

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

~ Thursday, September 21, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. at Wallaceburg District Museum ~

Present:	Jennifer Howell, Autism Ontario – West Region Gillian Hueniken, Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Lisa Veenendaal, Community Integration through Cooperative Education – Lambton College Steve Stokley, Community Living, Chatham-Kent Chris King, Community Living, Sarnia Lambton Wendy Smith, Community Living, Wallaceburg Vicki Ware, Four First Nation Education Authority Representative Lori Richardson, Lambton County Development Services Kelley Robertson, Lambton Kent District School Board Trustee Julia MacKellar, Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Sarah Simmons, LINCK Child, Youth & Family Services Trevor Aldous, Member-at-Large Melanie Coll, Pathways Health Centre for Children Michelle Holbrook, Rebound: A Program for Youth	
Regrets:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Lori Marvin, St. Clair Child & Youth Services Malinda Little, Lambton Kent District School Board Trustee	
Resource Staff:	Carrielyn Smith, System Coordinator of Student Support Services/Well-Being Jeff Brosh, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Cori Savo, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Emma Blundy, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Tara Mitchell, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Ryan Spencer, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Dawn Hyatt, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Heather Touzin, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Secondary Emily Colvin, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Secondary Taryn Lessard, Principal, L-K Elementary Administrators’ Rep. Marty Passmore, Vice-Principal, L-K Secondary Administrators’ Rep. Mary-Ann Tuer, Recording Secretary	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order, Territorial Acknowledgement and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris King called the meeting to order</li> <li>• Trustee Kelley Robertson recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment</li> <li>• Chris King asked everyone to introduce themselves</li> </ul>	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia MacKellar Moved, Vicki Ware Seconded “That the Agenda be approved”; All in favour</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wendy Smith Moved, Melanie Coll Seconded “<i>That the Minutes of June 15, 2023 be approved</i>”; All in favour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary-Ann Tuer</li> </ul>
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no business arising from the Minutes of June 15, 2023</li> </ul>	
2023-2024 Priority-Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were given the opportunity to provide input on presentations/areas of learning that they’d like to receive during the 2023-2024 school year; the input received will be compiled and presented at the October SEAC Meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrielyn Smith</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Special Education Plan Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carrielyn Smith shared the 2023-2024 Special Education Plan Checklist that was submitted to the Ministry at the conclusion of SEAC’s annual Plan review</li> <li>Chris King mentioned the importance of the PAaC on SEAC and recommended the committee take time to review the resource</li> <li>Mary-Ann Tuer will share the <a href="#">PAaC on SEAC</a> resource with the group</li> </ul>	Carrielyn Smith/Mary-Ann Tuer
SEAC Survey Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris King thanked Jeff Brosh for creating the SEAC Survey and collecting the responses</li> <li>Chris King informed the group that the Survey is a PAaC on SEAC recommendation and helps highlight what the committees’ priorities are</li> <li>There were 9 responses to the survey</li> <li>6 of the 9 survey participants would like to see a virtual option available for meetings moving forward. Mary-Ann will look into putting this in place for the next meeting.</li> <li>All participants of the survey would like to continue to: learn from visiting LKDSB educators, learn from visiting local agency partners, and share future agenda items</li> <li>Most survey participants would like to continue reviewing Ministry resources and share association reports</li> <li>Survey participants requested to learn more from Karen Holland – FASD Family Resource Worker, someone from the Special Olympics, and a tour of the CCEI program at Lambton College</li> <li>4 participants asked to share agenda items through alternate means of communication</li> <li>Members were reminded that if they would like to make a presentation regarding their agency and its work, they are welcome to submit a request to Mary-Ann Tuer at any time</li> <li>Chris King suggested that the survey be sent out again in the spring</li> </ul>	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A letter dated July 11, 2023 Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB SEAC regarding cited concerns relative the recruitment and retention of EA’s.</li> <li>Chris King highlighted, <i>“Without intervention by the Government of Ontario to engage in a concerted effort to support post-secondary institutions in attracting more candidates to these programs, the supply and demand problem will continue to compound.”</i></li> <li>Chris King said that Community Living currently has 260 employees and is having a difficult time with recruitment. Community Living has recommended that Lambton College reenact their DSW</li> <li>Chris King asked Carrielyn Smith if the LKDSB was having similar challenges to staffing as Dufferin Peel is experiencing.</li> <li>Jeff Brosh said that St. Clair College is currently offering a DSW program, which is sitting at 75% capacity.</li> <li>Michelle Holbrook said their CYW program numbers are “horrible,” with 60 seats available, only 29 seats are taken. SSW has increased to 70 students this year due to the program timeframe changing.</li> <li>Trustee Kelley Robertson said EA staffing/recruitment has not been raised as a concern at the Board level.</li> <li>Carrielyn Smith said a posting for EA’s has just been posted to help replenish our occasional list; however, we often find that by the time we hire staff and have them signed up and complete training, the list has depleted. It’s difficult trying to find people to work</li> <li>Michelle Holbrook shared that as the Chair of the Social Services Network, retention and recruitment continue to be an issue</li> <li>Carrielyn Smith noted that other boards are hiring unqualified emergency supply</li> <li>Trevor Aldous said in his field, the Technology sector is also struggling. Previously would receive 100’s of resumes, now lucky with 10. Only two people would come to be interviewed, and less for training.</li> <li>Lisa Veenendaal said they received a lot of unqualified applicants for their specialized postings and went through 3 rounds of interviews with many no-shows.</li> <li>Melanie Coll said Pathways had to close their respite program due to a lack of qualified staff.</li> </ul>	Carrielyn Smith/Mary-Ann Tuer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gillian Hueniken asked if EA's felt supported and worries about burnout for most of them.</li> <li>• Carrielyn Smith said it is difficult to answer as it is a systemic issue. Our new model is about building capacity in schools, but it can be challenging when we are short-staffed. We are always looking for ways to support staff wellness.</li> <li>• Lisa Veenendaal said she feels students aren't aware of high-need jobs. There should be more career fairs and co-ops pertaining to this type of work and conversations with Secondary Students. Students are being pushed into universities. There are currently 491 jobs available in Sarnia, but no one wants them because they are not aware of the role.</li> <li>• Trevor Aldous said few college programs are pushed or are brought to students' attention. The focus is only on Trades or University.</li> <li>• Chris King said if an EA absence is not filled, the teacher is expected to fill that role, which in turn impacts the support of the other students in the class.</li> <li>• Chris King asked if the committee like to write a letter of support</li> <li>• Michelle Holbrook Moved and Wendy Smith Seconded "That a letter be prepared for sending to the Ministry of Education"; All in favour</li> <li>• Trustee Kelley Robertson suggested that she bring the letter to Trustee Fletcher requesting it be added to the OPSBA agenda as they sit on the committee. Kelley mentioned this is the first time she has heard of this and worries others aren't aware.</li> </ul>	
<p>Association Reports and Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanie Coll – Pathways Sarnia is hosting a Teen Transitions Fair on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at Pathways Health Centre. This has been shared with school boards, community partners and our families who are shared partners. There is a trend with families coming early to be prepared for their transition.</li> <li>• Chris King shared that Community Living has hired a new Executive Director, Corey Thomas. Chris also shared Community Living's Summer Employment Transition Report, the September Respite calendar as well as the RESPITALITY Strengthening Our Community Through Hospitality program presentation, which was presented at the ISBA conference in Poland. Chris said this presentation could be added to an upcoming agenda.</li> <li>• Gillian Hueniken shared CTC Connects Live dates: Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, &amp; Oct 26<sup>th</sup> for parents and caregivers to connect with each other; Care for Kids: Conquering Hospital Visits and Blood Work on Oct 12<sup>th</sup> to help ease any anxieties around healthcare visits; Caregivers night out on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>; and a Family Skate at the Thames Campus Arena on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Tara Mitchell asked if CTC could consider workshops on Hearing and Vision testing for youth with Autism, as appointments are stressful for them and their families. These tests are required prior to a Psychoeducational assessment. She also recommended something similar for Dentist visits.</li> <li>• Steve Stokley shared the Jumpstart Teen Transition Fair for Chatham Kent, which is taking place at the Children's Treatment Centre on October 17<sup>th</sup>. There are 20-25 agencies attending. All agencies are welcome, and there is no fee for a table.</li> <li>• Heather Touzin shared that both flyers for Lambton and Chatham Kent have been shared with schools and has asked that they be posted on LKDSB Social Media Platforms.</li> <li>• Michelle Holbrook shared that programs are starting at the beginning of October; Rebound is excited about the new LKDSB Education Community Partnership Program Classroom on-site at Rebound.</li> <li>• Wendy Smith said October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Oct 19<sup>th</sup> is blue and purple light up day. Lightbulbs are available for businesses and chambers to light up their buildings. Please wear blue and purple that day; Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Living Wallaceburg is hosting a Career Fair; Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Wallaceburg Chamber of Commerce annual Business &amp; Community Excellence Awards where CLW will be awarding an inclusive business; Annual Golf Tournament is Sept 29 at Maple City Golf Course</li> <li>• Julia MacKellar said tutoring programs are now being offered for \$11 an hour and encouraged families to reach out even if funding is an issue.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori Richardson said there is a Fish Fry at the Lions Hall this Saturday in Petrolia and that Fusion tickets went on sale today.</li> <li>• Chris King mentioned how important Transition nights are for families to ensure they are aware of the resources being offered to them.</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. – Wallaceburg Museum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori Richardson Moved, Melanie Coll Seconded <i>'That the meeting be adjourned'</i>; All in favour; the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.</li> </ul>	