

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

~ Thursday, December 12, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. at The Clubhouse at Baldoon, Wallaceburg ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway, St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes, Trustee (Vice-Chair) Derek Robertson, Trustee Chris King, Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Sherry Nelson, Autism Ontario (Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters) Julia MacKellar, Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Jean MacIntyre, "Member At Large" Sandra Pidduck – Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Vicki Ware, First Nations Representative	
Regrets:	Lori Gall, Recording Secretary Chris Moore, System Coordinator of Multi-Disciplinary Teams Wendy Smith, Community Living, Wallaceburg Steve Stokley, Community Living, Chatham-Kent	
Resource Staff:	Elizabeth Townsend, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators' Association Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Jayson Campeau, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators' Association	
Guest(s):	Lis Hoskins, LKDSB Attendance Officer Kent Orr, General Manager of CLASS Shared School Services Patty Authier, Transportation Coordinator of CLASS Shared Services	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rose Gallaway called the meeting to order</li> <li>Chris King Moved, Sandra Pidduck Seconded <i>"That the Agenda be approved"</i></li> </ul>	
Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janet Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jean MacIntyre Moved, Chris King Seconded <i>"That the Minutes of November 21, 2019 be approved"</i>; All in favour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lori Gall</li> </ul>
Presentation – CLASS Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent Orr, General Manager of CLASS Shared School Services, and Patty Authier, Transportation Coordinator – CLASS, were introduced</li> <li>It was noted that CLASS came about when the Public and Catholic Boards began coordinating to deliver services together back in the 80's and a formal agreement was entered into in 1999; in 2006/2007 CLASS Shared School Services was incorporated as a not-for-profit entity</li> <li>CLASS delivers transportation services as well as being responsible for community use of school-owned facilities, childcare service delivery, and management of the Board's energy and environmental needs</li> <li>CLASS supports special education students with: specialized vehicles; equipment and person support accommodations; additional securement equipment and/or services, as required</li> <li>There are 293 vehicles ranging from mini accessible busses to full-sized busses; special needs busses are not subsidized as a supplemental funding stream, instead, these costs are covered by finding overall efficiencies</li> <li>There is one full-sized accessible bus; a van must be used if a harness is required; only small busses come with seatbelts and they cannot be modified</li> <li>An individual student transport plan (ISTP) allows for the sharing of medical information so that the safety of students can be assured when travelling to/from school by bus</li> <li>The safety of students is paramount and information regarding bus training and other safety-related supports were discussed</li> <li>Parents are able to create a Parent Portal account in order to access their children's transportation information and see any updates regarding service</li> </ul>	

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Presentation – CLASS Services (continued)	<p>delivery; the MySBI App provides parents with real-time notifications regarding bus delays and weather cancellations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siblings can ride with a special needs student if requested by the parent(s); as well, staff accommodate schedules for a students’ modified/shortened day</li> <li>• Drivers must have a Class “C” license and receive supplemental training</li> <li>• Safety programs include GPS in the busses, video cameras, a child-check program, strobe lights on the busses, bus tags and the use of medical tags</li> <li>• A CAS grant ensures that children in care are able to be transported to their home school</li> <li>• There was a discussion regarding seatbelts in busses and Kent said that that’s currently being explored but considerations include: operational realities, evacuation realities and the need to retrofit busses, etc.</li> <li>• RFID scanning is being used in Alberta and we’re getting closer to that reality in terms of technological capabilities</li> <li>• As far as maximum run times, the goal is no more than 70 minutes for elementary-aged students, with the average ride for secondary students being in the low mid-20’s due to geographic distance from the high schools</li> <li>• For special education students the department looks to ensure consistency of runs as a standard practice</li> <li>• There was discussion about subsidies and equity of access when there are multiple requirements</li> <li>• Regarding a question about whether there is pressure to maintain a compliment of drivers it was noted that CLASS is a third-party entity and the drivers of special needs busses often volunteer; a story was shared about a driver who turned down a higher-paying route to continue to support a student who “doesn’t do well” if she isn’t there and has committed to remaining with that student until they finish</li> </ul>	
Presentation – Special Education Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jayson Campeau recently attended professional development sessions on Human Rights in Special Education, and Managing Violent Behaviour</li> <li>• Most cases that go to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario (HRTO) have to do with the duty to accommodate students with special needs and/or students with autism and what is in the student’s best interest</li> <li>• The claim of discrimination in education can be raised under the “area of services” because the Human Rights Code guarantees the right to equal treatment in education without discrimination when it comes to service delivery</li> <li>• School Boards have a duty to reasonably accommodate disability-related needs, to the point of ‘undue hardship’ to ensure the student involved was provided with a meaningful access to education</li> <li>• To avoid proceedings school boards should ensure: they have a global picture regarding the matter; they have documentation; they can prove they’ve tried to be fair; and they’ve focused on raison d’être to ensure the student is at the beginning, centre and end of what they do to support their educational needs</li> <li>• In response to a question about what happens with a case that goes to the HRTO it was noted that once a complaint is registered, the Board must respond and then both parties are asked if they’re open to mediation; often-times mediation can shorten the process and saves the costs associated with finding a solution; the ultimate goal is to problem-solve and work together</li> <li>• If a mediator is agreed-to then both parties must have legal counsel and a date is set for mediation; if a settlement cannot be reached then the matter will proceed to a tribunal or to court, where witnesses are called, etc.</li> </ul>	
October 31, 2019 Exceptional Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Barrese outlined the number of exceptional pupils registered, as of October 31, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year</li> </ul>	
Discussion - Philosophy of Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The suggestions made by the member organizations of SEAC were revisited; Superintendent Barrese said she will bring the information gathered to the Special Education Team so that an updated philosophy can be developed</li> </ul>	

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Admin. Procedure re: Service Dogs, Guide Dogs, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent Barrese shared the draft Administrative Procedure with the membership, noting that it reflects new expectations around the use of service dogs, guide dogs and service animals, and is quite comprehensive</li> </ul>	
Summary of Special Education Plan Items to be Reviewed 2019-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandra Perkins said that because of the detailed review and update conducted last year, this year the focus will be on updating areas of the Plan that were identified as needing to be updated, but that weren't able to be completed due to time constraints</li> </ul>	
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee Barnes informed the members that the LKDSB Board re-appointed both she and Trustee Robertson to sit on SEAC</li> <li>Sandra Pidduck said she continues to receive requests for school presentations; she said their organization was asked to present a case on school safety and they're working with a client to outline how they helped to work through the student's support process with the Board</li> <li>Chris King said that their recent holiday celebration was sold out; they received \$10,000 for an accessible vehicle from their local 100 Women Who Care chapter</li> <li>Chris also noted that on December 19th Board Directors from Community Living Sarnia Lambton attended Awards Night activities at LCCVI, NLSS, Northern and GLSS and provided cash awards to deserving students to support students in the ALL Program at each of these schools.</li> <li>Sherry Nelson said they had their holiday celebration recently and it was a great opportunity for those with autism to practice meeting Santa Claus</li> <li>Vicky Ware said that they hired an occasional teacher as well as a communication disorder assistant and these individuals will likely be supervised through staff at Pathways; they are doing a lot of outreach and looking to increase the services they offer; they are looking to develop Individual Cultural Plans to compliment IEPs</li> <li>Julia MacKellar said they're looking to recruit a new Board Member</li> <li>Julia said she read an article about the Kitchener-Waterloo school board implementing a program to teach students about human trafficking to try and reduce student risk and asked if the LKDSB does this?; Superintendent Barrese said there aren't currently any plans to deliver that information, but she said there is an organization that can make presentations to students, if requested</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 16, 2020 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 7:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	