

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
~ Thursday, September 16, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. via MS Teams~

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| Present: | Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Derek Robertson – Trustee Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Sandra Pidduck, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Norma Hills for Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” | |
| Regrets | Wendy Smith, Community Living, Wallaceburg Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative | |
| Resource Staff: | Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Chris Moore, System Coordinator of Multidisciplinary Teams Tara Mitchell, Special Education Coordinator Heather Touzin, Special Education Coordinator, Secondary Jeff Brosh, Special Education Coordinator Elizabeth Townsend, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Lori Gall, Recording Secretary | |
| Guest(s): | Elisabeth Hoskins, LKDSB Attendance Officer | |
| 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 Sandra Pidduck Moved, Janet Barnes Seconded that the 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 June 10, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Stokley Moved, Janet Barnes Seconded “That the Minutes of June 10, 2021 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 June 10, 2021 | |
| SEAC Book Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Barrese noted several SEAC members had expressed interest in forming a Book Club; it’s not too late to join, let Lori know if you’re interested The Club will read ‘21 Things You Didn’t Know About the Indian Act’ to learn about (and understand the ongoing impact of) colonization Lori will send a message next week regarding which chapters Angie would like the members to read to be prepared to discuss what they learned; the Book Club will be held on the same day as the monthly SEAC Meetings and will begin at 5:00 p.m. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Lori |
| 2021-2022 Priority-Setting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were given a Google Feedback Form regarding information/presentations they’d like to receive throughout the 2021-2022 school year; input will be compiled and presented at the October SEAC Meeting If members would like to make a presentation regarding their agency and its work, they are welcome to submit that information to Lori | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori/Angie/Sandra/Chris All |
| Correspondence | <p>1) Letter, dated March 30, 2021, from the Algoma District School Board regarding Online Learning and Universal Design for Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose Gallaway commented on the Board’s online learning supports and its success ensuring all students were able to learn virtually Superintendent Barrese reported increased enrollment for both elementary and secondary in-person learning, and a corresponding reduction in students choosing to learn online; she noted that every teacher maintains a Google Classroom in the case they need to pivot from in-school learning to virtual learning | |

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| Correspondence (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese suggested that a presentation illustrating the professional growth of LKDSB teaching staff, as a result of having to suddenly pivot to teaching online, would provide insight into how creativity, perseverance, and developing back-up plans, have become the new norm <p>2) Letter, dated June 16, 2021, from the Halton Catholic District School Board regarding Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese said staff from Pathways and Chatham-Kent Children’s Treatment Centre work collaboratively to provide support to classroom teachers who have students with FASD in their classroom • Sandra Perkins said it may be beneficial to invite one or both agencies to make a presentation to the members regarding the supports available <p>3) Letter, dated June 22, 2021, from the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board regarding multiple funding-related requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion about available funding sources; no action was taken <p>4) Correspondence from Michael Jacques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie spoke to a communication from Michael Jacques; she said he’s an excellent speaker and she wonders if SEAC might like to hear from him?; she will investigate the costs associated with him making a presentation to SEAC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie/ Sandra/Chris • Angie/ Sandra/Chris • Angie/Lori |
| Association Reports and Other Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norma Hills reported that it has been a challenging time for Community Living Sarnia-Lambton, especially for those residing in a Group Home; there has been a significant amount of rules/legislation which continue to evolve • They delivered programming virtually where possible and were able to deliver some scaled-back in-person programming, such as a Summer Camp and their Job Program • Some programs, such as the Passport Program, have seen increased interest but have been difficult to deliver because of closures due to the pandemic • Norma said individuals they support can access funding for devices and/or connectivity, so their staff have been assisting in that process • Melani Rich said Autism Ontario is still offering programming/webinars (directed at caregivers, youth and families(virtually; most are accessible to anyone throughout the province, and information can be found on the agency’s website • Locally, they’ve also been provided with hands-on activity/craft kits which are fun • Jeff Brosh noted that students that he supported through the Transition Program in August have had a great start to the school-year • Tomorrow he’ll provide training to individuals new to the Resource Teacher role • Marty Passmore said it’s clear that staff and students are happy to be back to in-person learning and he has noticed there seems to be a greater appreciation for the work that teachers, EAs, custodians, etc. do • Julia MacKellar said they can access their site at C.K.S.S. but cannot deliver programming because of construction and things happening within the school, so they’re temporarily operating out of the Chatham-Kent United Way site • While they can adapt their program delivery to be available online, it’s much more beneficial for students, especially younger students, to learn in person • They need volunteers (in Grade 11+) to help them support program registrants; she thinks the need for volunteers to be vaccinated may be creating a barrier • Sandra Pidduck said they’re delivering information and support to youth and families • They offer teacher presentations online and have some excellent resources available • Their RibFest fundraiser was very successful so they’re planning to hold another event next year • She said that they tried to deliver content online over the summer, but engagement was low; she thinks people were ‘done’ with screens and just needed to detach • Epilepsy SWO is doing some strategic planning, and looking at how to operate in this ‘new normal’ | |

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| <p>Association Reports and Other Business (continued)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tara Mitchell said it has been a very busy start-up; she has a new group of schools this year and has been visiting elementary classrooms, including ALLP classrooms • Heather Touzin said it's been good to get into the secondary ALLP classes; local partners are helping students with complex needs as they return to school • Liz Townsend said it has been busy and noted that they have even been able to offer cross-country meets; everyone is hoping schools can remain open • She said the Summer Transition program was a huge help in allowing staff to connect with students in order to help them get ready to return to in-person learning • Steve Stokley said Community Living Chatham-Kent also experienced trying times because of all of the Ministry rules/regulations and the reduction in family members being able to visit • Their agency's day programs are still closed, and they've pivoted to having staff go to the clients' homes to provide programming and support • Their summer program ran with 12 students; they hoped to make it an employment-based program, but only 6 students obtained placements due to closures and/or employers wanting to limit the number of people in their facilities due to COVID • They're also experiencing challenges with their Passport Program due to limited opportunities; staff have tried to get together with clients for walks, etc. • Chris Moore said he's pleased to be back in the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) role; he reported that meetings will be taking place with all schools next week; the MDT focused on 'the first 10 days back' and will use the information gathered to re-visit the Board's 2019 Climate Survey to ensure schools are welcoming and that students feel connected to a caring adult • The MDT members are particularly focused on students/families who've been disadvantaged (because of historical issues and/or the pandemic – this includes technology) and staff are trying to re-connect with them • Lis Hoskins wondered about an in-service for parents/grandparents to help them learn about using technology?; Sandra Perkins noted that, in that past, the MDT has provided families with tools and strategies that have been helpful; Chris Moore noted that every setup/situation is different, so they need to investigate what the problem is, for instance, in some communities Wi-Fi is a problem and they had to delve into each situation to find a resolution; they have offered basic sessions on how to turn an iPad on, etc.; MDT members have provided paper packages where online connectivity/learning was initially problematic to bridge the gap until technology was in place • Jean MacIntyre said she hopes that the new normal continues and she's grateful that everyone is doing everything they can to make the best of a bad situation • Derek Robertson said that he's enjoyed listening to the roundtable and is pleased to hear all of the excitement of a new school year • Sandra Perkins said they ran the Summer Learning Program for traditional self-contained classrooms; this year they offered some face-to-face sessions at Rebound; the morning focused on learning while afternoons were focused on treatment, and Fridays were more of a 'fun day' • Superintendent Barrese reported staff have been welcoming students back and she has observed staff and students getting into a rhythm and experiencing joy because schools are open again • Rose Gallaway had a number of clients who transitioned from Grade 8 to 9 this year and she found that staff in high schools were excellent at providing school tours and answering parents' questions, which goes a long way to making the incoming students feel welcome | |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., meeting location and details will be confirmed closer to the meeting date | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All |
| <p>Adjournment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. | |