



**Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2015
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: L. Geddes, C. Bennewies, K. Fox, D. Barkley, D. Pratley, T. Sparling.

Non-Voting Members: E. Bannerman, G. Haber,

Staff Present: P. Blair, E. Salmon

Member Regrets: J. Costello, L. Harper, M. Krebs, T. McGregor

Guests Present: P. Langis, H. Finch

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the December 2, 2015 agenda: L. Geddes seconded by D. Barkley

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the November 4, 2015 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes T. Sparling seconded by D. Barkley

CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Update: Tentative provincial deal for support staff. This has not been voted on, but we are optimistic it will be ratified. Sanctions have been lifted.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Safe Schools & Suspension Data – Superintendent Paul Langis

<http://iamalwayslearning.ca/>

Superintendent Langis noted his work is directly related to Superintendent Blair's portfolio and relates to SEAC. A lot of work is strategic and plans for all students, with a focus on those who are at risk. Student Success meets the needs of all students. Must be clear with Principals and teachers, that we must support all student learning needs.

Link to Operations: <http://yourschools.ca/departments/school-operations/>

Superintendent Langis explained how Pathways works. Students start the plan as they transition into grade 7 and then again in grade 9 to help them

plan for their future. Indicators of success let us know that we are meeting students' needs. Graduation rate doesn't capture the students who achieved some credits, but do have life skills to be successful, or students who achieve certificates, but we do need to recognize these successes. Inclusive education connection: Our job is to analyze what the data is telling us & consider all options for meeting student needs.

Safe Schools: There seems to be a discrepancy Province-wide for students who have and have not been identified. Suspensions can be cyclical. Does the strategy actually meet the needs of what we are trying to do? Numbers will fluctuate over the year. Superintendent Langis can come back in June to review the data.

Question: Are there internal and external supports in place for students who have multiple suspensions? Answer: Yes, we would put supports in place for the student. On the Perth side, there are public health nurses in the schools, and that service would be offered for a student. Discussion followed regarding modified school day for students. This is challenge and can be a drastic change that we look to other supports for the student before going this route.

Katie thanked Superintendent Langis for his presentation.

3.2 **Special Education Plan Revisions – Helena Finch**

Helena worked with two staff members in the transportation department to revise this section. There were not many changes to be made. Helena asked the group to read over the proposed changes.

Question: Section 8.3: 70 min radius. Is this different than other boards. PB noted this acts as a rider. Transportation will determine this, not the provincial schools.

Should add in training for Ryan's law. (Helena will follow up with the transportation manager.)

Student Support Teachers will meet with drivers, to do general training. If warranted, the student will have a specific plan, and the driver will be aware of this. Student Support Team will sometimes ride the bus with their students, to better understand student needs on the bus.

Helena will take the suggestions back to transportation for clarification.

3.3 Ontario's Sheltered Workshops to Close Forever – Toronto Star article. <http://m.thestar.com/#/article/news/canada/2015/11/29/ontarios-sheltered-workshops-to-close-forever.html>

Superintendent Blair noted there is a direction from the provincial government to try and close these workshops. Often workers are not paid a fair wage. Katie Fox noted the minister announced that no new people will be admitted to these workshops, with a plan to phase them out over the next five years. We don't know how this will be critiqued, as some Community Living organizations run workshops. There are some

unanswered questions, but it will pave the way to help get workers a fair wage. Superintendent Blair noted that we will try to have employers understand that employees with disabilities, older and younger can add value to their business. Community Living has put out some great videos about the wonderful ideas they can offer employers that they might not find otherwise. (Check out videos and insert links.)

Great to have Partners in Employment and also have the work done in the schools to help students transition into meaningful work.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

On December 8, there will be an election for new chair and vice chair. Shortly after that, two Trustees will be chosen to represent SEAC.

5.0 Association Reports

Foundations Huron: Poster contest: Together We're Better, celebrating students ages 4-14. Connie to send to P/VP conference. Deadline for the contest is February 1, with the winner being announced on February 22, 2016.

Dream Big event will be held on Thursday March 10. Joey Moss, worked for the last 10 years as equipment manager for the Edmonton Oilers, will be the main speaker. In the hockey off season, he works for the Edmonton Eskimos. Coming with a friend, who also has a developmental disability, who will help tell Joey's story.

<http://oilers.nhl.com/club/page.htm?id=33055>

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2013/08/08/gretzkys-most-underrated-achievement-changing-joey-moss-forever>

Huron Perth Centre: Timely access has been running for four weeks. When calls come in, clients are assigned to a worker within 24 hours or sooner. Announced a grant for new funding for safe spaces for mental health. Nice to see there are new dollars coming in.

Autism Ontario: 44 applications have been received, 10 new families applying for funding supports. Must have a diagnosis of Autism. Very exciting, will all work being done by volunteers.

6.0 Additional items:

- Eleanor would like to invite students, to come to tell us about a conference they attended.
- Terri: have 2 schools who partnered together to get a grant for safe schools.
- Cheri Carter to present the budget in January.
- Parent conference – will have names for next month. Topics: Learning Disabilities, Dr. Jean Clinton, welcoming school communities.
- Mentally healthy schools, critical things & how powerful an inclusive class can be.

7.0 Student Senator Reports

No report

8.0 Future Agenda Items

- School to Work Transition program. (Partners in Employment) February
- Employment for students who leave school for employment. (video: TVO, Autism)
- Orientation for SEAC members (ongoing)
- St. Marys video
- Calendar/plan of what's happening in schools
- Definition of Inclusion
- Budget – Cheri Carter (January, May, June)
- Parent Workshop

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

- January 6, 2016

Future Meetings:

- February 3, 2016
- March 2, 2016
- April 6, 2016
- May 11, 2015 **(Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month.)**
- June 1, 2016
- June 15, 2015 **(Second meeting of the month is for budget.)**

These dates will be posted on the Board website.

10.0 Adjournment

Moved by D. Barkley to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:20 pm.

**Committee Members
2015 – 2016**

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Alternate Members
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>
Lynette Geddes <i>Trustee</i>	Peggy Blair <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	Nancy Rothwell <i>Trustee</i>
Doug Pratley <i>Trustee</i>	Eleanor Salmon <i>System Principal</i>	Randy Wagler <i>Trustee</i>
Terri Sparling <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>	Jane Morris <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	
Jennifer Costello <i>Community Living – St. Marys & Area</i>		
Trevor McGregor <i>Community Living – Stratford & Area</i>		
Doris Barkley <i>Perth District Health Unit Autism Ontario</i>		
Carol Bennewies <i>Member at Large</i>		
Lisa Harper <i>Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario</i>		