

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

~ Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Wallaceburg & District Museum ~

| Present: | Gillian Hueniken – Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Lisa Veenendaal for Sandy Boldt – Community Integration through Cooperative Education, Lambton College Steve Stokley – Community Living Chatham-Kent Chris King – Community Living Sarnia Lambton (Chair) Wendy Smith – Community Living Wallaceburg 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 Lori Marvin – St. Clair Child & Youth Services | |
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| Regrets: | Melani Rich – Autism Ontario, West Region Sarah Simmons – LINCK Child, Youth & Family Supports Adam Davis, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Paul Gilbert, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Tara Mitchell, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Sheila Richardson, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Heather Touzin, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator – Secondary Elizabeth Townsend, L-K Elementary Administrators’ Rep. Vicki Ware – Four First Nation (Education Authority) Representative | |
| Resource Staff: | Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education – Student Support Services/Well-Being Carrielyn Smith, System Administrator – Student Support Services/Well-Being Chris Moore, System Coordinator – Multidisciplinary Team Jeff Brosh, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator Marty Passmore, L-K Secondary Administrators’ Rep. Lori Gall, Recording Secretary | |
| Guests: | Helen Lane, Superintendent of Indigenous Education/Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and International Education Mackenzie Horner – Transitions II (T2) Program Teacher Tiffany D’Angela – Client Services Team Manager Jenna Capes – PASS Program Coordinator | |
| 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 Steve Stokley Moved, Michelle Holbrook Seconded <i>“That the Agenda be approved”</i>; All in favour | |
| Territorial Acknowledgement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Kelly Robertson shared a territorial acknowledgement | |
| Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wendy Smith Moved, Laurie Richardson Seconded <i>“That the Minutes of May 18, 2023 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 May 18, 2023 | |
| Presentation: ‘Count Me In’ LKDSB, Voluntary Student Demographic Census | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Barrese introduced Superintendent Helen Lane, who is responsible for Indigenous Education, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, and International Education Superintendent Lane spoke about a voluntary, confidential student census conducted between March 1 – April 8, 2022 to help the Board understand who its students are and how they identify themselves; of the Board’s total enrollment of 6,981 pupils, there were 2,394 students (34.3%) that completed the census The Census included questions about languages, Indigenous identity, ethnic/cultural background, racial identity, citizenship status, religious/spiritual affiliation, gender identity, sexual orientation, and (dis)abilities A high-level breakdown of responses was shared | |

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| <p>Presentation: 'Count Me In' LKDSB, Voluntary Student Demographic Census (continued)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Lane noted that there were participants who indicated that, despite the Board provided a list of the 'Top 20 Languages Spoken', their language was not in the list so that made administration realize there is a lot of diversity across the Board; Superintendent Lane said being aware of all of the languages spoken by our students might help the Board to secure funding for translators, etc. • The census responses provided information on student populations and school communities to help identify systemic barriers and/or bias across the system; the data collected will ensure the Board is providing the programs needed to support student success and well-being, and is allocating resources where they're needed • The Board has learned that having a culturally responsive pedagogy in the schools is important, and that programs need to be tailored so students can 'see themselves' in what's being taught • Superintendent Lane said each Superintendent has been challenged to think about how they'll use the data to ensure students feel welcome; she further noted that thinking about how and why students are disengaged is very important and the data may help point to some of the reasons for any disengagement that exists • Trevor Aldous said it's important that the Board doesn't leave anyone behind; Superintendent Lane said the Board is mandated to hold up the Human Rights Code • Lisa Veenendaal asked how students in ALLP classes completed the survey?; Superintendent Lane said support was given to students who may have needed some assistance to complete the census • She noted that the Board's workforce does not reflect the demographics of our students, for instance, 6% of the Board's students are Inuit while only 2% of the Board's Teachers are Inuit • She also noted that the Board is completing an Equity Audit which will also produce valuable information because the more information we have, the better the Board can work to ensure equity • Chris King said members of SEAC (who represent agencies) are responsible for supporting many clients who live below the poverty line, and he would like to see agencies work together to provide the supports needed for these individuals | |
| <p>Sarnia-Lambton Rebound Programming</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris King noted that Michelle Holbrook and some staff members from Rebound would be speaking about the agency's programs and services, and he said that Michelle was recognized during the recent "2023 Women of Excellence Awards" for all of the good that she's done as a part of Rebound, and the community; everyone applauded Michelle on her success • Michelle was joined by Mackenzie Horner, a Teacher in the Transitions II (T2) Program, Tiffany D'Angela, Rebound's Client Services Team Manager, and Jenna Capes, the Sarnia-Lambton PASS Program Coordinator • Michelle said Rebound was founded in a Church basement by 3 community members in 1984 and has grown to offer 18 programs; to date, they have served 40,000+ youth; she noted that Rebound's partnerships are key to the organization's overall success and said that there are 4 school-based programs • Tiffany and Makenzie spoke about some of the programming and noted that the T2 classroom operates every day during the regular school year and during summer school; they provide an ECYC to support students • Tiffany said students are referred to Rebound by a Selection Committee (through Probation & Parole or Children's Aid Society) when a typical classroom isn't working for them; there is ongoing discussion to ensure that the proper supports are in place for each student, based on their specific needs • The goal is to stabilize the student and transition them back to their school or another school they might want to attend • The students have said the classrooms at Rebound are a safe space and where staff are free to find creative ways to support them | |

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| <p>Sarnia-Lambton Rebound Programming (continued)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mackenzie said this past year, the T2 program supported 23 students and even operated during the COVID Pandemic because students wanted to be there and needed the support • It was noted that representatives from community agencies participate in Wrap-Around Meetings which are mandatory for the student • Tiffany said students benefit from having their educational needs met while also learning life skills and participating in recreational activities designed to enrich their experience; Rebound also creates opportunities for the students to obtain their volunteer hours • The members were told that when students don't have access to some of the basic necessities, they can obtain items discreetly from The Hub, and they're provided with both breakfast and lunch daily • Jenna spoke about the PASS Program which helps youth work on life skills while getting caught up on their academics; the program supports youth from Grades 4 – 12 by providing both structure and routine in a safe and supportive environment • The staff of the PASS Program may refer the student to other programs in Rebound if necessary; this year they had 31 youths in the PASS program and Chatham-Kent and 63 students in the Lambton-Kent program • Jenna said students referred to the PASS Program often exhibit opposition to authority but at Rebound, because they feel safe, they're able to learn how to conduct themselves when interacting with others • Michelle LaLonge-Davey asked if the Board's Attendance Officers are involved with these students, and she was told that they are not • Trevor Aldous spoke about the transitional issues experienced in Grade 6 and 9 and wondered what can be done to help reduce problems?; Jenna said the PASS Program has a Readmission Report • Michelle Holbrook spoke about the many programs and services they provide (i.e. the CARE Program, Rebound Rocks, ACT II, Cinderella Project, etc.) and said that Rebound's job is to work themselves <i>out</i> of a job • She noted that many volunteers and community partners are needed to help the organization run its operation successfully • Michelle said there is a stigma that Rebound is only for bad kids and that simply is not true; <i>anyone</i> can attend, even without referrals • The Ministry of Child & Youth Services provides a bit of funding while the rest comes through Community Grants, fundraising, and self-sustaining enterprises such as their high-end boutique that recently opened • Michelle said Rebound's staff (of over 30 people) are 'incredible humans' • Lisa Veenendaal asked if adults are allowed to attend the programming?; Michelle said the care program is designed to support youth up to 17 years of age • Chris King thanked the group for their informative and important presentation | |
| <p>PAaC on SEAC Resources</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 3 – Additional Resources, and the List of Tables, which are prepared by PAaC on SEAC, were shared with the membership for their information and use; there were no comments or questions • The Chair spoke about Roberts Rules of Order and asked the members if they felt the process for voting is suitable?; no-one said they had issues, so the process for voting will remain the same; the Chair spoke about the Parliamentary Procedures for handling a Motion and noted the importance of recording whether someone was opposed to a Motion or wished to abstain from voting because they're not familiar with the material • The idea of an Evaluation Form was discussed; Superintendent Barrese said a Feedback Form is being developed and will be shared with the membership and can be discussed in September; the Form will be sent out the week of June 26th and then we'll provide a week or two for responses to be submitted; it will not be mandatory for SEAC members to respond | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSS/WB Teams |

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| PAaC on SEAC Resources (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that a SEAC Checklist included things such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do Minutes accurately reflect all of the discussion?; the Committee members feel that they Minutes are accurate ○ In relation to information about SEAC being shared with the Trustees, it was noted that SEAC is a monthly item listed on the Board Agenda; Trustee Little said she brings the SEAC Board Report forward ○ Superintendent Barrese said Trustees are interested in SEAC, including those who are not appointed to sit on SEAC; Chris King said he has noticed increased attendance/engagement by Trustees ○ Kelly Robertson and Malinda Little both said they bring information <i>back</i> to SEAC from the Board, as needed ○ Relative to the frequency of SEAC passing Motions, Superintendent Barrese said if the issue is tied to legislation (such as Appendix 1.1 on tonight's Agenda) or staff are asked to prepare a letter to Ministers on topics of interest, then there is a Motion but, otherwise, it's not necessary for SEAC to make Motions; Chris King agrees that there are not a lot of other Motions required, and feels that the Committee is acting within its responsibilities; it was noted that, if and when there <i>are</i> Motions made by SEAC, the Trustees appointed to SEAC discuss them with the other members of the Board ○ There was an item in the SEAC Checklist about delegations and Superintendent Barrese said SEAC has not appeared before the Board as a delegation and said she sees when there is a delegation to the Board, it is often because of an issue or problem; however she said there are workshops and presentations made to the Board on <i>behalf</i> of SEAC ○ Relative to the Agenda Package, it was noted that it is provided well in advance of the meeting ○ The Chair summarized by saying that he feels that SEAC is operating effectively and within the area/scope of its responsibilities ○ The Chair did say that if agency's don't have an alternate member, they should consider appointing one as its important SEAC is able to meet quorum each month; Lori Gall noted that Autism Ontario put the name of an alternate member forward earlier that day • It was noted that, with the review of this month's information completed, it concludes the review of the PAaC on SEAC Handbook and any associated Resources; Superintendent Barrese noted that the PAaC on SEAC Handbook is an excellent resource that members can reference at any time | |
| Special Education Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrielyn Smith informed the membership that the List of Appendices was reviewed, but that no changes were required • She noted that Appendix 1.1 (Process for the Revision of the Special Education Report) was updated to remove the information from 2017, and to capture the amendments made to the Special Education Plan during the 2022-2023 school year • Wendy Smith Moved, Malinda Little Seconded <i>"That all information/updates related to the Special Education Plan presented at the SEAC Meetings held on January 19, February 16, March 23, April 20, May 18, and June 15, 2023, and detailed in Appendix 1.1, be approved"</i>; All in favour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall |
| Correspondence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no correspondence received | |
| Association Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Smith of Community Living Wallaceburg (CLW) said June is Deaf-Blind Awareness Month and they've partnered with the local library for a yarn-bombing event; their 3Rivers Roll event is scheduled for July 19th and, as a part of their Rock the Park event, there will be auctions and unique experiences (offered in collaboration with Porsche); also, Red Barn Brewing Company made a special 'Home Farm' beer to promote CLW and raise funds; and, the CLW Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled to take place at Maple City Golf Course in September; she will provide information to Lori Gall to share | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall |

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| Association Reports (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gillian Hueniken of the Children’s Treatment Centre said they’re having a 75th Anniversary Birthday BBQ on June 27th where there will be lots of fun stations and activities for families; she said that the design for the rebuild of the Centre has continued to progress and, hopefully, shovels will hit the ground soon; Gillian will provide information to Lori Gall to share with the membership • Chris King of Community Living Sarnia-Lambton (CLSL) said the Annual Mayor’s Luncheon was held recently and is always a good event; also, copies of ‘A New Friend at School’, which was written by a former student, will be donated by CLSL to elementary and secondary schools in the Lambton Kent area; CLSL’s Annual Family Picnic is scheduled for June 24th at Canatara Park, rain or shine; as well he reported that the Summer Employment Transitions BBQ will be held at Giant Tiger on June 17th; Chris said there are 70 families taking part in the Respite Program being offered (35 families each week); he will provide information to Lori Gall to share, including the CLSL June Staff newsletter; he wrapped things up by saying the search for a new Executive Director is continuing • Superintendent Barrese told the members that Chris Moore will retire in August, but he will help with the Social Emotional and ABA Camps being held over the summer; Lori Gall will forward the flyers about the camps to the Committee members; it was noted that Social Workers will be available to speak to parents/families at the camps; Melani Coll said families are looking forward to the camps • Superintendent Barrese told the members that a focus on Credit Recovery helped students achieve 80 credits from first semester and 112 for the second semester • Lori Gall informed SEAC that she will retire at the end of the month and noted that she found the information shared at meetings to be interesting and she enjoyed being a resource to the Committee; she wished everyone well | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Gall • Lori Gall |
| Next Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 21, 2023 in Jeanne Gordon Hall at the Wallaceburg & District Museum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary-Ann Tuer |
| Adjournment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Veenendaal Moved, Melani Coll Seconded “That the meeting be adjourned”; All in favour; the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. | |