

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
~ Thursday, June 11, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. via Teleconference ~

Present:	Rose Gallaway - St. Clair Child and Youth Services (Chair) Janet Barnes – Trustee (Vice-Chair) Melani Rich – Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Chapters 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 Vicki Ware – First Nations Representative	
Regrets:	Chris Moore, System Coordinator - Multidisciplinary Team Jean MacIntyre – “Member At Large” Derek Robertson, Trustee	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Sandra Perkins, System Coordinator of Special Education Heather Touzin, Special Education Coordinator Tara Mitchell, Special Education Coordinator Marty Passmore, Lambton-Kent Secondary Administrators’ Association Elizabeth Townsend, Lambton-Kent Elementary Administrators’ Association Lori Gall, Recording Secretary	
Guests:	Jeff Brosh, Assistive Technology Resource Teacher Joeleen DeGurse-MacDonald, Assistive Technology Resource Teacher (Secondary) Paul Gilbert, Assistive Technology Resource Teacher (Elementary) Brian Jubenville, Assistive Technology Resource Teacher (Elementary) Stephanie Konstantinou, Assistive Technology Resource Teacher (Elementary) Shae VanderGriendt, Vice-Principal - John McGregor Secondary School Elisabeth Hoskins, LKDSB Attendance Officer	
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 Before moving into the Agenda, Superintendent Barrese read the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>By order of the Ontario Minister of Education, all public schools are closed from March 14th through to the end of the school year in response to the emergence of COVID-19. This closure currently includes the Education Centres. The Ministry of Education and the Government of Ontario had introduced Legislation allowing for Board Meetings and Board Committee Meetings to occur electronically. Regulation 463/97 was amended by Regulation 42/20 and removes the requirement for any persons to be physically present at electronic meetings if all schools have been closed by the Minister, the Medical Officer of Health or Cabinet.</i> Trustee Janet Barnes Moved, Steve Stokley Seconded “<i>That the Agenda be approved</i>”; All in favour 	
Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Barnes recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment 	
Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris King Moved, Wendy Smith Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of May 21, 2020 be approved.</i>”; All in favour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>During the May 21, 2020 SEAC Meeting, Jean MacIntyre asked if retired teachers are being called back into service to help support learning similar to how retired nurses were called in to help in hospitals; Superintendent Barrese has shared the idea with the Board’s Executive Team and a Provincial group that she’s part of for their consideration</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori

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Assistive Technology Team Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Touzin and Tara Mitchell, Special Education Coordinators, along with Jeff Brosh, Stephanie Konstantinou, Joeleen DeGurse-MacDonald, Paul Gilbert and Brian Jubenville, who are all Resource Teachers on the Assistive Technology Team, attended to highlight the work being undertaken during the school closure • The volume of technology available requires them to provide support for both teachers and students and to provide training to allow for classroom lesson-delivery that's inclusive of everyone; the team continually updates resources and offers the asynchronous support needed by staff and students • The A.T. Team has created a website that's easy to navigate allowing them to share information and resources with staff, students and families • The Assistive Tech Team's website has 8 sections for at-home-learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A home page with links to resources and pertinent info.; • Info. about why and how A.T. is effective in supporting teaching; • Parent resources for setting up iPads and Chromebooks; • Information on how to use Read & Write; • Videos and resources curated by the Team to support learning; • Information for guiding teachers on how to capture, convert and share resources; • Secure page for teachers to access additional information; and, • A.T. Team contact info. • They have also created an unlisted YouTube channel that allows them to share content videos for staff, students and families to reference at any time • They will expand their offerings to include videos to support pedagogy, and more • Rose Gallaway thanked the Team for their presentation • Steve Stokely asked if students will be keeping the hardware/devices that have been provided to them over the summer months; Sandra Perkins said unless the student is leaving our Board, they may keep their equipment and noted that, if there are problems, I.T. will help resolve issues/make repairs • Angie Barrese asked the Team was practices might be influenced by the work they are doing now, and what can be done to improve student support?; Jeff Brosh said that being able to visit with students more often (using a virtual platform such as Google Meet) might be beneficial as it would allow for more opportunities to connect • Brian Jubenville said normally the school day is very busy, so it can be difficult to connect with a teacher for a quality conversation, but the on-line world has allowed more opportunities for these connections and information-sharing • Angie informed SEAC that typically Spec. Ed. Team Members spend a lot of time going from school to school, but meeting virtually allows for more time to meet • Stephanie Konstantinou said the Spec. Ed. Itinerant Teams have been jumping into each other's Google Meets events and this has allowed them to realize they can collaborate to support each other, and classrooms; she said, by working together, it might help teachers who are feeling overwhelmed • Joeleen said she's been invited into the Secondary Program Department's meetings, which is in turn allowing for them to consider a broader scope and receive new insights into ways the Assistive Tech. Team can help • It was noted that there are lots of opportunities for professional development for staff to ensure that technology support for students will be seamless • Sandra Perkins thanked the Team for the information they shared 	

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Special Education Department Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Barrese said that the Board began allowing parents/students into schools to collect belongings, and things are running smoothly • She said students may keep things sent home (including Board-owned technology or SEA equipment) unless they're graduating or leaving the Board • The Board has been told it will receive Ministry funding for summer programs focused on supporting students with exceptional needs; supporting mental wellbeing, supporting student transitions; and, support for students with autism • Every School Board has been asked to develop draft plans for what September might look like if we can return to the classroom to some degree • Sandra said that the Itinerant Teams are participating in a 'Carousel of Learning' with each other to share information and best practices around everything their Team does to support students • As well, it was noted that the Mental Health Team is pulling together 'Good News' stories and video clips about everything that's happening across the Board, and are sharing the information via their Twitter page 	
Budget Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAC would normally be receiving the next year's Budget Presentation at the June Meeting, but it was noted that the Ministry hasn't provided budget information with the Board yet, so the presentation will be made at the September meeting 	
Special Education Plan Item(s) to Be Reviewed in June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Perkins spoke about Appendix 1.1 which outlines the parts of the 2020 Special Education Plan reviewed but not changed, and parts of the Plan that were amended throughout the 2019-2020 school year and noted that a Motion is required so the Board can document SEAC has been a part of the Annual Plan Review and is in agreement with the updates made • Sandra noted that the Program Reviews have not been completed as planned, but said the Spec. Ed. Team intends to work on these Reviews as time allows • Janet Barnes Moved, Julia MacKellar Seconded <i>"That the amendments to the 2020 Special Education Plan as made during the 2019-2020 school year, and as reflected in Appendix 1.1, be approved."</i>; All in favour 	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter, dated June 8, 2020, from the Halton Catholic District School Board regarding the Minister's Advisory Council for Special Education (MACSE) was received, but since SEAC has already written the Ministry on this matter, no further action was taken • Chris King said the flow information seems to only be going one way; in the current situation it's understandable but, if it continues, he suggested SEAC might want to revisit whether to further correspond with the Ministry on this matter • He gave kudos to the Board for allowing the member organizations to provide input, noting that some Boards did not provide that same opportunity to member agencies; he also thanked the Spec. Ed. Department for sharing the combined information that was sent to the MACSE in both February and June 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia MacKellar said that their organization will provide 3 free programs via Facebook Live: Tilly's Tales (for 3-8-year-olds), and "And Then We Read" (for 9-13-year-olds); and, Basic Literacy Assistance (for reading, math, etc. • Steve Stokley said they're focusing on central services (since their day and respite programs are still closed); as well, they plan to run a scaled-down summer program (10 students every other day) through July and August • Chris King said while their residential programs are still shuttered, their summer program has 8 employers who have committed to accepting workers provided things open up; if jobs are not available, their agency will look at having summer program participants perform volunteer work; they are trying to be as inventive as they can be during these uncertain times • He recently attended a Zoom Meeting with (Sarnia) Mayor Bradley and will provide the link to Lori to share with the membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris/Lori

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Association Reports, Other Business and Sharing of Best Practices (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Smith said their summer program will not run this year because they don't have the resources; she is working with their summer student to develop online information for those who need them • Marty Passmore said they're working to ensure all their students are getting over the finish line; he appreciates all the hard work everyone is doing, including staff and volunteers; they are busy trying to plan for September • Heather Touzin said that she's very proud of the Assistive Technology Team for all the hard work they've done this year • She noted that IPRCs are being conducted virtually this year and that this has been successful, so, if it needs to continue in the Fall, we will be prepared to do so • Vicki Ware said they're working to create a safe environment within their schools for September; they are looking at retrofitting the classrooms and buses, as well, they are creating policies, conducting IPRC meetings and holding transition meetings for students coming into their kindergarten programs • She said that Aamjiwnaang will be offering a STEM-based summer camp and will also be offering summer tutoring (through Lexia) • Rose Gallaway said St. Clair Child & Youth are working from their offices with partial staff and, in a few weeks, they hope to meet clients face-to-face when it's safe to do so • Elizabeth Townsend said they are working on a virtual graduation of some kind • She wanted to give her thanks to Senior Administration and the Program Teams for the support they have been providing through these challenging times 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.; at this time, it is unknown whether the meeting will be able to be held in person or via teleconference so that information will be provided closer to the date • Everyone is wished a safe, happy and healthy summer! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. 	