



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 21, 2022

6:00 PM

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present:

Chair:

W. Rose, Community Representative

Community Rep(s):

M. Gatopoulos K. Jones T. Sault

T. Wilson

Trustees:

R. Collver
T. Waldschmidt

Grand Erie Staff:

P. Bagchee, Mental Health & Well-Being Lead
F. Lainson, Program Coordinator – Special Education
L. Sheppard, Program Coordinator - Applied Behaviour Analysis
J. White, Principal Leader – Special Education

**Organizations/
Agencies:**

L. Boswell, Information Services/Resource Coordinator, Contact Brant
T. Buchanan, Supervisor of Employee Supports, Community Living Brant
A. Detmar, Tele-Mental Health Coordinator, Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services
L. DeJong, Social Worker – Vice-Chair, Lansdowne Children’s Centre
A. Csoff, Board of Directors, Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H.
Dr. L. Scott, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Ontario Network of Enterprise

Native Rep.

L. Nydam

Absent with Regrets:

L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education – Special Education
C. Brady- Community Rep
J. Trovato- Community Rep

Absent:

Guests: J. Valstar

Recording Secretary J. White

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome**

Chair. Rose called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and provided the Land Acknowledgment.

(b) **Roll Call**

Chair. Rose welcomed J. Valstar who will be starting as the new recording secretary for next meeting as the new Executive Assistant to Superintendent Thompson.
Chair Rose expressed thanks to P. Curran for her years providing service as recording secretary for SEAC. A letter of thanks will be sent to P. Curran from SEAC.

(c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Add: C-1 (d) Developmental Service Ontario Update- Chair Rose
C-1 (f) Response – Entry to school meetings - L. Sheppard

Delete: Nil



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Moved by: M. Gatopoulos

Seconded by: A. Detmar

THAT the SEAC 21-08 Agenda for Thursday, April 21, 2022 be approved.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Grand Erie's Special Education Plan 2021-22 - draft**

L. Sheppard and F. Lainson facilitated a breakout group activity where SEAC members reviewed update sections of the Board's Special Education Plan. The goal of revisions was to make the standards more visually appealing, easier to locate information, ensure content flowed better, and was simplified wherever possible for those who access it.

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

(a) **Ratification of Minutes from Thursday, March 10, 2022**

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the SEAC 21-07 minutes for Thursday, March 10, 2022 be approved as circulated.

Carried

(b) **Transitions – School Day**

F. Lainson and L. Sheppard reviewed Policy/Program Memorandum 140 and 156 and how educator teams in schools support student's transitional needs within the school day.

(c) **Project SEARCH – update**

J. White introduced a new program that will be running in Grand Erie beginning September 2022. Project SEARCH is an employment preparation program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The goal of the program is to support students reach their employment goals through real- life work experience, training in employability and life skills, along with employment planning and support. Grand Erie is partnering with St. Joseph's Lifecare Center and Stedman Hospice (host site) and Community Living Brant. (employment service organization.)

(d) **Ltr – Wait times for Psychoeducational Assessments/ Developmental Service Ontario**

L. Boswell expressed concerns about a DSO Transition-Timeline document that instructs parents to request a psychological assessment at age 14 from their school board. These concerns will be included in a letter from SEAC to the Ministry.

(e) **EQAO - update**

F. Lainson shared the changes to the EQAO assessment that students in grades 3 and 6 will experience when taking the test this year.

(f) **Response – Entry to School Meetings, Ontario Autism Program**

L. Sheppard brought forward data requested by SEAC members from last meeting about where Entry to School meetings, Ontario Autism Program, was being facilitated,



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and how many students were being supported. L. DeJong recommended that this information is reported back to the Ministry so that they are aware that there are still gaps in knowing who has been invited to these meeting. This information would support capturing all, or more, participants if this information was known.

D - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Process**

L. Sheppard shared the application process that the board follows for SIP funding, which assists with partially offsetting the cost of supports and services to ensure the health and safety needs of students who have extraordinarily high needs.

(b) **Educational Assistants – 2022-23**

J. White presented the shared support model for Educational Assistants that informs the Board's allocation process for the 2022-23 school year.

E - 1 **Other Business**

Nil

F - 1 **Standing Items**

(a) **Policies/Procedures Out for Comment**

Comments on currently reviewed policies or procedures may be submitted to policiesandprocedures@granderie.ca according to the timeline listed.

(b) **Trustee Updates**

Trustee Collver shared information about an evening of learning being offered by GEPIC. She also highlighted the upcoming Education Week of May 2nd as a celebration of teaching excellence and student achievement in Grand Erie. Trustee Collver shared that there would be lots of activities and resources provided for that week in support of Mental Health.

G - 1 **Information Items**

Nil

H - 1 **Community Updates**

Nil

I - 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **LDAO SEAC Circular – April 2022**

Presented as included in the meeting package

(b) **LTR – York CDSB – SIP**

Presented as included in the meeting package

(c) **LTR – York CDSB – Nursing Shortages**

Presented as included in the meeting package



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- J - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**
 - (a) **Modified Day**
 - (b) **Summer Programs for Students with Special Education Needs**
 - (c) **The Ontario Human Rights Commission Report on the Right to Read**
 - (d) **Grand Erie's Annual Learning and Operating Plan – Mid-Year Update**

K - 1 **Next Meeting**
Thursday, May 19, 2022 | 6:00 PM | MS Teams Virtual Meeting.

L - 1 **Adjournment**
Chair Rose called for adjournment.

Moved by: Dr. L. Scott
Seconded by: K. Jones
THAT the SEAC 21-08 meeting held April 21, 2022 be adjourned at 8:46 p.m.
Carried