

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

~ Thursday, January 17, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes – Trustee Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Sandra Pidduck, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Dawn Cartier – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision	
Regrets:	Jean McIntyre – Member “at large” Sherry Nelson, Autism Ontario - Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Derek Robertson - Trustee	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Angie Moule, Special Education Coordinator Heather Touzin, Special Education Coordinator – Secondary Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guest(s):	Lis Hoskins, LKDSB Attendance Officer Jessica Constancio, Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Amber Arnold, Pathways Health Centre for Children	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rose called the meeting to order and shared the regrets submitted for the meeting</li> <li>Chris King moved, Sandra Pidduck seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour</li> </ul>	
Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rose recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris King Moved, Steve Stokley Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of December 13, 2018 be approved</i>”; All in favour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lori</li> </ul>
Business Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no business arising from the Minutes of December 13, 2018</li> <li>It was noted that the letter that was to be drafted (to be sent to the Ministry of Education) is listed in the ‘Correspondence’ section of the meeting</li> </ul>	
Presentation – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angie Barrese introduced Jessica Constancio of the Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent and Amber Arnold of Pathways Health Centre for Children, as the region’s new Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Coordinators</li> <li>The Coordinators said they are building capacity by making presentations to community agencies; the presentation is normally 1-1/2 hours; tonight’s presentation has been truncated</li> <li>They began by stating that a diagnosis is not required to access the FASD program</li> <li>Myths of FASD were outlined and they noted that only 10% of individuals have facial features, it is mainly an invisible disability</li> <li>Alcohol impacts every part of the fetus’s brain and body and results in cell death</li> <li>Approximately 50% of all pregnancies are unplanned which means the Mother could be consuming alcohol without realizing the impact it’s having on a fetus</li> <li>Jessica outlined the Canadian guidelines for a diagnosis of FASD and spoke about the disorder’s primary and secondary characteristics as well as the challenges that exist for those living with FASD</li> <li>If the disorder’s primary and secondary characteristics are not addressed then situations, including: trouble holding a job, trouble with the law, homelessness, etc. may occur</li> <li>Core values for supporting individuals with FASD were discussed, including issues around placement stability</li> </ul>	

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Presentation – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas for accommodating the individual’s needs, by modifying their environment, were discussed</li> <li>• Developmental dysmaturity was outlined; individuals with FASD are normally about 10 – 14 years behind their peers of the same age when it comes to maturity</li> <li>• The differences between interdependence versus useful dependence were discussed</li> <li>• The need for providing ‘thinking free’ days for those with FASD was highlighted</li> <li>• Common traits/strengths of those with FASD were noted, including: being energetic, visual, artistic, curious, creative, friendly, helpful, good with animals and young children, etc.</li> <li>• Amber shared details about some events that are coming up soon for those wishing to learn more about FASD; a flyer will be emailed to the Committee members</li> <li>• Dawn noted the difficulty that would exist in getting an accurate diagnosis for someone with FASD, since many of the symptoms are like those that individuals with a learning disability exhibit</li> <li>• Chris King asked about parent support groups; Amber said Pathways has a parent support group, but it’s not specific to FASD; Jessica said they’re going to be setting up ‘Coffee and Conversation’ sessions in Chatham-Kent, as well, it was noted there is a FASD Network/Committee in Chatham-Kent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
Presentation – Mental Health Supports for Students with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Moore introduced Katie Colameco, the Board’s new Mental Health Leader, to make a presentation on mental health supports available to students</li> <li>• Marie Anger and Ann Pharazyn are members of the department’s Multi-Disciplinary Team and they joined Katie in making the presentation</li> <li>• Katie explained that the Everyday Mental Health (EMH) project began a few years ago with the resources being developed after receiving input from Ontario educators; the EMH modules/practices (found at: <a href="https://smh-assist.ca/emhc/">https://smh-assist.ca/emhc/</a>) were created for elementary students and are brief, low cost (or no cost), and easy to explain</li> <li>• The modules help to reduce the stigma around mental health so that all students know they’re in a safe and supporting environment and will reach out when they need help</li> <li>• Chris said the exercises are evidence and research-based and very safe to use; if teachers see a student is still struggling (after they’ve employed some of these exercises), the teacher can call in a mental health worker</li> <li>• Katie noted that students must be mentally healthy to be able to learn properly</li> <li>• Members participated in a ‘cup-stack challenge’ to experience an activity that allows students to have some fun while working cooperatively with their peers and, at the same time, easing any stress they may be experiencing in a fun way</li> <li>• Angie Barrese said she is very proud that the LKDSB was a part of the Pilot Project and she is pleased that this resource has turned out to be such an excellent one</li> <li>• Angie said the information about the resources that are available was recently presented to all the Multi-Disciplinary Teams in the schools and it was felt that the EMH Program provides easy-to-use resources that will help educators provide students with learning/coping skills</li> <li>• The Province has now provided funding to be able to create resources for secondary students</li> <li>• One of the gaps in ensuring mental health for students is with parents, this resource allows that gap to be filled</li> </ul>	
October 31, 2018 Exceptional Pupil Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angie Barrese presented the October 31, 2018 information outlining the number of exceptional students within the Board, by exceptionality</li> <li>• She reminded the members that exceptional students are those formally identified by an IPRC</li> </ul>	

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October 31, 2018 Exceptional Pupil Numbers (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dawn Cartier asked about whether the number of exceptionalities are increasing; Chris King was wondering the same thing and asked for data that shows trends (i.e. 5 years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angie/Lori</li> </ul>
Summary of Special Education Plan Items for Review During 2018-2019 School Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra discussed the process for reviewing the Special Education Plan; she said that while a lot of updates were made last year, the Special Education Team is doing an even deeper dive and looking at all the aspects of the Plan and therefore there may, again, be several updates that are made to the Plan</li> </ul>	
Special Education Items for Review in January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra outlined the January changes being proposed</li> <li>• Relative to feedback on the Plan, she noted that a hotlink has been placed on the Board's website; any information submitted is being reviewed monthly</li> <li>• Sandra said that in the Section 4.0 there was a change in process relative to those with moderate needs versus high needs; this will allow the school to build relationships with families within a school setting</li> <li>• The Committee agreed with the amendments recommended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angie Barrese spoke about the letter to the MoE that had been drafted in response to Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board's Letter</li> <li>• Chris King Moved and Janet Barnes Seconded <i>"That the letter be approved and disseminated"</i>; <i>All in favour</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra Pidduck said that she's currently doing a lot of presentations; she noted that March is 'Epilepsy Awareness Month' and their organization will be having a door decorating campaign; as well, Purple Pansy in Chatham will be helping with their purple tulip campaign</li> <li>• Angie Moule said that the High Needs/Autism Team will be delivering ABA training to ALLP classroom Teachers and Resource Teachers, as well as to the Board's CTCC Teachers</li> <li>• Heather Touzin said the Grade 8 – 9 IPRC process is under way; as well, Grade 9 Parent Nights are coming up</li> <li>• Chris King said they've been consolidating part-time positions and have created 6 new full-time positions; their organization currently has 210 (part-time and full-time) employees; they are hosting a ladies' volleyball tournament</li> <li>• He also reported that funding was received for Norma Hills position, however, they did not get funding for their summer program</li> <li>• Dawn Cartier said they're taking registrations for their Winter/Spring programs: SOAR, social skills, etc.; she announced that she will be leaving LDACK in March, so there is currently a posting open for an Executive Director for the agency; LDACK is organizing a trivia night for a fundraiser</li> <li>• Marty Passmore said the secondary staff and students are getting ready for exams; he said more than 500 students from various districts will be attending AMSS on January 29<sup>th</sup> to learn about their school's programs and services</li> <li>• Janet Barnes said she's impressed with things she's learning about the various programs and services in place</li> <li>• Sandra Perkins spoke about the additional Trauma Training that is being planned (since the first session was over-subscribed); selected Spec. Ed. staff are participating in a training session about anxiety, so they can better support students in the classroom if they are anxious</li> <li>• Angie Barrese said Senior Administration is starting to focus on September; she said that numbers look good and there may even be some additional classes that need to be added</li> <li>• Rose Gallaway informed the members of SEAC that this meeting is Janet Vanderwerf's last as she did not re-apply to be a Committee Member; Rose thanked Janet for her years of dedication and service to SEAC; it was noted that she'll be missed</li> </ul>	

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Change of Date for June 2019 Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angie explained that, due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting date for June would need to be changed -- June 6, 2019 is being proposed; a show of hands revealed that the members were okay with the meeting being moved to June 6</li> <li>• Angie added that it would also be helpful for the students being invited to make a presentation earlier in June, since it's not so close to exams; the members applauded Janet's contributions to SEAC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.</li> </ul>	