



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

**Wednesday, April 6, 2016
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: C. Bennewies, D. Barkley, L. Harper, K. Fox, D. Pratley, J. Costello, T. McGregor, A. Kent, T. Sparling, E. Bannerman

Non-Voting Members: E. Bannerman

Staff Present: E. Salmon, P. Blair

Member Regrets: L. Geddes, G. Haber, M. Krebs

Guests Present: K. Robson

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the March 2, 2016 agenda: C. Bennewies seconded by D. Pratley

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the April 6, 2016 agenda: D. Barkley seconded by L. Harper

CARRIED

1.3 Approval of the February 3, 2016 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes D. Barkley seconded by C. Bennewies

CARRIED

1.4 Approval of the March 2, 2016 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes D. Pratley seconded by L. Harper

CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 March 2:

Clarifying that the French immersion program in Huron County is not moving ahead.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Learning Disabilities – System Principal, E. Salmon

Work with secondary principals, monitoring the work teachers & support staff do with students with Learning Disabilities (LD).

Areas we want our administration to think about; focus on student's abilities & strengths, and shore up their lagging skills. Categories of exceptionality: behaviour, intellectual, multiple, communication, physical. Looking at all exceptionalities, the vast majority are students with LD. LD is not who the student is, it's what they have. "*Dysfunctions in the processing information that may occur in reading, defined as a discrepancy between ability and achievement despite average or above average intelligence.*"

Principal Salmon gave an overview of demographics by exceptionality. Provincial stats include English Language Learners. We are working on learning more about this. Digging in; take a look at the randomly selected IEPs of Grade 9 students with LD. Fill in the sections of the chart for each student: profile of the learner, focus on strengths, listening to the student voice, effective assessment practices, and 1 more I didn't get. Thinking about our work: how do we monitor the IEPs, ensure students are receiving the accommodations they need, what is the role of the SERT, CRT, Student Success Teacher, to support the learning of students with LD.

Research by Dr. Jamie Metsala. Talks about more focused and early intervention, in early years. Principal Salmon talked about the success of students who are in the Empower Reading program. Essential for some, good for all.

Edugains website has a section on students with LD.

<http://www.edugains.ca/newsite/SpecialEducation/index.html>

Katie thanked Eleanor for her presentation.

3.2 Parent Workshop – Final preparation

One page handout about Dr. Clinton's presentation.

3.3 Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario – L. Harper

Lisa noted that when she contacted the organization to get information to present to SEAC, they were very excited and provided a large amount of information.

www.sbhao.on.ca

Huron County, did a tasters club. One Friday night of the month, get together to have a meal. Gained a new perspective about what parents go through. 75% of funds are from fundraising, not much comes from government funds. Fundraisers include; Wheel, walk, run events, & TBIF Calendar Lottery. Lisa was provided with a large binder, which is guide for

educators. Encourage anyone to check out the website and refer anyone you know who may benefit from this service. Would love to, some day, set up a satellite office in Huron/Perth/Bruce.

Question: Do you know how many people in Huron & Perth counties who are affected by this? Answer: I don't know, but would like to find this out and send to the organization, to show we need support outside of the GTA.

Question: Have you connected with family support workers? Answer: no, have not done this. If you have any connections, please let Lisa know. Katie thanked Lisa for her presentation.

3.4 Community Living Central Huron – Katie Robson Applied Behaviour A Based Services

Coordinator for ABA support services in Huron & Perth counties. Only 10% of children diagnosed with autism, are eligible for supports and services. About five years ago, through the Ministry of Child and Youth services, ABA support services were set up. Pair with other agencies, across the region. Community Living is a partner. Work with one family, to identify one goal. After a couple of years, the program was switched up. TVCC noted they had to make a change to reach more families, which became a group service. Katie walked the group through the referral process and how an individual can access services and supports. Referrals are sent to Katie, who will contact the family, do a group orientation, usually one on one. Some parents need more information on what ABA is. Also teaching within the community. Have done some trainings at Community Living branches in the area. Housed within the community, Stratford, Listowel and wherever the need is. If someone is in need, but there is no group in their area, Katie will build a group around them. Services are available up to the age of 18. Can come in and out of services as needed up to the age of 18. Biggest barrier is finding the families, to ensure they are aware of the services that are available to them. Katie asked that each SEAC member share this information, to get the word out. Want to make sure the goal is beneficial to that person and the family.

Katie Fox thanked Katie Robson for her presentation.

3.5 Update on Amethyst School Review – Principal Salmon

Number of students working at Amethyst is 9 with 10 in the queue to go. So there is significant concern, if this no longer functions. The teachers at Amethyst can spend far more time on the literacy block. Success for students is quite high. Superintendent Blair will be submitting a report on behalf of the board, but we want to invite SEAC to submit their information. Deadline is Friday. It's important that as many voices as possible should be heard. Superintendent Blair noted this is a residential program, where students stay Monday to Friday, and have CYWs to help

with homework at night. One of our students is a Robarts. Numbers are very small ratio to student/teachers. Demonstration schools staff come to our board to present best practices with tablets, and other technologies. This school is for students with a Learning Disability who would attend for one or two years.

Link has been posted to the SEAC conference.

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/consult_pds.html

Question: Is the intent to close the schools? Answer: No decision at the present time. Extremely high cost because of things like weekly transportation to and from school. We appreciate what they can do for our students. Discussion held about students who have attended a provincial school, and who have made so many great gains.

3.6 IEP Review – E. Salmon

We will be doing the IEP review again. Would like to invite someone from SEAC to participate. Will be held on May 4. Katie Fox, Doug Pratley and Jennifer Costello, will participate. 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Location to be announced.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee Kent reported trustees are working on last year of strategic plan. The Director is doing consultation to get input from as many people as possible. Had a lot of active parents who were advocating for French Immersion in Huron County. This is not expanding but we are looking at other opportunities. Reviewing policies as well.

5.0 Association Reports

Foundations Huron: March 10 Dream Big event went so well. Hashtag used this year, so able to collect information.

Community Living Stratford & Area: Beginning the student connection program next week. Lead student is in University and program will be in full force after the middle of May at NWSS, SCSS, and St. Mike's.

Huron Perth Centre: Access team is now active. Embarking on training for staff on collaboration, work of Dr. Michael Unger. Meeting with him next week. First week of May is children's Mental Health week. Encouraging people to wear green instead of ribbons.

Autism Ontario: baseball team in Mitchell running again. The league had 19 people last year and 11 have signed back up with 3 new people. Last Saturday

was world autism awareness. Paula Kluth coming next Saturday at Anne Hathaway P.S., which starts at 9:00 am.

Perth District Health Unit: Doris will be speaking to 500 students at Little Falls P.S. tomorrow, and also meeting with some classes. Also invited by Seaforth, to do a presentation to the 5/6 class. More than happy to talk, let Doris know.

6.0 Additional items:

We need to change the date of the June 15 meeting to June 8. SEAC will need to give their final approval of the 2016-2017 budget to go to the board on June 14. Next meeting is on May 11, which is the second Wednesday instead of the first. Next month is hearing awareness month. Helena has done some updating of the Special Education Plan. Teachers of the Deaf will present at the next meeting.

7.0 Student Senator Reports

No report

8.0 Future Agenda Items

- 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 (May, June)
- Parent Workshop. Dr. Jean Clinton. May 16, 2016 at Anne Hathaway P.S.
- Section(s) to be reviewed from the Special Education Plan (ongoing)

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

- May 11, 2016 **(Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month.)**

Future Meetings:

- June 1, 2016
- **June 8, 2016 (Second meeting of the month is for budget.)**

These dates will be posted on the Board website.

10.0 Adjournment

Moved by Terri Sparling to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:58 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>	Alyson Kent <i>Trustee</i>
Doug Pratley <i>Trustee</i>	Eleanor Salmon <i>System Principal</i>	Nancy Rothwell <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>		