



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

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

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

Non-Voting Members:

Staff Present: E. Salmon, P. Blair

Member Regrets: G. Haber, L. Harper, M. Krebs, E. Bannerman, T. McGregor,

Guests Present: S. Reay, D. Bice, H. Finch,

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the May 11, 2016 agenda: L Geddes seconded by C. Bennewies

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the April 6, 2016 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes D. Barkley seconded by D. Pratley

CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Superintendent Blair spoke about a letter that was received from the Ministry of Education regarding Provincial Schools. For the coming year, schools will remain open. We don't know if they will be admitting students for whom we have submitted applications for the coming year. We also don't have confirmation if students who should be returning for their 2nd year, if they will be returning or not.

2.2 Learning for All Parent workshop – update

Rescheduled to Monday, May 16 at Anne Hathaway P.S. We have emailed those who were registered previously, asking them to reregister. The information has been shared on social media. Wes McVicar, Communications Manager will push this using social media one more time this week.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Understanding Hearing Loss – S. Reay & Deb Bice, Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Increase understanding of hearing loss and the prevalence of hearing loss of our students.

Activity Simulation – What's it like to have a slight hearing loss. Ear plugs handed out to everyone and Sharon gave activity instructions. Think of students in classrooms, with the background noise, students are still trying to hear and be heard, which can be quite challenging for them. 60% of the English language cannot be read through reading lips.

In AMDSB we are aware of approximately 88 students who have hearing loss, ranging from mild to profound.

Students can have a bilateral or unilateral hearing loss. Student with unilateral loss are 10 times more likely to fail a grade in school or need special help. Invisible population: group that have conductive and fluctuating hearing loss. One in 5 students at the primary, junior level, have a temporary mild hearing loss. You can miss up to 20% of the auditory information in the classroom. "Hearing loss is not about the ears, it's about the brain". Dr. Carol Flexer: <http://www.carolflexer.com/> Hearing loss is a first order event for spoken language and reading. Hearing and amplification devices are critical for students. Auditory Processing Disorder.

Video of Dr. Martha Burns:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPqSwTOpixE>

Number of kids with an Auditory Processing Deficit (APD) is between 2-7% In AMDSB we know of over 600 students. Boys are twice as likely to have APD as girls. Impacts: language, memory & cognition and social competency.

Sharon also spoke about the upcoming Making Connections day for students with hearing loss in grades 2-8 to come together to do special activities. The reason for this day, is there might only be one student in their school who has a hearing loss. It's important for students to meet others with hearing loss and see that other wear hearing aids, or cochlear implants. The group is going to Camp Kintail this year.

Katie thanked Sharon and Deb for their presentations.

3.2 Special Education Budget update – C. Carter, Associate Superintendent of Finance

Budget will not be ready until June 1 due to staffing that has not been completed. Cheri sends her regrets to the committee. Defer this item to June 1.

- 3.3 Special Education Plan update – H. Finch, Learning for All Coach**
Superintendent Baird Jackson and Laurel Mitchell reviewed this section with Helena. Checked to be sure that all wording was up to date and the requirements of the standard are met within this section.
Reviewed the handout with data for 2015-2016.
17.2 and 17.3 are text only.
17.2: First 4 paragraphs can be sent to JBJ and Laurel to review and consolidate. Check to see if we have Best Start.
17.3: Wording for training and safety of Educational Assistants. Take out list of examples.
Katie thanked Helena for her work on the plan.

- 3.4 Toronto Star Article – Trustee Pratley**
<https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2016/05/10/youth-with-special-needs-demand-a-say-in-decisions-affecting-their-lives.html>

If the province is doing this, can AMDSB do this? Can we consider, over the next while, establishing a group of students to get together and let them tell us how we are doing in with our services to them. They can tell us what they like and don't like, what we are doing now

Discussion held on putting together an expert panel. They can voice their opinions. Agenda would be created by them.

Superintendent Blair noted the board improvement plan notes that each elementary school, have to look at creating a social equity plan, requiring a good cross section of students. Will take time, but those equity teams, could come to present to SEAC. One of the things that Russel Quaglia (spelling) says is students need to learn from teachers. This is part of the school improvement planning. How are you going to build student leadership? Schools are aware that they need to have students of all abilities on these committees.

Discussion held on how we can tap into the inclusion work.
Something we need to think more about.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee Pratley: We need, as Trustees, help from SEAC to educate other Trustees about the kind of work that SEAC is doing. Trying to figure out how to bring the work of all committee work to the board meeting. Trustees Geddes and Pratley will work together to come up with a solution on how this can be done. Suggestion from Doris to summarize what's happened over the last year and pick out 2 or 3 items to update at the AGM.

5.0 Association Reports

Foundations Huron: K. Fox reported she attended the IEP review and now understands what the AMDSB standard is and what the Ministry requires. AMDSB requirements are higher than Ministry standards. My feedback is that accommodations are doing very well. Reviewed 15 IEPs over the day. Transition planning is also done well, but thinking not just about moving from elementary to secondary, but also need to look at class to class, etc. Also noted that different Community Living agencies are using social media to promote their services.

Community Living St. Marys & Area: J. Costello reported she participated in the annual IEP review. Transition part was the most interesting. Will be able to help clients

Huron Perth Centre: T. Sparling noted it was a great Children's Mental Health Week. SCSS, Brookside schools. Was in 4 schools. Was inspiring to see the student leadership, teaching staff, and noting how far we have come. Met with Healthy Schools committee at Little Falls. Lead by someone from the Health Unit, consisting of all students on the committee. Timely access has been running for about 7 months, going smoothly.

Autism Ontario: D. Barkley noted the annual walk in Goderich will be held on June 14. Hosted Paula Kluth last month, which was so inspiring. Books will be going into Perth and Huron County libraries.

Perth District Health Unit: D. Barkley noted that nurses will be meeting up with principals in the next month, to help with planning for next year and sharing resources.

Member at Large: M. Krebs talked about student voice/inclusion. Involved with scouts Canada, getting youth involved. Real push on getting youth involved and what do leaders want to do. Much the same as the school student voice.

6.0 Additional items:

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)
- Student Voice - September

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 M. Krebs to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 6:03 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>		