

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, November 16, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. at Lambton County Developmental Services, Petrolia ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Jack Fletcher – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Norma Hills for Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Amy Mikhaila for Kayla Murphy – Community Living, Wallaceburg Jean MacIntyre – Member “at large” Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision	
Regrets:	Jen Scheuneman – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Tabitha Cook, Epilepsy Support Centre Elizabeth Hudie – Trustee	
Absent:	Anika Altman – First Nation Representative	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Jim Stewart, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Lisa Valade, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose Gallaway was delayed due to work-related business so Vice-Chair, Trustee Jack Fletcher, called the meeting to order Janet moved, Jim seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour 	
Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Fletcher requested amendments to two points in the draft Minutes, citing one notation on Page 3 and another on Page 5; Lori will make the changes Norma Moved; Jennifer Seconded “<i>That the Minutes be approved, as amended.</i>” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Lori
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no business arising from the Minutes of October 19, 2017 	
Presentation – Snoezelen Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jerry Knight, Manager of Community Skills Development with Lambton County Development Services, provided a brief history of Snoezelen rooms, explaining that Snoezelen is a contraction of the Dutch verbs “snuffelen” (to seek and explore) and “doezelen” (to relax). While a Snoezelen room is expensive to construct, they can now be found in schools, hospitals, long term care facilities, mental health facilities, churches, community centers, rehabilitation facilities, and more. Snoezelen rooms, or controlled multisensory environment (MSE), provide therapy for people with autism and other developmental disabilities Jerry said that the concept of Snoezelen Rooms has evolved and have been proven to: aid in learning and development; help relax an agitated person; and/or, stimulate and raise alertness for those with sensory processing disorders. He informed the members that the average person touches approximately 300 different surfaces every 30 minutes and gathers and processes sensory input that allows them to configure their location and surroundings; those with profound sensory disabilities may only touch/get sensory input from 1 – 5 surfaces within a 30 minute period; Jerry said individuals need a steady ‘diet’ of sensory input in order to maintain optimum mental health. Lambton County Development Services has a Snoezelen Room and a Whirlpool Room that offer clients a multi-sensory atmosphere of pleasant surroundings, soothing sounds, intriguing aromas and interesting light/slide show effects. 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Presentation – Snoezelen Room (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry said sessions are typically about 30 minutes in length, with clients usually being accompanied by a family member. • Members of SEAC, including SEAC Chair Rose Gallaway (who joined the meeting at this point in time), toured the agency’s facilities, including the multi-sensory Snoezelen and Whirlpool rooms, where Jerry demonstrated some of the sensory features of these rooms. • Jerry noted that individuals with developmental disabilities sometimes have difficulty feeling ‘grounded’, and showed the members some weighted lizards (that Rose Gallaway makes) that they use to help clients who need help to get a better sense of where they are in relation to their world; Angie said weighted vests are used in classrooms to help improve a child's focus and provide stimulation in order to deliver a calming effect. • Members toured the agency’s Resource Room, as well as its new accessible kitchen which was made possible through a Trillium Grant. • Jerry stated that Lambton County Development Services’ clients range from 21 – 68 years of age, with the average client being about 30 years old • Jerry said that needs are changing; while many of their clients appreciate the opportunity to visit their facilities, they also want to be able to do other things out in the community; as well, he said that they aren’t required to administer as much medication as they used to. • On behalf of SEAC, Superintendent Barrese thanked Jerry for the opportunity to tour the agency’s facilities and learn more about the programs and services they offer to their clients. 	
Annual Accessibility Report for the 2016-17 School Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra stated that at the last meeting SEAC reviewed the <i>Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (September 2017 to August 2022)</i>, which sets out some of the LKDSB’s plans for the future, while the <i>Annual Accessibility Report</i> on tonight’s Agenda outlines measures the Board took in 2016 - 2017 to identify and alleviate barriers and to enhance accessibility for individuals who work, learn, and participate in the LKDSB community. • There were no comments or suggestions made in relation to the <i>Annual Accessibility Report</i>. • Sandra encouraged members of SEAC to share their viewpoint regarding the accessibility of Board-owned facilities at any time. She said anyone visiting our schools and/or Board-owned facilities may provide input/comments to the Board’s Accessibility Committee if they have a concern or suggestion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose Gallaway assumed the responsibility as the Meeting’s Chair, and read a thank you card that was received from former SEAC Member Eva Lizotte. 	
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Stokley, of <i>Community Living Chatham-Kent</i>, informed SEAC that two \$1,000 awards are available through the Jonathan Daniel Stone Fund to “support initiatives to assist children (and their families) who have been diagnosed with autism and/or other intellectual disabilities”. The Fund celebrates the life of Daniel Stone – a student of Indian Creek Road Public school who had autism – who died suddenly in May 2013 at the age of eleven. Applications are available on the agency’s website and are being accepted up to November 30, 2017. 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose Gallaway reported that <i>St. Clair Child and Youth</i> recently hired an Indigenous Liaison. The contract employee will be responsible to ensure that the agency's services will be more accessible to the indigenous communities that surround Sarnia and Lambton County. • She also reported their agency's Walk-In Clinics are always full, so they may need to extend their hours; she noted they are also providing outreach within the communities they serve. • Amy Mikhaila informed SEAC that <i>Community Living Wallaceburg</i> has a position for a Director of Finance and Business Operations. The Director is responsible for the organization's administrative and financial systems including finance/accounting, information technology and systems management. • Norma Hills reported that the Board of Community Living Sarnia Lambton is currently focusing a lot of attention on its Strategic Plan. • Noticing several new members around the table, Julia MacKellar introduced herself and informed the members that she has returned from a Leave and has been a member of SEAC for approximately 8 years. • Jack said that the Trustees for the LKDSB are busy working on the Board's Strategic Plan, and they continue to review and update the Board's <i>Policies, Regulations and Procedures</i> • He also reported that 'Tecumseh Public School' will remain the name of the combined John N. Given and Tecumseh elementary schools, and he cited the historical importance of (warrior) Tecumseh. • Superintendent Barrese said there have been numerous Special Education Team Meetings scheduled – across all disciplines – to troubleshoot, set goals, etc., and she and Sandra have been busy attending those meetings 	
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were reminded to let Lori know if there are ever items they'd like to add to a Meeting Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, December 14, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m., W.D.S.S., Room 141 • Superintendent Barrese reminded the members that at the December meeting there will be presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Mentoring: Meaningful Social Relationships with Mainstream and Special Education Students</i> ○ <i>Exploration of How Coding is Used to Enhance Education Opportunities with Special Education Students</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese again thanked Jerry (and Lambton County Development Services) for hosting the November Meeting and sharing information about their agency's facilities and programming, noting that it's beneficial for members of other agencies to see first-hand what's available. • The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. 	