



# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES

### SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 2014

4:00 pm

Education Centre, Seaforth

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**Committee**

**Members Present:** Carol Bennewies, Lynette Geddes, Deb Hotchkiss, Lisa Harper, Katie Fox, Doris Barkley, Cheri Carter, Doug Pratley, Marty Krebs, Terri Sparling.

**Regrets:** Trevor McGregor, Connie Seaton, Emma Bannerman, Greg Haber

**Admin. Liaison:** Peggy Blair, Cheryl Peach

**Student Senators:**

**Staff Resource:** Connie Trotter (recorder)

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#### 1.0 Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Superintendent Blair asked for introductions and also explained the election process.

***Nominations for Chair:***

Marty Krebs noted he will let his name stand.

Trevor McGregor has indicated he would let his name stand.

Carol Bennewies nominated Katie Fox, who accepted the nomination.

Ballots handed out and counted by Cheryl Peach.

Results: Katie Fox has been voted as Chair.

**ACCEPTED**

***Nominations for Vice Chair:***

Trustee Geddes nominated Marty Krebs, who accepted the nomination.

**ACCLAIMED**

#### 2.0 Routine Matters

##### 2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda: Lynette Geddes, seconded by Carol Bennewies

**CARRIED**

## 2.2 Approval of the Minutes – November 5, 2014

Motion to accept the November 5, 2014 minutes (as corrected): Marty Krebs seconded by Doug Pratley.

**CARRIED**

### Questions regarding November minutes:

Question: Is the majority of the budget spent on EA salaries. Answer: Superintendent Blair noted that the majority of the Special Education budget is spent on personnel.

Question regarding Special Needs Strategy 3.3: Is this realigning province-wide? Answer: Superintendent Blair noted that it is and explained the process. This change came out of parents saying they are telling their story a number of times as their child moves through the system. Realigning so the process is seamless for parents. Each organization is being asked to look at their processes and resources.

Question regarding Exceptional Pupil Review 3.5: Superintendent Blair will review the chart at the next SEAC meeting.

Question regarding wording of Trustee Report 4.0. Corrected wording: *Trustee election results: Judy Cairncross (new Trustee), Randy Wagler and Robert Hunking were all acclaimed. Lynette Geddes, Alyson Kent, Julie Moore, Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell and Colleen Schenk, all won their seats in the Municipal election. Former Trustees Michael Bannerman, Al Sygrove and Jenny Versteeg did not run.* (This has been changed in the November minutes.)

## 3.0 Business Arising from Minutes

3.1 Nil

## 4.0 New Business

### 4.1 Special Education Budget – Cheri Carter

Handout – please keep this in your SEAC folder for future reference. Cheri asked to have this posted to the SEAC conference as well.

Cheri explained the finance process, acronyms, and how the funding process works.

Complete details on Ontario Ministry of Education's Funding allocations, including the Special Education allocations summarized in the document Cheri provided. You can refer to the Ministry of Education's Technical Paper 2014-2015 which can be found with the following link:

[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1415/Technical14\\_15.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1415/Technical14_15.pdf)

Cheri spoke about the different grants/funding: Special Education Allotment (SEA), Special Incidence Portion (SIP), etc. In some boards, the amount of funding decreased, but that did not happen with our board.

Salaries and benefits for staff is 92.3% of the total Special Education Program budget.

Transportation costs are not included in the Special Education budget.

Capitol expenses (renovations to a classroom) is charged to the Facilities budget, not Special Education.

Cheri explained the Special Education Program working paper and the 2014-2015 Operating Budget as it stands. We will go through this in more detail in May and June.

Superintendent Blair spoke about some of the enhancements which we can add because we have some in-year savings.

- For a two (2) year term, we are adding a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), so we

can introduce language supports to all our Kindergarten classrooms. This will allow our existing SLPs to implement Kindergarten Language Literacy in Classroom (KLLIC) in all schools.

- In junior divisions, we have added more SERT time to five (5) schools, to help them concentrate on additional time with students. After EQAO results have come in, they would work with the students who are struggling.
- Dr. Ansari, Western University, has developed a screening tool, to help figure out if student has a problem in math. How do we create the intervention? Dr. Ansari is coming to work with a group of teachers.
- Mental Health (MH): We want to grow this, with funding going to MH training. Not all MH expenses are under Special Education.

Question: is there an amount that is allowed for a deficit for Special Education? Answer: no, you can be on budget, or underspent, but there is no specific amount. Cheri will be back in May with the 2014-2015 budget.

#### **4.2 Partner in Employment (PIE) – Cheryl Peach & Deb Hotchkiss**

<http://partnersinemployment.on.ca/>

Deb Hotchkiss explained the background of PIE, which is a not for profit organization. We want everyone who comes through our doors, to be successful. The school to work program was started by Trevor McGregor – Community Living, Deb Hotchill – PIE, HPCDSB & AMDSB, during the 2010-2011 school year, with eight (8) students and two (2) secondary schools involved. The program has expanded over the years and by 2014-2015 we have ten (10) secondary schools involved and twenty-six (26) students. We have also been able to add students who are at risk. The first student who secured paid employment, five (5) years later, is still in the same job.

We have employers calling every day, asking for employees.

Connections with Youth Program: Trevor McGregor applied for a Trillium grant for a university student to support secondary school students with special needs to make connections with their peers throughout the summer. The application was successful and a grant was received. NWSS and St. Mike's were involved as well as St. Marys DCVI, who had a student that lived in Stratford. Worked with students, asked them who they would like to make a connection with, and started social networking. Tagging other students who may not have a connection with students with special needs. Relationships grew, even without the worker. Parents were happy because they saw it as a natural connection. Started within the school, clubs, etc. This was the way to build on the school year friendships.

Question: When are students working? Answer: Usually happens during school hours.

Part of the work now, is how to keep this going. Are there other areas doing this? How do we move forward?

Question: How much time do you spend in schools? Answer: One day a week, to meet with the students. Deb noted she is flexible with student work hours.

#### **4.3 SEAC Learning for All Parent Workshop – update**

Dr. Michael Unger is coming to Stratford May 2, for the day. We have booked Anne Hathaway P.S., which is the same location as last year's event. Dr. Unger is from eastern Canada, world renowned on his work on resiliency, & promoting good mental health. Terri Sparling noted she has heard him speak, working with people with complex needs. He is very powerful to listen to.

For more information about Dr. Ungar: <http://www.michaelungar.com/>

#### **4.4 Pilots & Additional Support – Peggy Blair**

See enhancements information under budget.

#### **4.5 Mental Health Lead Agency update – Terri Sparling**

Two handouts, which are posted on the SEAC conference. We are in a system transformation. Over 400 agencies that provides a collection of services across the province, down to 34 agencies.

Working on a core service plan and also a Mental Health (MH) service plan by March 2015.

Terri explained their budget constraints. Funding cannot cover all expenses, but they were given permission to move the funds to greatest areas of need.

Terri explained their process when seeing clients and the services they provide. Partners include the Huron Perth Catholic DSB, the Avon Maitland DSB and Children's Aid Society. This is so exciting, we could make a difference in terms of the waiting list. By April, we will have a centralized process intact.

#### **5.0 Trustee Report:**

Trustee Geddes reported the new board is in place, with new trustee orientation being held last night.

#### **6.0 Association Reports**

Perth District Health Unit. Doris asked that if the school board identifies students on the spectrum, please let our organization know, we offer many supports. Superintendent Blair noted we will let the Board's Autism Specialist, Sue Wiffen, know and she can let parents know.

#### **7.0 Student Senator Report**

Nil

#### **8.0 Future Agenda Items/Information Items**

- Learning for All Parent Workshop
- Special Education Plan
- Definition of inclusion

#### **9.0 Date of Next Meeting – February 4, 2015**

- **Future Meetings:**
  - March 4, 2015
  - April 1, 2015
  - May 6, 2015
  - June 3, 2015
  - June 10, 2015 (required to replace December 2014 meeting)

#### **10.0 Adjournment**

Moved by Lynette Geddes seconded by Carol Bennewies.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:55 pm.

<b>Committee Members</b>		
<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Non-Voting Members</b>	<b>Alternate Members</b>
Katie Fox - Chair <i>Foundations Huron</i>	Greg Haber <i>Elementary Principal Rep</i>	
Marty Krebs – Vice Chair <i>Member at Large</i>	Emma Bannerman <i>Secondary Principal Rep</i>	Mary Lynn MacDonald <i>Member at Large</i>
Doris Barkley <i>Perth District Health Unit</i>	Peggy Blair <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	
Carol Bennewies <i>Member at Large</i>	Cheryl Peach <i>System Principal</i>	
Lynette Geddes <i>Trustee</i>	Jane Morris <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	Nancy Rothwell <i>Trustee</i>
Lisa Harper <i>Spina Bifida &amp; Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario</i>		
Trevor McGregor <i>Community Living – Stratford &amp; Area</i>		
Doug Pratley <i>Trustee</i>		Randy Wagler <i>Trustee</i>
Connie Seaton <i>Community Living – St. Marys &amp; Area</i>		
Terri Sparling <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>		

**AMDSB Website:** [www.yourschools.ca](http://www.yourschools.ca)