

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, March 21, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

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| Present: | Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Wendy Smith – Community Living, Wallaceburg Dawn Cartier – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Jean McIntyre – “Member At Large” | |
| Regrets: | Sherry Nelson, Autism Ontario - Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Derek Robertson - Trustee Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative | |
| Resource Staff: | Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Jayson Campeau, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Angie Moule, Special Education Coordinator – Elementary Heather Touzin, Special Education Coordinator – Secondary Lori Gall, Recording Secretary | |
| Guests: | Al Hendry, Service Navigator, Developmental Services Ontario Melanie Coll, Supervisor – Family & Transition Support Services, Pathways Health Centre for Children Heather Osler, Lifelong Learning Program Coordinator, Pathways Health Centre for Children | |
| 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 Because there were new members and guests in attendance, everyone introduced themselves Dawn Cartier Moved, Sandra Pidduck Seconded <i>“That the Agenda be approved”</i>; All in favour | |
| Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment | |
| Election of 2019 SEAC Chair and Vice-Chair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that, according to the LKDSB SEAC procedure, either the Chair or Vice-Chair of SEAC must be a Trustee; Janet Barnes informed the membership that she and Trustee Robertson had discussed the Vice-Chair role and they agreed that she would act as the Vice-Chair to SEAC Janet Barnes Moved; Steve Stokely Seconded that <i>“Rose Gallaway be nominated as the Chair of SEAC for the 2019-2020 school year”</i>; there were no further nominations, so a vote was held; All were in favour of Trustee Barnes being the Vice-Chair and Rose Gallaway maintaining the position of Chair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori |
| Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King noted that Community Living Sarnia-Lambton has 210 staff members that are part-time or full-time, but the Minutes indicate that the staff are all part-time; Lori Gall will make the correction Chris King Moved, Trustee Barnes Seconded <i>“That the Minutes of January 17, 2019 be approved, as amended.”</i>; All in favour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Lori |
| Business Arising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no business arising from the Minutes of January 17, 2019 | |
| Presentation – DSO: An Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Touzin introduced Al Hendry of Developmental Services Ontario to make a presentation entitled <i>“Planning for Success”</i> Al said that DSO’s were put in place in July 2011 to ensure equity across the Province; there are 9 regions and one office is in each region; he covers the South West region DSO’s primary functions are: provide information; confirm eligibility; assess support needs; and, link people to services and supports | |

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| Presentation – DSO: An Overview (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A developmental disability is defined as a person with “the prescribed significant limitation in cognitive functioning and adaptive functioning, and those limitations: originated before the person turned 18 years of age; are likely to be lifelong in nature; and, affect areas of major life activity such as personal care, language skills, learning disabilities, and the capacity to live independently as an adult” • Mr. Hendry outlined the process for applying for adult developmental services and noted that the parent/guardian should contact the DSO office when the individual turns 17.5 years of age; as well, he spoke about the assessment process • He stated that one common misconception is that the DSO and ODSP are linked but they are not, and have nothing to do with one another • Chris King asked what happens when a client’s needs change over time?; Mr. Hendry said any time there are changes to needs/supports that are in place, the DSO Assessor must be contacted to re-evaluate • Sandra Pidduck asked why 72 is the drop-off age for support?; Mr. Hendry said that it’s probably because of other government funding sources that may kick in or change in and around that age • Mr. Hendry said that, for the SIS-A Assessment, a hypothetical question regarding “what supports would be required to be in place for the individual to work a 40-hour work-week” must be answered • Angie Barrese asked how and when information about the DSO program is shared with parents?; Heather Touzin said she’s working with the coterminous Board to put new initiatives in place so that, when students turn 16, those involved with the student’s care/support will be invited to a special IPRC Meeting in the Spring that is <i>also</i> a transition meeting, and a conversation about DSO can be brought up at that time; and consents could be signed, if necessary • Chris King asked if this presentation could be made to teachers?; Mr. Hendry said he’ll make a presentation to anyone that is interested in receiving the information • Steve Stokely spoke about issues they’re encountering, where families were not aware of the program and therefore they miss out on several years of funding/support • Dawn Cartier questions whether IPRC meetings are well attended?; Heather said if the Board ensures parents understand that this meeting is very important and explain why, it might ensure they attend • Sandra Perkins thanked Mr. Hendry and noted that a concrete plan for information on transitions/pathways will be shared with families | |
| Presentation – Transitions: Connections Between Pathways Health Centre for Children and the LKDSB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Touzin introduced Melanie Coll and Heather Osler of Pathways Health Center for Children to speak about their agency’s “Lifelong Learning Program” • Heather Osler said that they are a children’s treatment centre, so, offering this program for older adults was quite a shift in their program offerings • She noted that the program is not funded by the government, but participants <i>can</i> use passport dollars if they want to take part • The program runs Tuesdays and Wednesdays and was created to offer opportunities for young people to stay connected to their communities, develop new friendships and learn new skills • The program has a 5:1 participant to staff ratio and allows participants to volunteer at several locations in the community; the opportunities help the participants to: build life skills; enjoy social interaction; learn about money management and some light building/construction, and participate in other educational opportunities | |

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| Presentation – Transitions: Connections Between Pathways Health Centre for Children and the LKDSB (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King asked about the program being 2 days a week and Melanie Coll said it started as a pilot program to determine need; they may add another day for individuals with more complex needs; they need to have 16 participants a day to make it worthwhile It was noted that some students may start to participate in the program one day a week while they're still in school to help them transition, when the time comes for them to leave school Chris King asked about the age range?; Melanie Coll said it's currently 18 – 35 years but noted that they may expand the age range if there is a need Chris asked if they're finding that they bump into other agencies?; Melanie said that they aren't, because they try to offer something a bit different to help fill gaps between existing services | |
| Association Presentation: Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandra Pidduck is an educator for the southwest region, and noted that March is Epilepsy Awareness Month She made a brief presentation that outlined the different kinds of seizures and spoke about what their organization does to provide education and increase awareness about what epilepsy and seizure disorder is – in order to enhance the lives of people affected, while working to reduce the stigma and discrimination that individuals and families who are impacted must face 'Clinic to Community' is a referral program that provides free services to clients and helps to provide strategies that help families cope with the unpredictability of when the next seizure will take place 1.6 individuals out of every 100 people in Chatham-Kent have epilepsy, which is higher than the average of 1.0 out of every 100 in the rest of the Province Sandra closed her presentation by identifying some famous people that have epilepsy or seizure disorder in order to show that those impacted can lead normal, healthy and fulfilling lives | |
| Special Education Report Items for Review in February and March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandra Perkins and Angie Barrese spoke about the process that they go through with the Special Education Coordinators each month to review the sections and related appendices of the Annual Plan to ensure everything's up to date; in some instances, no changes are required while other times some minor changes are required and, other times, parts of the Plan need to be modified significantly, deleted and/or replaced Because February's SEAC Meeting was cancelled, those items were carried over Relative to Section 2.5, Dawn Cartier asked if the Board has the ability to provide a diagnosis, not just conduct testing?; Angie Barrese said that, because Christine Davenport is the Board's Manager of Psychological Services and has the appropriate designations, there are additional sub-tests that can be conducted and that may result in a diagnosis being made Dawn asked what happens when outside testing is conducted?; Angie said Christine Davenport may contact the person who conducted the testing to speak to them about the diagnosis and/or the assessment is reviewed to ensure it meets Ministry of Education criteria for identification Dawn asked about the categories of exceptionalities and, specifically, ADHD?; Angie Barrese will look into this The Committee approved the amendments being recommended for both February and March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angie Lori |
| LKDSB September 2017 – August 2018 Annual Accessibility Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angie spoke about how the Board is ensuring that the facilities are accessible Chris King Moved, Sandra Pidduck Seconded that "The LKDSB September 2017 – August 2018 Annual Accessibility Report be received and approved by the Special Education Advisory Committee"; All in Favour Chris King asked about the priority of reviewing items?; Angie Barrese noted that the Accessibility Report, in its entirety, must be reviewed annually | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori |

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| 5-Year Overview of Exceptional Pupil Numbers, By Exceptionality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item was deferred to the April meeting | |
| Program Reviews to be Conducted in the Spring of 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item was deferred to the April meeting | |
| Correspondence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence was received from both the Peel District School Board and the Durham District School Board regarding special education Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding A letter, from PAAC on SEAC and addressed to Minister Thompson, was shared with SEAC A letter from OPSBA, addressed to Minister Thompson, regarding the Ontario Autism Program was shared The letters were all received, but there was no action taken | |
| Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Barnes noted that a new Director of Education, Mr. John Howitt was named and noted that he will begin in August 2019 Sandra Pidduck said she has been busy doing presentations during Epilepsy Awareness Month, and was pleased to have had a strong response to their 'Purple Door' campaign Dawn Cartier said that Julia MacKellar was selected as the agency's new Executive Director; she noted that their SOAR Program did not run due to low enrolment Wendy Smith said that Community Living Wallaceburg is offering a Boxed Lunch Event on April 11th Chris King said part of their strategic plan was to have a vehicle in every driveway (for properties owned by their organization); they've just purchased two more vehicles which helps to ensure that those that they support can travel He mentioned that they raised \$6,000 through their volleyball tournament; it is a great event because it helps them to raise awareness at the same time Heather said IPRCs are still being conducted; she also noted that the Options Program will be expanding into the north but, since Lambton College wasn't able to host the program, details are still being worked out Angie Moule said that she's been very busy as a result of the changes taking place with autism funding; she said she attended a regional meeting today and the Board is committed to help ensure that our families are supported Angie Barrese spoke about the MDT meetings that have been taking place, and the presentations staff have been making about all of the good work they're doing; she said it's truly inspirational She also noted that social workers are being hired to work in our high schools; there will be up to 8 social workers in place once everyone has been hired Rose Gallaway said that Todd McKelvie is retiring as a Director but noted that Julie Carter, from C.A.S., will be filling the vacancy | |
| Next Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All |
| Adjournment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. | |