



Avon Maitland District School Board Annual Accessibility Plan Working Group

Wednesday, February 8th, 2017
4:00 p.m.

Avon Maitland District School Board
Education Centre, Seaforth, ON
Festival Room

MINUTES

Attendance: Janet Baird-Jackson (co-chair), David Frier (co-chair), Mary Lou Bilcke, Tim Bilcke, Anne Copeland, Hugh Cox, Diana Doctor, Jamie Gibbings, Jason Hillier, Judy Hoffmeyer, Mary Jane Karkheck, Shelley King, Jessica Lamont, Ralf Mesenbrink, Laurel Mitchell, Callan Page, Doug Pratley, Jodi Regier, Martin Ritsma, Rick Rompf, Nancy Rothwell, Atessa Zizek,

Regrets: Rob Simmons, Vince Trocchi

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Janet Baird-Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Martin Ritsma, and seconded by Mary Jane Karkheck that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.

3.0 Review of Minutes from November 9, 2016

Moved by Mary Lou Bilcke, and seconded by Rick Rompf that the minutes from the November 9th meeting be approved. CARRIED.

4.0 System Memo – AODO

Janet commented that sub committees had been asked to update their sections of the current Accessibility Plan. The updates have been made and it has been posted on the board website. A copy will be e-mailed to committee members. There were no comments or questions on the system memo.

5.0 Compliance Benchmarks

Janet and Dave reviewed the compliance benchmarks. The next benchmark is filing an accessible compliance report on December 31, 2017. The Ministry website indicates there will be a change for the 2017 reporting year but it is not yet available. Hopefully there will be more information by the next meeting date. Sub Committees will need to review the timeframes for the standards that are to be met for accessibility compliance reporting. The April meeting date should be a working meeting for sub committees, October will be a directional meeting to discuss what has been done and what needs to be done, then probably a late November meeting to finalize the Compliance Report.

Janet noted the recent media discussion regarding public videos and close captioning. Presently, posted videos need to be in an accessible format when requested. Full compliance of accessible content on websites is scheduled for January 1, 2021. The Communications department is starting to review posted videos for close captioning. Tim confirmed there are close to 400 videos the need to be converted. Presently they are

working on the most prominent videos for accessibility. Then the intent is to work sequentially through the public videos starting with the most current and working backwards. It is a very time consuming process to convert to close captioning. All new videos will be available in close captioning

6.0 Subcommittee/Working Group Structure

The working groups each provided their updates as follows:

Information and Technology

Discussion on researching the use of e-books for students. Trying to get public library systems more connected with schools. The goal is for every student to have a library card so they can use the library's e-book system.

School websites are being reviewed and updated. New websites are being made accessible. Intent is that schools will soon be able to maintain the websites on their own.

AODA training module is implemented through safe schools online training platform. All staff have been notified about the training requirements. Reports are available that show the compliance level and also indicate who needs refresh training.

Transportation

AP 589 has been updated regarding accessibility. Eight large accessible vehicles are available for booking throughout the district. On regular daily bus routes, when a need is identified regarding student accessibility, there is discussion with the operator to ensure the student can be accommodated. Drivers and monitors all receive training on accessibility requirements.

Customer Service

No update

Built Environment

Commentary that when accessibility concerns in our buildings are identified that they are addressed, for example lowering water fountains, modifying handrails, modifications to ramps. Trying to be proactive when possible with the funds that are available. Door upgrades are happening at many locations throughout the district this year which will include power door operators. Accessibility is always discussed and identified when renovations are undertaken at our school sites. This includes service counter heights in office areas. A portion of the counter height would be lower for accessibility. The facilities department tries to get feedback on renovation projects so it is continual improvement going forward.

Employment Services

No update

Subcommittees broke into working groups. It was discussed that they need to think about the 2017 plan and what it is that each group wants to achieve and set as goals. There are specific target years to be addressed as well as areas in the existing plan that may need to be carried forward. Since we don't know what the compliance report is going to look like, we need to look at what is upcoming and how we will address that expectation.

7.0 Future meetings

Dates of next meetings:

- Wednesday October 11th, 4pm

8.0 Adjournment at 5:30 p.m.