

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. in Room 269 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

| Present: | <p>Melani Rich – Autism Ontario West Region Gillian Hueniken – Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Sandy Boldt – Community Integration through Cooperative Education, Lambton College – Via Teams Steve Stokley – Community Living Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living Sarnia Lambton (Chair) Lori Richardson – Lambton County Developmental Services Malinda Little – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Kelley Robertson - Trustee Alecia Atterbury – Parent Rep. for Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Trevor Aldous – Member-at-Large Melanie Coll – Pathways Health Centre for Children Michelle Holbrook – Sarnia Lambton Rebound – Via Teams Lori Marvin – St. Clair Child & Youth Services</p> | |
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| Regrets: | <p>Sarah Simmons – LINCK Child, Youth & Family Supports Wendy Smith – Community Living Wallaceburg Vicki Ware – Four First Nation (Education Authority) Representative</p> | |
| Resource Staff: | <p>Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education – Student Support Services/Well-Being Sandra Perkins, System Administrator – Student Support Services/Well-Being Chris Moore, System Coordinator – Multidisciplinary Team Jeff Brosh, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Adam Davis, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Paul Gilbert, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Tara Mitchell, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Taryn Lessard, L-K Elementary Administrators’ Rep. Marty Passmore, L-K Secondary Administrators’ Rep. Lori Gall, Recording Secretary</p> | |
| Guests: | <p>Ben Hazzard, Superintendent of Education – Elementary Program Carla Wilson, System Coordinator of Student Achievement – Elementary Bonnie Grace, Resource Teacher at Amethyst Provincial Demonstration School – Via MS Teams Craig Quenneville, Resource Teacher at Amethyst Provincial Demonstration School – Via MS Teams</p> | |
| Agenda Item | Details/Discussion | Action Items |
| Call to Order and Approval of Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King called the meeting to order Malinda Little Moved, Melani Rich Seconded <i>“That the Agenda be approved”</i>; All in favour | |
| Territorial Acknowledgement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Moore shared a land acknowledgment | |
| Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Stokley Moved, Lori Marvin Seconded <i>“That the Minutes of December 15, 2022 be approved”</i>; All in favour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Gall |
| Business Arising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no business arising from the Minutes of December 15, 2022 | |
| Election of Chair and Vice-Chair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair turned the meeting over to Superintendent Barrese so she could oversee the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of SEAC After Superintendent Barrese outlined the guidelines, etc., Steve Stokley Moved; Melani Rich Seconded <i>“That Chris King be nominated as the Chair of SEAC for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year”</i>; Chris King accepted the nomination Superintendent Barrese called for any further nominations for the position of the Chair of SEAC, but there were none Kelly Robertson Moved; Steve Stokley Seconded <i>“That Malinda Little be nominated as the Vice-Chair of SEAC for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year”</i>; Trustee Little accepted the nomination A vote was held in respect of the nominations on the floor; All in favour Chris King and Malinda Little were applauded for their willingness to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively With the election completed, the meeting was turned back to the Chair, Chris King | |

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| <p>Presentation – <i>Right to Read: LKDSB Actions and Tiered Supports</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent of Elementary Program, Ben Hazzard, spoke about the Ontario Human Rights Commissions’ <i>Right to Read Report</i> that consisted of 157 recommendations for the Ministry of Education to consider; the directions are non-binding and the Ministry expected to provide its guidance and directions by September 2024 • The System Coordinator of Student Achievement – Elementary, Carla Wilson said that the LKDSB is currently moving ahead with a focus on four key recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curriculum and instruction that reflects the scientific research regarding the best approaches to teach word reading, which includes explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics 2. Early screening of all students using common, standardized evidence-based screening assessments twice a year, from Kindergarten to Grade 2, to identify students at risk for reading difficulties 3. Reading interventions that are early, evidence-based, fully implemented and closely monitored and available to all students who need them 4. Improving data collection, analysis and reporting • Superintendent Hazzard shared information on the science of reading that focuses on word recognition, phonological awareness, decoding, and sight recognition and spoke about the importance of language comprehension which focuses on background knowledge, vocabulary, language structures, verbal reasoning and literacy knowledge • The LKDSB began using the Heggerty phonemic awareness program in March of 2022 • Our Board was given funding that used for the implementation; Malinda Little asked what drives whether math or reading are the focus and Superintendence Hazzard said that initiatives are driven by Ministry funding • It was noted that there are three tiers of intervention: Tier 1 allows the whole class to utilize Heggerty for phonemic awareness while Tier 2 utilizes Heggerty interventions for about 20% of the students, and Tier 3 is more in-depth Heggerty interventions that are required to support about 5% of the students • From April to June of 2022 the Board focused on getting 15 Intervention and Assessment Teachers to work with all students from Kindergarten to Grade 3; the Teachers spent at least half a day a week at each school conducting phonemic awareness screeners and putting interventions in place as needed; the findings identified what levels of support needed to be put into place for individual students • Carla said that targeted, explicit instruction resulted in gains when reviewing the pre-assessment and post-assessment data; these gains ranged from onset fluency to students being able to substitute initial phonemes • During the summer, educators and staff from both Student Support Services and Elementary Program worked to develop phonemic awareness recommendations; the Ministry provided no explicit instruction, so the Board worked to develop its own methods for delivering support which includes Tier 1 Heggerty implementation in all classrooms and Tier 2 support that’s focused on providing screening, intervention and assessment training for teachers • Some problems came to light because Heggerty is currently only available in English • Superintendent Barrese said the Manager of Psychology, Christine Davenport, was responsible for overseeing assessments for the last 8+ years and she’d identified remedial problems that this program will reduce because of the early intervention • It was noted that, as of December 31st, the number of students who were fully proficient increased significantly • The Intervention and Assessment Teachers are now conducting phonics screening • Melani Rich suggested that providing information for parents (about what Heggerty is) would be helpful • Superintendent Hazzard said it’s clear to see that Heggerty helps to meet needs that weren’t being met before • Chris King thanked Superintendent Hazzard and Carla Wilson for their informative presentation, noting that the ability to maintain these successes may hinge on both funding, and what the Ministry’s guidelines/directions will be | |

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| Presentation – <i>Amethyst</i> <i>Demonstration Schools</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam Davis introduced Bonnie Grace and Craig Quenneville who were attending from the Amethyst Provincial Demonstration School via MS Teams • Bonnie said they teach students with severe learning disabilities how to read • Craig said they typically accept 40 students in Grades 6 – 10 who live onsite Monday to Friday and return home on the weekend; due to the small number of students allowed in the program, students generally only attend Amethyst for one year; there is no cost to parents for their child to attend unless there are things like field trips • They spoke about a typical student that would be accepted into the program, and outlined the school’s pedagogy and supports; Amethyst utilizes direct explicit teacher instruction and supplemental computer reading programs in both English and Math, and students use assistive technology available through Chrome • They shared data about exiting students, based on the Woodcock-Johnson Test, showing multi-grade level improvements were realized in both reading and math • Craig spoke about the application process which constitutes consultation, information gathering, the submission of an application, and Provincial Community on Learning Disabilities Committee interviews • It was noted that the Board must submit binders full of information including a current psychological assessment, a speech and language assessment as well as information on tests that the family had completed, such as vision and audiology testing and a medical assessment • A new opportunity was provided this year that allowed for applications for students to attend Amethyst in person, or, be supported at their Home School • Chris Moore asked about the social/emotional support that’s offered?; Craig said that the social skills programs are run by Student Support Counsellors; Bonnie said their Social Worker helps to determine the training that’s needed • Chris King asked how many applications they get each year and was told that some years there are more applicants than spots and other years, it’s the opposite; PPM 89 dictates availability • They were asked what happens if a student is turned down and said that the student can re-apply again if new information becomes available • Craig mentioned that there’s also the E.C. Drury/Trillium and Sagonaska Provincial Demonstration Schools which could provide programming for someone who is not accepted at Amethyst • Marcia inquired about the cut-off at Grade 10 and was told it was because students wouldn’t have adequate course offerings • Both presenters were thanked for the information they shared about the school | |
| Special Education Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins informed the members that the Special Education Plan is reviewed annually, and provided information about amendments proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The <i>Board’s Consultation Process</i> was amended to remove information about Program Reviews completed prior to 2020, as well, the words ‘and services’ were removed wherever necessary ✓ There were changes to the list of <i>Acronyms</i>, as required ✓ In the <i>Preamble</i>, the date for the Comprehensive Report was updated • She noted that <i>Glossary of Terms; Vision, Mission and Belief Statements; Philosophy of Special Education; Roles and Responsibilities, Referral to Special Services</i>, and the <i>Speech and Language Services Administrative Procedure</i> were all reviewed, but no changes needed to be made • No concerns were raised about the amendments being proposed to the Special Education Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall |
| Correspondence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the December 15, 2022 meeting, a letter from the Durham District School Board regarding SIP funding was received; after discussion, administration was asked to prepare a letter to Minister Lecce regarding SIP funding shortfalls the LKDSB is experiencing • After discussion, Kelley Robertson Moved; Melani Rich Seconded; “That the letter about the LKDSB’s SIP funding shortfalls be forwarded to Minister Lecce”; All in favour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall |

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| Association Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy Boldt of C.I.C.E. Lambton College shared information about their enrollment; Fall 2023 is strong – the is only space for approximately 27 students and they already have 16 students enrolled; she said that if Secondary Guidance Counsellors know of anyone that would be a good fit, they should recommend them • Chris King noted that he'd passed out a flyer summarizing Community Living Sarnia Lambton's Strategic Plan; the full plan can be accessed by clicking on the link provided; as well, information on their JobStart Program will be disseminated by Lori Gall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall |
| Next Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 16, 2023 in the Library (1st Floor) at Wallaceburg District Secondary School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All |
| Adjournment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melani Rich Moved, Alecia Atterbury Seconded <i>"That the meeting be adjourned"</i>; All in favour; the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. | |