and sensory screens to take place in schools; she said the Coordinators are working on welcoming virtual students back into brick and mortar schools in September • Rose said they have had a lot of new intakes and the dual-diagnosis program has been busy; these meetings are being held virtually 	

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Questions from the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alecia Atterbury asked about the Pre-School Screening and Kindergarten Registration, specifically, she wonders what happens when students come from a Home School situation or come here from another Board?; Sandra Perkins said when a student hasn't been connected to a local service, as soon as parents mention the need for their child(ren) to be connected to supports when they're registering them for school, Board staff will complete the 'Steps to Success' and will begin to build a team to support the student(s) 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 22, 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. 	