

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, September 17, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. at The Clubhouse at Baldoon, Wallaceburg ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) – In Person Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) – In Person Derek Robertson – Trustee – Via Teleconference Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters – In Person Sandra Pidduck, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario – Via Teleconference Steve Stokley – Community Living, Chatham-Kent – Via Teleconference Chris King – Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton – In Person Julia MacKellar – Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent – Via Teleconference Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” – In Person Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative – Via Teleconference	
Regrets:	Lucy Rizzetto, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators’ Association Wendy Smith, Community Living, Wallaceburg	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education – In Person Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education – In Person Angie Moule, Special Education Coordinator – In Person Sheila Richardson, Special Education Coordinator – In Person Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association – In Person Lori Gall, Recording Secretary – In Person	
Guest(s):	Sandy Scott-Hillier, Manager of Financial Services – In Person	
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 Chris King Moved, Janet Barnes Seconded that the Agenda be approved; All in favour 	
Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment 	
Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King Moved, Janet Barnes Seconded “That the Minutes of June 11, 2020 be approved”; All in favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no business arising from the Minutes of June 11, 2020 	
Presentation – LKDSB 2020-2021 Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Scott-Hillier, Manager of Financial Services, presented the 2020-2021 budget details and noted that the majority of the funding is tied to enrolment The GSN did not have significant funding changes, however she said the Province had planned for the average class sizes for Grades 9 to 12 to increase to 28 students, but the number was adjusted to 23 students The Supports for Students Fund/Investment in System Priorities, which used to be the Local Priorities Fund, provided funding to hire 8.50 FTE Educational Assistants, and 4 full-time Social Workers (for secondary schools) The School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant is provided to help Board’s keep pace with increased utility costs, etc. The funding for Student Transportation remained consistent with last year New funding has been provided to help fund COVID-19-related mental health supports and technology costs The Special Education Grant’s ‘Per Pupil Amount’ was proposed to increase but this may change, based on enrollment; SEA funding has decreased slightly but that funding is tied to student need Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount supports the student population that has special needs and that funding is increasing by approximately \$375,000 Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding for students with high needs is based on the actual number of students requiring this level of support ECPP (formerly CTCC) received an increase to cover associated salaries and benefits 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Presentation – LKDSB 2020-2021 Budget (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Behavioural Expertise amount increased slightly and is earmarked to cover salary and training for ABA professionals • In addition, Ms. Scott-Hillier noted that funding is provided for high needs indigenous students through Jordan’s Principle for 1:1 EA costs • Jean MacIntyre asked if there were savings due to COVID-19-related closures?; there were, and those funds will be carried forward • Chris King asked if there will be cost-savings because of utility costs being reduced?; there were savings, and any excess will go into a surplus fund • Ms. Scott-Hillier said that, typically, the Board can only draw 1% out of the surplus but given the circumstances, the Ministry will allow the Board to draw up to 2% • In response to a question about the Board’s average annual surplus, she said they ranged from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000; she informed SEAC that processes have been put in place to ensure budgets are spent more evenly and that an Attendance Management Program is helping to reduce teacher supply costs • Chris King asked how many students are supported by SIP dollars?; last year, there were 6 students supported by this special funding 	
Return to School Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese said staff have been working on Return to Learn since May, and outlined the three models that had to be developed • Some school boards chose to adopt an adaptive model but the LKDSB chose a full return; parents had until August 28th to choose which form of learning they wanted to utilize for their child(ren) • As the August 28th deadline approached, it became clear to the Senior Team that up to 12% of families were opting for their children to Learn at Home and so virtual elementary and secondary schools were set up quickly; the Board now has 64 schools • Superintendent Barrese noted that a new data collection system was adopted this year and that added some additional challenges to start-up • She noted that the department’s Itinerant Teams (i.e. Enrichment, Speech & Language, Vision, etc.) will support students learning from home and in school • Some families opted for Learn from Home or Home Schooling for medical reasons • She noted that each Board had to establish a series of dates where parents could choose a different pathway for their children; ours are in November 2020, and in February and April of 2021 • Superintendent Barrese said some students may have a different Teacher each time that there is a change in quadmester, or a student shifts from one model of learning to another; the number of community cases at the time, and each families’ comfort level with the path chosen for their child(ren) will determine how schools and classes will be structured and staffed • In the ALLP classrooms, the Board has decided that regardless of the families’ choice (in school, or learn at home), the student will remain in the same ‘classroom’ and with the same teacher • Jean MacIntyre asked for clarification on home schooling; Superintendent Barrese said parents that choose this option take on the responsibility of educating their child(ren) using the Province’s curriculum; in response to a follow-up question it was noted that the child’s education is not monitored by the Board • Jean also asked, with the staggered entry, if the school-year might go past June?; Superintendent Barrese said the Minister of Education will make that decision • Chris King asked about the number of ALLP students participating the learn at home versus in-school?; Superintendent Barrese said that 9 ALLP students are learning at home in elementary school, and 10 ALLP students are learning at home in secondary school; she noted that these students can move in and out of the school at any time, so parents don’t need to wait until November to change the pathway for their child’s method of learning 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Return to School Update (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris asked for more information about elementary virtual learning?; Superintendent Barrese said is involves 225 minutes of screen time (160 minutes for JK and SK); families can elect for less time but need to work with the Principals if they want their child to be exempted; it was noted that all of our ALLP students elected for reduced screen time • Sandra informed SEAC that ALLP teachers have been meeting to discuss best practices and created a central repository for teaching material to meet individual student needs • Lis Hoskins asked if some students are still undecided?; Superintendent Barrese said staff are currently following up with families where the student(s) are not in school or registered for online learning to see if they have moved or have chosen to home school their child(ren) • Julia MacKellar asked <i>how</i> people can request a screen-time exemption?; Superintendent Barrese said parents can to call the Principal of the virtual school their child is enrolled in • Julia asked if Psychological assessments are being done?; Superintendent Barrese said an Admin. Procedure is being developed in coordination with the provincial governing body for Clinicians • In response to a question about which agencies are allowed in schools, it was noted that the most current version of the Board’s ‘Essential Visitors Policy’ can always be found on the Board’s website; most agencies are <u>not</u> permitted at this time, unless there is a health need, and in those instances, staff from the Children’s Treatment Centre, etc. are permitted to enter schools if they abide by the Board’s protocols; orientation & mobility and provincial demonstration school staff are also being allowed in schools to support students • In response to Julia’s query about access to school resource rooms, Superintendent Barrese said most support will be provided in the classroom and there are strict guidelines in place for resource room access • Julia asked if additional teachers were hired?; Superintendent Barrese said the Board wouldn’t <i>normally</i> be hiring because our student enrollment is decreasing but, because of COVID, a few new teachers have been hired, particularly in the elementary panel; this is because the junior and intermediate classrooms been organized to aim to have 26 or fewer students per class, and our Board is striving to have only 24 students, so that has resulted in the need to do some hiring • In response to a question about school sports and extra-curricular activities, it was noted that only limited activities are being allowed due to the current restriction on gatherings, but, these activities are important to students and this will continue to be re-visited • Julia noted that she heard on the radio that some school boards are having issues with bussing; Superintendent Barrese said CLASS organized everything and provided training and PPE for drivers, and these efforts resulted in no routes having to be cancelled • Superintendent Barrese said that, at any time, if the members have additional questions, they can send them to Lori 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Priority-Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese explained that, because of the need to remain socially-distanced, the priority-setting exercise could not be conducted as per normal, so a Google Form was created, and Lori will email it to everyone to complete • Chris King said that, given the present circumstances, continued updates like the one given tonight would be appreciated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All • Spec. Ed. Team
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from the Avon Maitland District School Board, dated February 18, 2020, regarding the ASD ‘After School Skills Development Program’ wasn’t received by the Recording Secretary until things re-opened; since the letter referenced March Break and summer programming, and that time has passed, no action was taken 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Correspondence (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie Moule informed SEAC that every Board receives funding for an After-School Skills Development Program; the Ministry allowed our Board to use our funds through to the end of August; that meant our ABA specialists could stay in contact with students in the program • She said funding was used to provide participants with supplies, and ASD students entering into kindergarten were supported in a variety of ways (i.e. help with toileting); as well, sensory kits were purchased and will be sent to each of the ALLP classrooms 	
Association Reports and Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marty Passmore echoed Superintendent Barrese's comments and said everyone has been working tirelessly to plan for a smooth start to school • Melani Rich said that their C-K Chapter's AGM will be held soon • had to adapt to virtual meetings, and this has created some opportunities for information sharing beyond their Chapter; she also said that Thames Valley et al have been providing workshops that can be accessed online • Chris King heard a CBC radio show regarding bussing issues being experienced by other Boards, and he gives credit to our Board • He said that residential facilities have remained free of COVID; their day programs, etc. are still on hold but they are trying to remain in contact with families, and they have provided Respite Day Programs and activity kits to provide support in a different way • He noted that their JobStart program has started up again, and, their AGM will be held virtually on November 12, 2020 • Sheila Richardson spoke about the Transition Program that saw staff assist students as they prepared to transition back to school or their virtual classroom • She said there are 9 new Resource Teachers and virtual training is currently being provided • She said that eLite is an online referral and IEP engine, and it was able to start up for the school year yesterday; there are hiccups with the new system, but staff are working through the issues • Sandra Perkins highlighted the summer programs provided for at-risk students, including credit recovery, student engagement, etc. • She said that a Summer Learning Program helped a number of students to connect with caring adults in order to recover some credits; she said that many of those same staff members then took part in the Transition Program that Sheila spoke about, so it was a busy summer for staff • Jean MacIntyre said she's impressed after hearing about everything that has been done to make the re-start as smooth and safe as possible • Angie Moule said she was busy spending project funding; as well, BEA funding was utilized to allow kindergarten teams, ALLP, and CTCC staff to participate in virtual Geneva Autism Training • Trustee Barnes said that in this ever-changing world, she's happy to see everything that's been done to support the Board's students • She asked how the public health funding for nurses will be utilized?; Superintendent Barrese said that it will mainly be used for screening, follow-up and return to school support, but that we are still waiting for Public Health to distribute the funds • Sandra Pidduck has returned from COVID-19 layoff and noted that classroom and teacher presentations are available for all schools looking for material related to epilepsy and the development of safety plans • Their organization will be holding a virtual group for parents and students entitled Making Mindfulness Matter 	

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Association Reports and Other Business (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Return to School Webinar was held in conjunction with Epilepsy Toronto and provides information from infection experts intended to support parents of children who have epilepsy • Julia said their AGM is September 22, 2020; that same day they are joining with other regions to offer a virtual workshop; anyone interested in registering can go to LDAHH • She said they are offering programs virtually, and anyone interested can contact her to register • Steve Stokley said their residential programs are doing well; they ran a summer program and offered life skills, etc.; their day programs are going to start up, but will not look like they have in the past • Their employment program is getting back up and running; their agency is providing essential services only; their organization has been COVID-free since April • Vicki Ware said the four First Nations haven't met since last March, but they will be meeting next week • Rose Gallaway said St. Clair Child and Youth is open for scheduled appointments; they are still doing virtual visits, with staff working in platoons to allow for social distancing; they are also conducting some socially-distanced client visits • Chris King said that this evening he heard about numerous initiatives that were able to take place to utilize funds; he would like to develop a letter to the Ministry that can be shared with other SEACs in the Province to draw attention to all the good that additional funds can do; Superintendent Barrese said she is preparing a Board Report and in mid-to-late October that Report will be brought to SEAC and could be used as the basis for creating such a letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie Barrese
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., meeting location and details will be confirmed closer to the meeting date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. 	