

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, November 19, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. at The Clubhouse at Baldoon, Wallaceburg and Via MS Teams ~

Present:	Janet Barnes – Trustee (Acting Chair) Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters – In Person Sandra Pidduck – Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario – Via MS Teams Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent – Via MS Teams Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton – In Person Wendy Smith – Community Living, Wallaceburg – Via MS Teams Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative – Via MS Teams Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” – In Person	
Regrets:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Derek Robertson – Trustee	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education – In Person in Chatham Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education – In Person in Sarnia Angie Moule, Special Education Coordinator – In Person in Chatham Sheila Richardson, Special Education Coordinator – In Person in Sarnia Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association – In Person in Sarnia Lucy Rizzetto, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators’ Association – Via MS Teams Lori Gall, Recording Secretary – In Person	
Guest(s):	Lis Hoskins, LKDSB Attendance Officer – In Person Jeff Brosh, Elementary Resource Teacher – In Person Emily Colvin, Secondary Curriculum Leader at Northern Collegiate – In Person Derek Stenton, Secondary Principal at Alexander Mackenzie – In Person	
Members of the Public:	Alecia Atterbury – In Person	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose Gallaway called the meeting to order Jean MacIntyre Moved, Melani Rich Seconded “That the Agenda be approved”; All in favour 	
Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose Gallaway recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment 	
Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King Moved, Elizabeth Townsend Seconded, “<i>That the Minutes of October 15, 2020 be approved.</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Gall
Business Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no business arising from the October 15, 2020 Minutes 	
Presentation – Summer Project Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Barrese said Sandra Perkins, along with Derek Stenton, Principal at Alexander Mackenzie, and Emily Colvin a Resource Teacher at Northern Collegiate, would share information about summer semester programming Due to COVID-19 pandemic school closures, the Ministry provided approximately \$75,000 in one-time funding to offer six summer programs focused on mental health and helping students prepare to return to school Four social workers supported 72 secondary students in need of mental health supports, using a variety of methods/tools As well, 135 students participated in summer course programming; these students were supported by 22 Resource Teachers and 10 Educational Assistants; 3 credit programs were available: full credit; credit recovery; and an enhanced credit Derek Stenton spoke about the normal summer programs in contrast to those delivered, and highlighted the level of success achieved by students this summer; he shared a student video that highlighted the value of the additional supports available Emily Colvin said she supported 20 secondary students through the summer program; every student she supported was successful in receiving their credits She shared a student video highlighting the reasons why the program was beneficial, including the benefits of using a Jamboard 	

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Presentation – Summer Project Work (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins said normally students in the Transitions Program are able to participate in summer programming; due to COVID-19, the programming had to be delivered virtually so ECPP (formerly Section 23) Teachers developed mechanisms to support students over the summer months; as well, the summer program normally ends in July, so plans were put in place to support students through to mid-August • It was noted that another program was offered during the last 2 weeks of August to help both elementary and secondary students prepare to transition back to school and the classroom • Derek said the summer semester grew from approximately 900 students last year to 1,600 students this year; for those students to be successful, supports were made available to help special education students; the credit accumulation proves that having online connections helps • Chris King asked if there was any way to monitor the transition of people as they moved from summer semester to traditional learning?; Derek said it couldn't be monitored this year because it was a very busy and unusual summer with too many other factors involved • Chris King asked if the funding would be made available next summer, and whether a letter from SEAC could lend support to the need to continue funding programs like these?; Superintendent Barrese said it was intended to be one-time funding, but since the cost of the program was low it may be something that could be offered again and she believes administrators would encourage special education students to take summer programs if they knew additional resources/supports would be provided to help them to be successful • Chris King Moved, and Jean MacIntyre Seconded <i>“That a letter of support be prepared and directed to the Lambton Kent District School Board’s Trustees, seeking their support for ongoing funding to be made available.”</i>; All in favour • Due to time constraints, the entire presentation couldn't be shared so the remainder of the information will be presented at the December meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall
Presentation – Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario’s ‘Teacher Presentation’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Pidduck gave a brief overview of a presentation she provides to teachers/classes that explains what epilepsy is, and how to support a student that has a seizure, etc. • She said that in 2017 the classification of seizure types was expanded; the information about epilepsy is useful for teachers, especially information about the types of wide-ranging behaviours that may be exhibited by someone who experienced a seizure • If a teacher requests it, she is able to facilitate a more in-depth session on rescue medications • She said approximately half of the students she supports have other learning challenges which can then be exacerbated by seizures and she outlined some things educators can do to help students who experience seizures 	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter, dated September 28, 2020, from the Thames Valley District School Board, regarding the need for visually accessible PPE, was received • Angie Barrese said that, in the Spring, the Board tried to secure special masks that allow for visibility but that, when the U.S. stopped shipments of PPE, they weren't received; recently, the Ministry provided a limited number of specialized masks and members of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Team are distributing those; however, more of those types of masks are needed • It was noted that Northern Collegiate is trialing the use of AirPods that then connect to a translation/transcription App so the student is able to see closed-captioning text of what's being said; if this trial proves successful, this technology can be expanded to other deaf and/or hard-of-hearing students • No action was taken relative to the Thames Valley District School Board's letter 	
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Stokley said the Jonathan Daniel Stone Fund is available to Chatham-Kent students/families again this year; the funding is used to support children who have autism and/or other intellectual disabilities; funds can be utilized for things 	

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Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<p>like recreational activities, educational workshops, advocacy, vocation and life skills development, and assistive devices/equipment that promote and facilitate learning or communication; applications will be accepted to December 11, 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Pidduck said that she has been delivering presentations virtually; so far, she has completed 15 presentations, reaching 324 students; as well, she has delivered 7 teacher presentations that reached a total of 108 teachers • She noted that they are running a number of their programs virtually and they've also held some fundraisers virtually • Marty Passmore said it's a busy time because it's the quadmester change and schools are managing a new operating system for report cards, etc., but things are going well • Chris King said their quality assurance measures were recently reviewed and there was a focus on residential and safety protocols • He said they had a virtual AGM; he will share the AGM Report as others might find the information useful • Angie Moule said both the ABA and High Needs Teams have been determining the best way to support students who are learning virtually from home; the members of both teams are connecting with the virtual Teachers and EAs • She said it's hard to run the ASD Social Skills Program when students cannot socialize; in addition, students who are in an ALLP classrooms aren't allowed to connect with other students in the school, so virtual connections are being explored and a virtual holiday event will be held • Melani spoke about several events that have been held and said Autism Ontario's website's "Events" page can provide full information on upcoming events for those here (in the 'West' region); because events are being held virtually, it has increased the number of workshops and events that are accessible to those who are interested • She said their Service Navigation Coordinators are busy helping families determine what qualifies for funding in order to ensure the financial resources families have been given are not wasted • Elizabeth Townsend said they have recently had a switch and some students that were learning virtually have opted to return to in-school learning • She noted that her school recently had a COVID-19 case, and she appreciated the support the Board and Health Unit provided • Sheila Richardson said they are wrapping up transition meetings for students who entered school this year • She is already working on a Parent's Night for the September 2021 Preschool Intake Process; the Parent's Night will be held virtually and breakout rooms will be set up to allow for question and answer sessions; the event will be taped so those who cannot participate can view the information when it's convenient; she noted that some incoming students may attend a virtual school • She said there were 9 new Resource Teachers this year and they will continue to meet virtually to continue to receive training/information as the year goes on • Jeff Brosh said their team has been busy working on building a stronger communication network with schools via different platforms and streamlining their processes; they are working to support virtual classrooms and make virtual presentations to those learning in school as well • Rose Gallaway said they are working hard to support their clients; some staff are doing in-home visits while others support clients virtually; she said they're busy because of the mental health needs associated with learning from home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris King
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.; meeting location and details will be confirmed closer to the meeting date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. 	