

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

~ Thursday, September 19, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. at Baldoon Clubhouse, Wallaceburg ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Sandra Pidduck, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario Derek Robertson - Trustee Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Wendy Smith – Community Living, Wallaceburg Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	
Regrets:	Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” Sherry Nelson, Autism Ontario - Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Angie Moule, Special Education Coordinator Sheila Richardson, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary Jayson Campeau, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association	
Guest(s):	Lis Hoskins, LKDSB Attendance Officer	
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>Wendy Smith Moved, Chris Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour</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 June 6, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris King Moved, Steve Stokley Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of June 6, 2019 be approved</i>”; 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 June 6, 2019</li> </ul>	
Presentation – Departmental Teams for 2019-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandra Perkins provided an overview of the Special Education Teams for 2019-2020, noting that several teams were brought together under the umbrella of Student Support; she said there has been a change in practice and, rather than going into classrooms to observe, provide suggestions and then pull out, staff are embedded into schools so they can connect with staff to co-plan best practices for supporting students</li> <li>Some teams remained in place, such as the: Hearing Team; Vision Team; High Needs Team; and, Speech and Language</li> <li>Enrichment has seen some changes and will undergo an evaluation this school year to determine if there’s a better way to engage with students</li> <li>Sandra said a reduction in funding for staff necessitated the re-alignment</li> <li>Chris Moore provided information about changes to the Multidisciplinary Team, noting that the team members assist with environmental changes within a building to help change the climate of the school and solve problems</li> <li>Chris said that Board-wide Multidisciplinary Team meetings have begun; there has been a favourable response to the Board’s efforts to ensure there are caring adults in each school to support students’ needs</li> <li>Chris noted that the Board has received funding to hire four social workers for the 2019-2020 school year; they’ll provide counselling, info./support on substance misuse, and will do home visits in order to reconnect students to school</li> <li>Chris said that the addition of the social workers will allow the psychoeducational clinicians more time to be in schools supporting students</li> </ul>	

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Presentation – Departmental Teams for 2019-2020 (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Barrese informed SEAC that John Howitt is the new Director of Education and said that he plans to attend the Committee’s November meeting</li> <li>• She noted the reorganization of the Board’s Family of Schools allows each Superintendent to have a secondary school and that school’s elementary (feeder) schools under their purview; this allows for alignment, continuity and more seamless transitions between elementary and secondary schools for students</li> <li>• Chris King commented that ETFO had indicated \$235-million was cut from Special Education funding and he’s wondering what the cuts were to our Board’s budget?; Superintendent Barrese reported that two years ago we received additional Special Education funding as a ‘remedy’ (linked to union contracts), but those funds had a time limit and are no longer available to the Board</li> <li>• She explained that, when those funds were in place, the Senior Team increased Resource Teacher allocations in secondary schools; now that those extra funds are gone, administration has right-sized some resources to ensure supports are where they’re needed most</li> <li>• As well, Superintendent Barrese said that the additional ELL and Kindergarten Early Supports that were put in place with the remedy funding have ended, as has the funding for 15 additional EAs that had been hired with those funds</li> <li>• She said that, this year, the Board received additional Behavioural Expertise Amount (BEA) funding of about \$200,000 which will allow additional staff to be hired onto the team that supports students with autism; some of those funds are geared towards Board-wide training so the team is determining where they want to focus training and supports this year</li> <li>• She said Pre-School Intake funds allowed for discussion between school staff and agency representatives to ensure a smooth transition for incoming students with special needs; as well, staff went to schools to do small-group training based on the schools’ child-specific needs and helped develop resources that could help each student successfully transition to a school setting</li> <li>• Wendy Smith asked how many social workers were cut?; Chris said the Board has one less social worker this year; he said the social workers are able to provide a significant amount of capacity around mental wellbeing for students and their families by connecting them to supports they need</li> </ul>	
Priority-Setting for 2019-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Barrese asked the members of SEAC to jot down details regarding presentations they’d like to receive and/or activities they’d like to participate in to further their understanding of special education and exceptional pupils</li> <li>• Once that work was done, all of the ideas were posted, and members were asked to select/vote for their top 15 issues/priorities from all of the ideas submitted</li> <li>• Superintendent Barrese said that a summary of the submissions (ranked in order of importance after the ‘voting’) will be brought back to the October meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spec. Ed. Team</li> </ul>
Policy and Regulation Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Barrese said a review will be undertaken on both the Board Policy and the Board Regulation regarding the ‘Philosophy of Special Education’</li> <li>• She reminded members that the Special Education Plan is reviewed annually, and that feedback is solicited from members of the public, parents, and students</li> <li>• When thinking about the programming that’s offered through the Board, she asked members to consider individuals in the community that have been supported by local associations to ensure the philosophy is as robust as it can be</li> <li>• Trustee Robertson suggested that members of SEAC solicit input from those within their organizations and on their Boards; Superintendent Barrese liked that idea and said that this item will be revisited in November; Lori will email members to receive their organization’s collective feedback so it can be shared/discussed at the November meeting of SEAC</li> <li>• Chris King suggested organizations also submit their Mission Statements to Lori</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> <li>• All</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
<p>Exceptional Students Suspended (Out of School), By School Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Barrese spoke about the exceptional pupil suspensions, and noted that the same student may have been expelled more than once</li> <li>• In response to a question about expulsions, she said no students were expelled because the Board works hard to ensure it doesn't come to that</li> <li>• Chris King said the secondary schools have had a 25% increase in suspensions; he wondered if we're able to discern why?; Angie said we can dig down</li> <li>• Sandra Pidduck asked where someone with epilepsy might fit into the suspension numbers?; Superintendent Barrese said epilepsy is a medical condition, not an exceptionality and there's no data tied to medical conditions</li> <li>• Sandra also asked for the data around non-exceptional pupil suspensions; Angie said that we can pull that data</li> <li>• Chris King said that he is concerned because student support shouldn't be limited by funding and suggested that, perhaps, if there were more support for students instead of less, it might have alleviated these suspensions</li> <li>• Julia asked if there is data for in-school suspensions?; Angie said in-school suspensions do not require formal paperwork and therefore aren't captured</li> <li>• Superintendent Barrese informed the members that the PASS Program supports students facing suspension by ensuring that they don't have to be at home unsupervised while out of school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li>   <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
<p>Correspondence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter from the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, regarding changes to the Provincial funding model for autism services, was received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The letter was received, but no action was taken</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A letter from the Ministry's Director of Special Education in response to SEAC's letter in support of Bill 64 – Noah and Gregory's Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The letter was received</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Letter from Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) regarding Bill 64 – Noah and Gregory's Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The letter was received, but no action was taken</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Letter from GECDSB regarding changes to special needs funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The letter was received, but no action was taken</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Letter from GECDSB regarding Bill 44 to amend the Education Act relative to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The letter was received, but no action was taken</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Letter from GECDSB regarding the provincial funding model for class size averages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chris King asked if there was any new information from the Ministry regarding e-learning?; Angie said that aside from what was shared in the media, we've not received anything; she said the Board has asked several questions and, in response, the Ministry has indicated that information will be forthcoming</li> <li>○ After discussion it was agreed that the letter from the GECDSB regarding class sizes and e-learning was well-written and SEAC should provide a letter of support</li> <li>○ Chris feels that if the Ministry receives correspondence from several Boards on a particular issue they will may better understand where pressure points are</li> <li>○ Chris King Moved; Sandra Piddick Seconded <i>"That a letter of support in respect of Greater Essex's correspondence about class sizes and mandatory e-learning be sent to the Ministry"</i>; All in favour; Administration will draft a letter of support to be brought back to the October meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chris asked if the e-learning teachers would be local?; Superintendent Barrese said that the Board has only been told that the teachers would be 'qualified', which doesn't mean that they will be local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>

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Correspondence (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent said that, as well, e-learning classes could have students from across the Province and this type of instruction/learning requires a great amount of independence and a different skillset which, for some students, is not a suitable way to learn, especially if there isn't a teacher for them to speak with when seeking help with course content</li> </ul>	
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Julia MacKellar advised the members that their Tutoring program has begun; they're looking for volunteers</li> <li>As well, they're having their AGM September 23rd, with speakers from the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent</li> <li>Jayson Campeau said that he and Marty Passmore were re-appointed to the Committee for this school year, and that Shea VanderGriendt is a Secondary Vice-Principal who may begin attending some SEAC meetings from time to time</li> <li>Wendy Smith reported that their AGM is set for September 26<sup>th</sup> and that their summer programs were successful, with some new employers coming on board</li> <li>Sandra Pidduck said that the start of the school-year has been busy in both Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent; many administrators were connecting with her before the start of school, which is excellent; their organization will be sharing a letter with Principals to outline their services</li> <li>Chris King said Community Living Sarnia-Lambton's Mayor's Boat Cruise was successful, as was their summer camp at Rosedale School</li> <li>He said that they had a 'Trailer Full of Fun' fundraiser, with the money derived from that effort allowing them to purchase a wheel-chair accessible vehicle</li> <li>Chris shared that, as a recruitment officer for the upcoming Federal Election, they'll be hiring individuals with disabilities</li> <li>Steve Stokley said Community Living Chatham-Kent's Summer Employment Program supported 16 individuals; as well, the Options Program has started up</li> <li>Their 'School Days' program has started back up again; they're currently at UCC, The Pines and will be at John McGregor Secondary next semester</li> <li>Vicki Ware thanked Community Living Sarnia-Lambton for the summer program as it supported some of their students with special needs</li> <li>She said there is an on-reserve school whose staff are receiving support from LKDSB staff regarding techniques to use in the classroom when supporting students with multiple special needs</li> <li>The First Nations partners are currently working on a Board Action Plan</li> <li>Sheila Richardson said that, because of a Ministry grant, we were able to purchase 250 Lexia licenses to assist with phonological awareness; there will be training provided to educators so they can make full use of the software</li> <li>Angie Moule said that a bus line in the North has drivers that have asked to receive training for supporting students with autism</li> <li>Rose Gallaway said that the Executive Director that had come on Board recently has left, and a new Director will start in November</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at The Baldoon Clubhouse</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>	