

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

~ Thursday, February 20, 2020 @ 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) Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Sandra Pidduck, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Wendy Smith – Community Living, Wallaceburg Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large”	
Regrets:	Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative Derek Robertson – Trustee Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Elizabeth Townsend, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators’ Association Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guest(s):	John Hagens, Executive Director – Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Dale Brown, Direct Support Professional – Community Living Wallaceburg	
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>The Chair shared news of Sherry Nelson’s resignation from her position on SEAC due to other commitments, and welcomed Melani Rich who will be Autism Ontario’s new representative going forward</li> <li>Superintendent Barrese asked to add an item about an opportunity in April to the Agenda</li> <li>Sandra Pidduck Moved, Wendy Smith Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved, as amended.</i>”; All in favour</li> </ul>	
Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janet Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve Stokley Moved, Janet Barnes Seconded “That the Minutes of January 16, 2020 be approved”; All in favour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lori</li> </ul>
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no business arising from the Minutes of January 16, 2020</li> </ul>	
Additional Agenda Item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent Barrese informed the members that, on April 30, 2020, there will be a presentation at the Parent Involvement Committee by Dr. Karen Gordon focused on instilling confidence in children and youth</li> <li>It was agreed the April 16<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting would be changed to April 30<sup>th</sup> so the members are able to attend the presentation by Dr. Gordon; All in favour</li> <li>Lori will send out details about the April 30, 2020 meeting when they’re available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lori</li> <li>Lori</li> </ul>
Presentation – Community Living, Sarnia/Lambton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Hagens, Executive Director of Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton shared a document that maps out the functions of their organization</li> <li>Community Living Sarnia-Lambton began in 1955 and was incorporated in 1963</li> <li>A one-page summary of their many programs and services indicated:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <i>Transition Support Planning</i> programs support 114 individuals;</li> <li>Their <i>Community Participation and Day Programs</i> support 93 individuals;</li> <li>Their <i>Recreation, Leisure Support and Volunteer Programs</i> provide a wide variety of activities and clubs to support hundreds of individuals;</li> <li>Their <i>Housing Support Options</i> support 81 individuals;</li> <li>The <i>Passport Program</i> supports 148 individuals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Presentation – Community Living, Sarnia/Lambton (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Their <i>Family Relief/Respite Options</i> supports 84 adults and 130 children/youth, and,</li> <li>○ Their Employment Support Options support numerous individuals</li> <li>● Mr. Hagens also provided an overview of their funding sources and the number of staff and volunteers required to keep their operations going; he spoke about the challenge they have finding the number of people needed</li> <li>● Julia MacKellar inquired about the notations on the schematic that say they support all disabilities; Mr. Hagens said they try to support as many individuals as they can, and sometimes they work in partnership with other agencies (i.e. acquired brain injury, etc.) to accomplish that</li> <li>● Superintendent Barrese asked if she could see the space(s) that incorporate a Snoezelen Room sometime; Mr. Hagens said he'd be pleased to tour them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lori</li> </ul>
Presentation – Community Living, Wallaceburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wendy Smith, Employment Services Supervisor introduced Dale Brown, Direct Support Professional with Community Living Wallaceburg</li> <li>● Mr. Brown said Community Living Wallaceburg provides programs and services to anyone with any type of disability, and noted their employment program is open to individuals who have a disability, and over the age of 16</li> <li>● He outlined their Intake Process, intended to help participants find out what kind of work they want to do, and spoke a bit more in-depth about a successful relationship they've forged with Select Finishing in Wallaceburg that's resulted in 15 individuals being employed across 3 shifts</li> <li>● Wendy Smith said the creativity that LKDSB staff at WDSS have shown to help support students connecting with their program has been wonderful</li> <li>● Superintendent Barrese asked if there is a maximum age-limit for participants; there is not</li> </ul>	
Presentation – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Julia MacKellar, Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent shared information about their programs and services</li> <li>● She provided an overview of what a learning disability is and noted that, often, she encounters people who don't know what it entails</li> <li>● She said in their social skills program they sometimes provide support to individuals who don't have a learning disability, but may have another type of disability, but need to learn some new skills and/or receive support</li> <li>● Julia said boys are twice as likely to be diagnosed with ADHD than girls; she also noted that while ADHD doesn't go away, it can change over time</li> <li>● She outlined the signs of a learning disability: for students from Grade 5 -8; in high school; and as adults</li> <li>● Some clients they support provided input, and Julia shared some of the comments and feelings they'd pinpointed relative to having a learning disability; she said individuals with a learning disability can sometimes become depressed/suicidal</li> <li>● They offer programs such as: tutoring; social skills, SOAR, as well as workshops and resources and information</li> <li>● Their agency's SOAR Program is beneficial to their clients; they also help students and their families learn how to advocate for themselves when it comes to needs around their IEP, etc.</li> <li>● Julia said many of their volunteers are high-school students</li> <li>● Superintendent Barrese said that school staff must remind students and others that, by using the supports, they are not "cheating", they're just a strategy to be successful; Julia concurred that sometimes there is a feeling (mainly among parents, and often the Father) that using a computer is cheating</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Special Education Plan Items to Be Reviewed in February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Moore spoke about the changes made to the various Sections/Appendices of the Special Education Plan that were reviewed in February</li> <li>• Amendments were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Removed Appendix 2.3.6 - Kindergarten Student Profile</li> <li>○ Appendix 2.3.7 was renumbered and is now Appendix 2.3.6</li> <li>○ Section 2.7 was updated to remove references to Attention Deficit Disorder; the all-encompassing term is ADHD rather than ADD/ADHD</li> <li>○ Appendix 2.8.2 through to 2.8.8 were all removed</li> <li>○ Appendix 2.8.9 was updated to reflect current status of program reviews and/or updates to processes and then renumbered to be Appendix 2.8.2</li> <li>○ The template used for Program Review Tracking was added as a new Appendix, it is Appendix 2.8.3</li> <li>○ Section 2.9 was amended to reflect the 2019-2020 information</li> <li>○ Section 2.10 was updated to remove references to Attention Deficit Disorder; the all-encompassing term is ADHD rather than ADD/ADHD; as well, the number of LKDSB students attending various Provincial Demonstration Schools was amended to reflect current enrollment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter from the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, dated December 11, 2019, regarding increased class sizes and mandatory online e-learning courses was submitted to SEAC; the letter was received but no further action was taken</li> </ul>	
Association Reports and Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth Townsend said it's a busy time, and reported that Kindergarten registration is almost done and then Pre-School Intake begins</li> <li>• In addition to the presentation Julia MacKellar made this evening she informed SEAC that their programs are running again and are fully subscribed</li> <li>• Mr. Hagens said at one of their recent Board Meetings a concern was raised that the ABLE Program will be disappearing from AMSS; Superintendent Barrese said the Board is conducting an ABLE Program Review, to ensure compliance with Ministry course guidelines, etc. and that will likely result in some changes, but will not end the ABLE program</li> <li>• He said on May 23<sup>rd</sup> they have a bus going to a Blue Jays game, and, he informed the members that their agency's Mayor's Luncheon is slated for May 27<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Melani Rich said that, provincially, they are working to advocate for families and help them navigate the existing new autism program; she also mentioned that, in Chatham-Kent, there is a parent support group held on the third Thursday of every month from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Victor Lauriston, unfortunately, it's not well-attended so she's hoping to get help spreading the word and to specify that participants don't have to be from Chatham-Kent</li> <li>• Wendy Smith said they're very busy; as well, the government's recent announcement about <a href="#">new Service System Managers</a> leaves them wondering what will happen, so they're looking forward to receiving more information</li> <li>• Sandra Pidduck said March is Epilepsy Awareness Month; they'll be conducting presentations throughout the month and encourage schools to participate in a 'Purple Door' program; Purple Day is March 26<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• She also said that United Way of Chatham-Kent will no longer be funding her position, so she'll likely be working more in the Sarnia-Lambton area</li> <li>• Superintendent Barrese said they're in the throes of helping Grade 8s make the transition to secondary school, and, getting KinderStart going</li> <li>• Steve Stokley said 'The Making it Happen' program was fully subscribed; and that they, too, are waiting to see what's going to happen with the government's Service System Managers</li> <li>• Rose Gallaway said they're getting more referrals for students with autism and, to help expedite things, they're looking to see if they can reduce their waitlist</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Association Reports and Other Business (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Hagens asked about the status of responses submitted to the MACSE, and whether we can expect a reply; Superintendent Barrese said that she doesn't think that we'll receive feedback</li> </ul>	
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rose reminded people to forward requests for presentations and/or information on a specific topic to Lori</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March 26, 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 7:46 p.m.</li> </ul>	