

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

~ Thursday, June 15, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Jack Fletcher – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Anika Altiman – First Nation Representative Dawn Babbirk – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Gordon Crompton – Community Living, Chatham-Kent Elizabeth Hudie – Trustee Jerry Knight – Lambton County Developmental Services Jean McIntyre – Member “at large”
Regrets:	Tabitha Cook, Epilepsy Support Centre Jennifer Gillespie – Member “at large” Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton Susan Mitchell – Member “at large” Eva Lizotte – Community Living, Wallaceburg Jen Scheuneman – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters Janet Vanderwerf – VIEWS for Children Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Caroline White, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Bruce Davidson, Special Education Coordinator (Secondary) Lisa Valade, Special Education Coordinator Lori Gall, Recording Secretary
Guests:	Superintendent of Education, Helen Lane Kallie Johnson and Corbin Jacobs, WDSS Students

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Details/Discussion</b>	<b>Action Items</b>
Call to Order and Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rose called the meeting to order</li> <li>Elizabeth moved, Jack seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack moved, Caroline seconded “<i>That the Minutes of May 18, 2017 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 SEAC Minutes of May 18, 2017</li> </ul>	
Presentation: Indigenous Peoples and Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandra Perkins introduced Kallie Johnson and Corbin Jacobs, both Grade 10 students at WDSS and noted that the indigenous education is an important aspect of the Board’s work</li> <li>Both students informed the members of SEAC that they are involved in the Future Elders Program; Kallie said her sisters were some of the Program’s founders</li> <li>Corbin said that the Future Elders Program brings things into the community and does fundraisers for families on Walpole Island and for other area associations</li> <li>Both students are also involved with the Harriet Jacobs Centre (HJC) which is a student resource and counselling centre that helps students with issues they’re having; for example, the HJC can help First Nations students by providing funding for course fees, supplies, transportation, uniform fees, graduation awards, etc.</li> <li>Kallie and Corbin said the HJC Centre was renovated/upgraded in October of 2016 and now it’s: much more spacious, air-conditioned, and an overall great space for students to go</li> <li>Kallie said students sometimes find it nerve-wracking to leave the Reservation to attend school and so the HJC and Future Elder Program are very beneficial</li> <li>Future Elders and HJC focus on helping the students to be successful</li> <li>Superintendent Lane asked for suggestions on how to ensure that the transition for students coming off the Reservation to attend school is as smooth as possible; Kallie said providing an opportunity for students in Grade 7 and 8 to get to acquainted with staff would be helpful; some work is being done along those lines, just today members of the Future Elders Program attended A.A. Wright today to explain the Program and a bit about the teachings that they’ve learned, and, there is a First Nations Awareness Committee at A.A. Wright</li> </ul>	

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Presentation: Indigenous Peoples and Special Education (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Future Elders recently helped to set up a Symposium (with support from the school's Business Studies class); Kallie said that while the Grade 7 &amp; 8 students attended, it might have been helpful to allow other First Nation students from area schools attend a symposium similar to the one that was offered</li> <li>Trustee Hudie asked if students from Walpole Island are able to visit W.D.S.S. when they decide they are going to be going there?; Kallie said that Grade 8s do visit W.D.S.S. and it is helpful</li> <li>Angie asked about the main reason students visit the HJC?; Kallie said it's an amazing part of the school that's not limited to use by only First Nation students, and the counsellors are easy to talk to</li> <li>Anika said the definition of First Nations is for those individuals/families living on a reserve; the Walpole Island Reserve has limited land capacity causing residents to move; currently about 60% of (former) residents no longer live on the Reserve</li> <li>Anika suggested that, if the Board wants to look at achievement for the entire indigenous population, the definition needs to be broadened</li> </ul>	
Update on Implementation and Use of Community Living Sarnia-Lambton's jobPath Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce reminded the members that a presentation had been made by representatives from Community Living Sarnia-Lambton about a year ago regarding the 'JobStart Toolkit', which is now called the jobPath Toolkit</li> <li>Bruce informed SEAC that the Board purchased 4 Toolkits: AMSS (one for the ALLP class and one for the ABLE class), JMSS (for the ABLE class) and GLSS (for the ALLP class)</li> <li>Bruce said that the Toolkits were developed for use by adults so they aren't ideal for high school-aged students therefore they've received mixed reviews from the ABLE and ALLP classroom teachers</li> <li>The Board has black line masters that provide opportunities for a Q &amp; A session, role playing, etc.</li> <li>Because of the amount of technology utilized by the Board teachers are looking for interactive digitized versions of the information</li> <li>Bruce will meet with Community Living Sarnia Lambton representatives to focus on making suggestions for improvement</li> <li>Until such time as the Toolkits are more technology-friendly additional copies (for the remaining secondary schools) won't be purchased</li> <li>The Toolkits have been beneficial but the ALLP Co-op Classes are required to follow the regular Co-op program that includes WHMIS, Health and Safety, etc.</li> </ul>	
Development of an Accessibility Standard for Education under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent Barrese informed SEAC that The Ministry of Education, in support of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), is soliciting input on the potential scope of the Education Standard Development Committee (ESDC), that will be established in the Fall</li> <li>The ESDC will develop an accessibility standard for education</li> <li>Work has been done to support an inclusive education system for students and staff and visitors to the Lambton Kent District School Board</li> <li>To further these efforts, the Ministry of Education is looking to engage educators, families and community members in the process of developing an accessibility standard for education through an <a href="#">online survey</a></li> <li>An email will be forwarded to members for their information and action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> <li>Lori</li> </ul>
Future Updates to IPRC Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent Barrese and the Coordinators noted the amendments made to the various parts of Appendix 2.4.1 but informed the members that the IPRC Administrative Procedure still needs to be approved by the Senior Administrative Team so, for now, it's just an FYI for SEAC; Appendix 2.4.1 will come back to SEAC during the 2017 – 2018 Special Education Plan updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lori</li> </ul>

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Future Updates to Field Trip Procedure/Regulations/Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Barrese informed the members that a parent of a student in one of our schools expressed concerns about the accessibility of field trips</li> <li>• The Senior Administrative Team worked together to update the Procedure/Regulations/Forms; the revised documents were provided to the members for their input/feedback</li> <li>• Angie advised the members that the Senior Administrative Team didn't change any wording already in the documents, they only added new sections/wording</li> <li>• Dawn asked who an 'eligible' student is?; Angie explained they are taking into consideration the entire student body from which participants <i>can</i> attend versus who <i>will</i> attend; it is meant to be inclusive language</li> <li>• Jack said that under Section 2.0 he would like the wording to be stronger; Angie said that it's meant to identify something that might happen that had not been anticipated (i.e. the class goes to a theatre to see a play; the theatre is accessible because there's an elevator but, on the day that the class is there, the elevator is broken); Jack feels that one of the accommodations that would need to be made is the field trip itself ... if the field trip is not going to be accessible to everyone, then it should not proceed</li> <li>• Elizabeth said it's important for parents to be up front about anything that could <i>potentially</i> cause a problem (i.e. fear, car sickness, etc.); Angie informed the members that the Senior Administrative Team was planning to add an additional section where parents would have to sign off to indicate that they had made the school aware of any issues that they should know about so accommodations could be made, if necessary</li> <li>• Anika said that there is a liability waiver on the international field trip form and she's wondering if it's not necessary to be included on the regular waiver?; Angie will look into that</li> <li>• Dawn asked whether, if accommodations require extra support, the school provide that or whether it would be up to the parents; Angie said there is a ratio and often accommodations can be met through that ratio, if that's not possible then the school will do everything to accommodate the needs; there should not be a barrier; if there is a shared EA then it may be necessary to reorganize groups, etc. to ensure everyone can participate</li> <li>• Angie said that the revisions to the Procedure/Regulations/Form cause individuals involved with planning the trip to think about it being inclusive/accessible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>
Special Education Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 1.1 – <i>Process for the Revision of the Special Education Report</i> outlining the amendments made to the Special Education Report during the 2016-2017 school year was provided to the members of SEAC for their review</li> <li>• Jerry Moved, Elizabeth Seconded <i>"That the amendments made to the 2017-2018 Special Education Plan, as outlined in Appendix 1.1, be approved/confirmed."</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
Projected 2017 – 2018 Staffing Complement for Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Barrese provided an overview/explanation of decreases or increases in the projected Special Education Department staffing from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018</li> </ul>	
Draft 2017 – 2018 SEAC Meeting Dates/Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rose informed the members that we are going to begin the 2017 -2018 SEAC Meetings at 6:00 p.m. to ensure that everyone can get home as soon as possible; to accommodate the earlier start time, a light supper will be provided</li> <li>• Rose also informed the members that all of the 2017-2018 meetings will be held at W.D.S.S.; she further explained that, if and when the weather is inclement, Lori will notify members that the meeting will be held by video-conference between the Chatham and Sarnia Board Offices, or it is being cancelled</li> </ul>	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no correspondence</li> </ul>	

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Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dawn said that they are still taking registrations for their summer programming</li> <li>• Elizabeth said that at last night's Board Meeting they passed a balance budget; the budget was increased but that was for the work at G.L.S.S. and Wyoming</li> <li>• Jack said he attended OBSPA recently and found that many of the other Boards are dealing with similar issues; there was an excellent presentation from someone in the Toronto area about equity and inclusion; as well, Dryden is doing a lot of good work with their indigenous population with the support of 'graduation coaches' (their graduation rate has increased from 35% to 80%)</li> <li>• Jerry said that he attended several Life Plans recently and graduates from LCCVI had expressed an interest in staying connected, so, they held a Lancer Alumni BBQ that had more than 80 participant; he also shared a photo taken during their Alhambra Fun Day where they formed a Canadian Flag in honour of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday</li> <li>• In keeping with tonight's presentation, Caroline said that GLSS provides a supporting place for First Nations students and has a full-time support worker available in their school and now that their mascot/logo is a 'Wolf Pack', they have named the space 'The Den'</li> <li>• Sandra said that they've interviewed for several positions over the last several days and have been able to hire some excellent people into positions who have an interest in supporting the 'whole child'</li> <li>• Lisa said she and Bruce recently attended a Spec. Ed. conference; Barb Dorington, an Art Therapist, was the keynote speaker and was an excellent</li> <li>• Anika didn't have anything to share but told the members that, since leaving the meeting, Corbin Jacobs emailed her asking how their ideas will be implemented</li> <li>• Gord advised the members that this is his last week on the Board of Community Living; he said he has enjoyed being a part of this group; Rose thanked him for all of his years of service</li> <li>• Jack said that, as a result of a Motion made by Trustee Rising at a recent Board Meeting, a Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement will be read at the beginning of Board Meetings, and daily at all of the schools within the Board; he suggested that it be read at the outset of each SEAC Meeting</li> <li>• Jean asked about the hiring process for the positions that were available in Special Education; Angie said the positions were posted internally</li> <li>• Rose noted that St. Clair Child &amp; Youth Services passed their accreditation; everyone congratulated them on their accomplishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori</li> </ul>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Room 141</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 8:23 p.m.</li> </ul>	