

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, November 17, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. in Room 269 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

Present:	Chris King, Community Living Sarnia-Lambton (Chair) Janet Barnes, Trustee (Vice-Chair) Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – West Region Alecia Atterbury, Parent Rep. Attending on Behalf of the Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Lori Marvin, St. Clair Child & Youth Services Steve Stokley, Community Living Chatham-Kent	
Regrets:	Jean MacIntyre, Member-at-Large Elizabeth Townsend, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators' Association Wendy Smith, Community Living Wallaceburg Vicki Ware, Indigenous Representative	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Student Support Services/Well-Being Chris Moore, System Coordinator of Multidisciplinary Teams Tara Mitchell, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Jeff Brosh, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators' Association Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guests:	Martin Smit, English Language Educational Consultant, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Via MS Teams Angela Richards – LKDSB Trustee (Alternate Member of SEAC)	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King called the meeting to order Steve Stokley Moved, Melani Rich Seconded <i>"That the Agenda be approved"</i>; All in favour 	
Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara Mitchell shared a land acknowledgement 	
Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King noted it was Pathways that hosted the Transition Fair, not Community Living Sarnia Lambton; Lori Gall will amend the Minutes to correct that error Alecia Atterbury Moved, Steve Stokley Seconded <i>"That the Minutes of October 20, 2022 be approved, as amended"</i>; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Gall Lori Gall
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no business arising from the Minutes of October 20, 2022 	
Presentation – Introduction to the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff Brosh introduced Martin Smit, an English Language Educational Consultant with the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, to share his presentation virtually Mr. Smit stated that people with a learning disability generally have average or above average intelligence however due to challenges in the way they learn, their IQ scores can be lower than what would be expected He then spoke about their organization's websites: 1) Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario which provides information on learning disabilities, ADHD, and more, 2) LD at School which provides resources for educators as well as some COVID-related resources for parents, and 3) LD at Home which provides information and numerous free resources for parents; as well, they offer French-language resources at TA@l'ecole It was noted that, relative to EQAO, only half of the students in Grade 3 were meeting the standard without accommodations or scribing A link to a video regarding EQAO scores was made available to the members to watch (on their own) if they wanted to access additional information Mr. Smit then provided some background information regarding the Supreme Court's 2012 decision that reading is not a privilege, but an essential human right That decision resulted in the Ontario Human Rights Council's policy on accessible education for students with disabilities which, in turned, was the impetus for the Right to Read Commission being launched in 2019 and <i>the Right to Read Inquiry Report</i> which was released in February of 2022 	

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Presentation – Introduction to the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report is 500 pages long and contains 157 recommendations; it found that Ontario is not meeting its obligations in ensuring all students have the right to read • The Ontario Human Rights Commission’s ‘Key Requirements’ for successfully teaching and supporting all students focuses on curriculum and instruction, early screening, reading interventions, accommodations, and professional assessments; Mr. Smit spoke briefly about the ways in which these initiatives would be implemented • Mr. Smit said that LDAO has signed a 3-year contract with the Ministry of Education, and they’ll focus on ensuring that the recommendations in the Report are followed; the goal is to ensure that 95% of students become fluent readers which, in turn, would alleviate the need for additional interventions; he said that accommodations cannot be a substitute for good teaching • He said that Ontario has been ignoring strong research and must adopt a focus on the science of reading/evidence-based instruction; to try and correct the problem, the Ministry has invested \$25-million in evidence-based reading intervention programs and professional development; as well, they will be revising the (French) language curriculum and will engage with parents and sector partners to develop a longer-term response • Mr. Smit said that School Boards need to understand science-based reading instruction, and the tools required, in order to make hard decisions about resources that are no longer appropriate; as well, Boards need to select and implement screeners and develop an appropriate data management system • He feels that this is a fundamental shift in foundational classroom instruction which will result in important discussions about curriculum and special education supports by Senior Teams across the Province • Mr. Smit highlighted some of the hundreds of free resources available for parents and educators, including some material especially developed for sharing at NTIP meetings • He said that their Educators’ Institute will continue to be held virtually because, when they had to move to meeting virtually because of COVID lockdowns, the number of participants increased exponentially • Superintendent Barrese thanked Mr. Smit for his presentation and informed SEAC that Superintendent Hazzard and his Team will attend a future meeting of SEAC to explain how our Board is actualizing the Right to Read Report’s findings 	
October 31, 2022 Exceptional Pupil Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese spoke about the October 31, 2022 Report, noting that there were 736 elementary and 1,485 secondary pupils identified, for a total of 2,221 exceptional pupils • As well, she pointed out that 1,397 elementary and 844 secondary pupils, for a total of 2,241 pupils, aren’t formally identified but have an IEP • Superintendent Barrese noted that, in the LKDSB, 49 – 51% of students have a learning disability which is slightly higher than the Provincial average 	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter, dated October 14, 2022, from the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board asks the Ministry for an extension of the time students with differing abilities have to remain or continue in secondary school (beyond year 7 and beyond 21 years of age) to address educational gaps that may have been caused by COVID-19 school closures • Steve Stokley asked what having 22 – 23-year-olds in a school with younger students would look like?; Marty Passmore said high schools try to keep younger students in different areas than older students; the issue is that the older students get, the harder it becomes to find additional courses for them to take that would be of interest • It was noted co-op placements, specialized co-ops, school within a college, etc. might be more suitable pathways for older students looking to continue their education; Sandra Perkins said there are programs available that could be tweaked • Marty feels the community needs to be ready to support the students in this situation • Superintendent Barrese said there would need to be additional funding that would allow for co-op placements that would be delivered in partnership with local associations to ensure these students have a smooth transition from school to working 	

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Correspondence (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins pointed out that the letter is not just about students with special needs • Chris Moore said that the concern is that if students were learning virtually, there may be a gap in learning that needs to be supported, and this may be related to a need to upgrade both academic and social skills • Chris King asked if the LKDSB has had inquiries from students and/or parents regarding the desire to stay in school longer?; Superintendent Barrese said she received one call, and staff worked with the family to connect the student to community supports • Chris Moore said the Board cannot do things outside of the Education Act, but it may be worth discussing how students in this situation could be supported; for instance, adult education is independent and provides flexibility for learners, so that might be an option for students wishing to continue their learning • It was noted that families of young students expressed concerns about gaps in learning caused by COVID, but there really weren't similar concerns raised about older students • Chris King asked if staff could connect with students who graduated to see if it's a concern?; information will be gathered relative to whether inquiries were received and the information will be brought back to SEAC in December; questions asked will focus on what skillsets are missing in students that graduated in the last couple of years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie/SSSWB Team
Association Reports, Sharing of Best Practices and Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie Rich said Autism Ontario's West Region will be holding an event for families at Sloan's Christmas Tree Farm, as well, a bowling night is being planned in Sarnia • She noted that they also have adult autism groups that provide guided help to individuals wanting to learn about adults diagnosed with autism • Melanie noted that Autism Ontario – West Region has numerous virtual events that individuals/ families can participate in; as well, there's an 'Introduction to Autism for Professionals' session that's being offered • Chris King said Community Living Sarnia had their AGM recently and information about that, and a Staff Newsletter, will be shared with the membership of SEAC by Lori Gall • Jeff Brosh said he's been working with the other Coordinators to transition from eLite to RISE and, as a part of that, they are looking to establish a Parent Portal; if there are parents interested in joining a group to discuss what they'd like to access (to reflect on what their child is learning in schools) via that Parent Portal, they can contact him • Superintendent Barrese noted that, at the last Board Meeting, appointments to SEAC were made; Derek Robertson did not seek re-election and is no longer on SEAC; Janet Barnes was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Board will no longer be on SEAC • She noted that Malinda Little and Kelley Robertson were the Board Trustee appointed to sit on SEAC; as well, Trustee Angela Richards was appointed as an alternate on SEAC • Chris King noted that Jean MacIntyre did not apply to be a Member-at-Large again, so she will be leaving SEAC; Jean served on SEAC for a number of years and was a keen supporter of exceptional pupils who will be missed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 15, 2022 in Room 269 (2nd Floor - Wallaceburg District Secondary School) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie Rich Moved, Lori Marvin Seconded '<i>That the meeting be adjourned</i>'; All in favour; the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. 	