

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, November 21, 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) 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 Sherry Nelson, Autism Ontario - Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters The Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators’ Association Representative	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Chris Moore, System Coordinator – Multi-Disciplinary Teams Angie Moule, Special Education Coordinator Lisa Valade, Special Education Coordinator Jayson Campeau, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guest(s):	John Howitt, Director of Education for the Lambton-Kent District School Board Stacey Davis, Educational Assistant Deborah Stewardson, Itinerant Resource Teacher Kelsey Gonzalez, Psychoeducational Clinician Emily Burns, Psychoeducational Clinician Carla Dunn, Educational Assistant Laurie McCarthy, ABA Specialist Julie Anne Costello, Resource Teacher – CKSS Heather DeNure, Resource Teacher - JMSS	
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, Wendy Smith Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour 	
Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment 	
Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King Moved, Steve Stokley Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of October 18, 2019 be approved</i>”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Gall
Business Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the answer regarding the accessibility question raised at the September meeting would be provided at a later date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Subsequent to this meeting, information was forwarded to the membership</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandra Perkins
Presentation – Social Skills Project for Students with Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angie Moule introduced Laurie McCarthy, Julie Anne Costello and Heather DeNure who are all involved with the Social Skills Program (SSP) Laurie said the SSP, which began as a Pilot Project, helps students who have autism with social skill deficits The SSP has expanded to other Boards but Lambton-Kent’s is the only one that is offered in secondary schools; as well, our program also utilizes peer mentors The program is currently offered in 4 schools (AMSS, CKSS, GLSS, and JMSS) and Northern has a program that is being launched The program has evolved from a classroom-style delivery to one where the students and their mentors work in a group setting to complete puzzles and play games, and this has allowed the participants to feel free to express themselves 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Presentation – Social Skills Project for Students with Autism (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school’s program begins with functional communication and social skills and then expands to help participants navigate the rest of the school • A video was shared with the membership that included comments from both participants and mentors, highlighting the benefits of the program • Julie Anne Costello said students are implementing what they learned, and, she’s even witnessed participants using their newfound skills in the hallways • Heather DeNure spoke about their program participants’ collaborative efforts to design a sweatshirt • Laurie said that they’re looking to continue expanding the program to additional schools; she said it’s important to note that each school is different because of the students involved in the program • Director Howitt said that, at a Provincial webinar he was involved in recently, the Board’s excellence in supporting students with autism was noted • Steve Stokley asked if there is a plan to bring all of the schools together so the students can further expand their social skills?; Laurie said it’s in the works; as well, she said they are considering doing after-school events, such as bowling 	
Presentation – Trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins introduced Kaitlin Browning, Emily Burns, Stacey Davis, Carla Dunn, Kelsey Gonzalez, and Deb Stewardson and said that the team came together to ensure that students who have been through trauma have adults that can support them • Stacey Davis said that what often looks like a failure to behave properly is actually a failure to communicate properly; she said that brains are wired for connection but trauma re-wires the brain for protection • A video entitled “Every Opportunity” was shown and illustrated the importance of exposing students to regular predictable positive interactions with every staff member they encounter each day, so that their brains are wired for connection • Emily explained that two definitions of trauma are: “an exceptional experience in which powerful events overwhelm a person’s capacity to cope” and “anything experienced or perceived as something we have no control over that can render us helpless, hopeless and/or fearing for our safety” • Schools that are ‘trauma-informed’ see: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Improved</u>: Academic achievement and test scores; school climate; teacher sense of satisfaction and retention; graduation rates; community and family collaboration with school; and, ➤ <u>Reduced</u>: Student behavioural outbursts and referrals; stress for staff and students; absences, detentions and suspensions; student bullying, harassment and fights; need for special education, services and classes; and, drop-out rates • Administrators, teachers and other school staff are being trained to look at behaviour through a trauma lens • Jean MacIntyre asked if school staff know who’s impacted by trauma?; Stacey said they don’t actually need to know, they just need to know how to respond to a student who’s exhibiting behaviour that looks like it’s the result of trauma • Sandra Pidduck said some students have seizures as a <i>result</i> of trauma; she said maybe the building of these relationships will help to reduce those seizures • Stacey said once trauma-triggers are identified it’s important to inform staff in a respectful way so that they can be helpful to the student in the future 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia MacKellar said that they will be running a Self-Advocacy Workshop for students and parents; it will focus on how to advocate for an IEP • Julia asked if the Board gets 'Parents Reaching Out' Grants?; Director Howitt said the funds are handled by the Board now, instead of having to apply to the Ministry, but they are about 50% of what they were in years past; the information about available funds should be sent out to schools and school councils soon • Julia saw the 'People for Education Report' and asked if the Board was part of that?; Superintendent Barrese said the social worker funding we'd received to provide services in secondary schools last year would have been part of that, and we did submit a detailed report to the Ministry; as well, she said that we received funding to reduce wait-lists for psychoeducational clinicians, hearing assessments, etc. and that would have been a part of that Report; Superintendent Barrese said that our Board is very fortunate to have as many psychoeducational clinicians as it does, when compared with other Boards • Sandra Pidduck said they're selling Purdy's Chocolates as a fundraiser, the deadline to order is November 27th, with orders being available for pick-up in Chatham mid-December • She noted that she's been busy doing presentations in both Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton; this year she's presented to 311 students and 221 teachers • Lisa Valade said that she participated in a focus group on epilepsy at Western University and they discussed the development of a Toolkit to help students that have epilepsy • Chris Moore spoke about the recent Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings that have a focus on caring adults • Chris King said their AGM was recently held and was well-attended; he has provided information to Lori to share with the membership • Chris said their organization is holding a Christmas Party and it's already sold out • He also reported that their organization will be undergoing a review; they haven't had funding increases in 7 years and, despite this, the government's still seeking efficiencies • Wendy Smith said they're currently updating their Strategic Plan • She also said they're selling lottery tickets for a 'dream vacation' as a fundraiser • Steve Stokley said their annual Christmas Concert will be held at St. Paul's Congregational Church on November 29th • Steve said there are approx. 170 people they're supporting with Passport funds; the problem is that they are short-staffed, so being able to move the program forward is a challenge • Sandra Perkins said Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training is a job requirement for EAs but it's also being delivered to Administrators, as well, Resource Teachers have received information on BMS • She also noted that intake into the Day Treatment Program have begun through St. Clair Child & Youth and Chatham-Kent Children's Treatment Centre • Angie Moule said that new ASD Module was added to BMST and that will be rolled out • She said that an additional High Needs Team has been added, the new team will consist of a Resource Teacher and EA • It was noted that another .50 ABA position has been added to the Board; Laurie McCarthy is dropping back to .50 and the 1.0 position will soon be filled • Director Howitt spoke about how impressed he is with the Lambton Kent's focus on the student, since they are the sole reason the Board exists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese spoke about the MDT Meetings, noting that participants are looking at the Climate Survey Results in order to further support students • She informed the members that School Mental Health Ontario has launched a new website with a lot of new resources; she noted that students are saying they want to learn more about mental health; as well, they want staff to be informed about the importance of mental health • Superintendent Barrese said there will be modules available to educators from School Mental Health Ontario, with each module taking about 1 hour to complete; if the information can be shared with agencies, she will forward it • Rose Gallaway reported that St. Clair Child & Youth's Day Treatment Program has been a lot of work to roll out and indicated that they're continuing to build/grow the program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie Barrese
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. 	