

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, October 15, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. at The Clubhouse at Baldoon, Wallaceburg ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) – In Person Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) – Via Teleconference Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters – In Person Derek Robertson – Trustee – In Person Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent – Via Teleconference Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton – In Person Wendy Smith, Community Living, Wallaceburg – Via Teleconference Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent – Via Teleconference Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” – In Person Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative – Via Teleconference	
Regrets:	Sandra Pidduck, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Elizabeth Townsend, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators’ Association	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education – In Person Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education – In Person Adam Davis, Special Education Coordinator – In Person Tara Mitchell, Special Education Coordinator – In Person Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association – In Person Lori Gall, Recording Secretary – In Person	
Guest(s):	Jeff Brosh, Elementary Resource Teacher – 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 Chris King Moved, Melani Rich Seconded “That the October 15, 2020 Agenda be approved”; All in favour 	
Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment 	
Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King Moved, Melani Rich Seconded “That the Minutes of September 17, 2020 be approved”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no business arising from the Minutes of September 17, 2020 	
Presentation – FM System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Rivait of the Hearing Team provided an overview of the FM systems that are used throughout the Board’s schools; she noted that an FM system is in every school and that some schools have many systems, depending on student need She spoke about a few of the system’s features, including the one that allows Teacher to have ‘voice priority’ so that no matter what is being broadcast through the FM system, if the teacher needs to speak, they can be heard She said FM systems benefit both students and teachers, and not just individuals with a hearing deficit; Sandra Perkins said the Board works to ensure that staff know all of the benefits to these systems and concurred that while it’s necessary for some to use the system, it’s beneficial for all who are able to use the system Cheryl concluded by saying that the Board’s web portal provides videos and information for teachers to access on the effective use of FM systems There were no questions 	
Presentation – MS Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Barrese said that we’ll be utilizing Microsoft Teams for future meetings and she invited Adam Davis and Tara Mitchell to provide an overview of MS Teams Adam and Tara noted that the MS Teams app is free, secure and easy to use; they walked through the process for how to use Teams for the first time; they noted that the ability to choose a pre-determined background allows participants to keep their physical surroundings private They noted that Teams can be accessed on a laptop/desktop computer, iPad, iPhone and/or other android devices 	

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Presentation – MS Teams (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie Barrese said information can be shared live, can be viewed after the meeting has ended, and noted that information can even be added post-meeting • While meetings can be recorded, everyone involved in the meeting has to be made aware that the meeting is being recorded; meetings that contain confidential/identifying information should <u>not</u> be recorded; recording is a great option when the meeting involves professional development information/training • Adam and Tara noted that closed-captioning can be turned on by those that need/would prefer that • Jean MacIntyre asked if Teams is used in classrooms?; Angie Barrese said students use a Google platform, SeeSaw, or a program called D2L, depending on grade level; she noted that each platform has similar features to MS Teams • Lori Gall will create a SEAC Team for the November meeting; individuals who are not members of SEAC but attend meetings as guests will be provided with a link so they can access the meeting(s) each month 	
Special Education Information (2020-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie Barrese highlighted the ‘Special Education Department Responsibilities’ for 2020-2021 noting that not much has changed since last year; she reminded the members that Chris Moore, the System Coordinator of the Multi-Disciplinary Team, has been seconded to be the Principal of the elementary virtual school; she also noted that Katie Colameco now supervises 8 full-time social workers who support secondary students; Angie also noted that the department’s staff often work with the System Coordinator of Safe Schools • Chris King suggested providing a sheet of acronyms regarding Committees that staff are involved in; this information will be provided at the next meeting • Chris about the number of staff and students each Coordinator is responsible for?; Angie Barrese shared information regarding the way assignments are reviewed annually to ensure duties are distributed equitably, and to ensure the department is able to build capacity across the team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spec. Ed. Team
LKDSB 2019-2020 Accessibility Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins stated that the Accessibility Report is prepared annually and noted that, last year, a member had asked for facility information from the Building Department so, this year, that information was incorporated into the Report • She highlighted the barriers to supports/education and noted that, given this year’s circumstances, that information formed a large part of this year’s report • Last year Sandra reported that the accessibility group hadn’t been meeting very often, but she said that they are meeting more frequently this year • Jean MacIntyre asked if COVID-19 created any new barriers?; Sandra said there may be new barriers or an increased emphasis on pre-existing barriers (such as problems with WIFI/internet access); masks and PPE are creating some barriers • Derek Robertson Moved, Chris King Seconded <i>“That the Special Education Advisory Committee pass a Motion to approve the Lambton-Kent District School Board’s September 2019 – August 2020 Accessibility Report”</i>; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori
Memo to SEAC re: 2019-2020 Special Equipment Amount Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins highlighted the memo regarding the 2019-2020 SEA funding; in response to a question she noted that, when equipment becomes worn out, obsolete or damaged, a new claim would need to be submitted for the student • Chris King asked what happens with equipment that’s no longer needed?; Sandra said there is a list of available equipment that can be utilized; she said all the equipment is now kept in a central location and that someone checked everything over to determine if it was safe/useful; if it’s unsafe, it would be destroyed but if it’s just that it’s no longer needed, it would be auctioned off • Chris asked if equipment can be given to a student once they graduate (i.e. a stander that’s altered to fit a particular student)?; Angie Barrese said the family could be provided with an opportunity to purchase the equipment • Chris said that, when equipment is going up for auction, it would be good to know; Angie said the information will be shared with SEAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spec. Ed. Team

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Exceptional Students Suspended, By Exceptionality (2015-2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie Barrese noted that the reduction in out-of-school suspensions is a result of the remote learning that took place during the school closure due to COVID-19 • The ratio of exceptional vs. non-exceptional student suspensions was shared; she noted that our suspension numbers are lower than those of other Boards • Angie said the Executive Team is reviewing new legislation recently released regarding the suspension of students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 and this may necessitate changes in process • It was noted that the Board's Strategic Priority relative to anti-oppression might help to increase awareness and understanding which can then, in turn, help to remove the root cause for some of the suspensions that are issued 	
Summary of SEAC's 2020-2021 Priority-Setting Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie Barrese noted there had been excellent ideas put forward by the memberships, she said staff then looked for common themes in order to develop the list of presentations to be made in 2020-2021 • As always, if additional information is required, please let Lori Gall know 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Association Reports and Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marty Passmore said he's impressed with how resilient staff and students are and noted that students really seem to like the quadmester system; he feels that students that struggle with transitions find the quadmester system easier • Chris King said they've had to be creative with their programs and their service delivery; there is still limited access to day program but both their respite service support and their JobStart program have started back up; it was noted that they now have a storefront on Exmouth Street; he said that, with congregant settings, they've been able to accommodate parent visits and/or the chance for clients to visit their parent's home for the first time in a long time and that's been great • Julia MacKellar said October is <i>Learning Disabilities Awareness Month</i> and she spoke about a t-shirt fundraiser they're doing; Lori will share the link; as well, Julia said the info. can be found on their Facebook page • Wendy Smith said that, unfortunately, they had to cancel their Boxed Lunch Fundraiser due to COVID-19 • Steve Stokley said they're still offering essential services only; respite is open, but with reduced hours • Rose Gallaway said they're open, but they're limiting face-to-face visits while being creative in trying to provide support to as many clients as they can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 19, 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 7:40 p.m. 	