



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

**Wednesday, March 1, 2017  
4:00 pm – Maitland Room  
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

**Voting Members/**

**Alternates Present:** C. Bennewies, K. Fox, R. Hunking, L. Geddes, J. Costello, D. Barkley, T. McGregor, M. Krebs, T. Sparling, N. Rothwell

**Non-Voting Members:** H. Finch, R. Lovell

**Staff Present:** P. Blair, M. Pfaff

**Member Regrets:** D. Pratley, L. Harper

**Presenters:** Learning for All Coaches: J. Campbell, K. McKee, K. Hayter, T. Gloor

**Recorder:** C. Trotter

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**1.0 Routine Matters**

**1.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda: L. Geddes, seconded by M. Krebs

**CARRIED**

**1.2 Approval of the February 1, 2017 SEAC Minutes**

Motion to accept the minutes: M. Krebs, seconded by C. Bennewies

**CARRIED**

**2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

**2.1** At the last meeting, the committee wanted to bring forward a motion to indicate that SEAC supports inclusion:

**Motion by C. Bennewies:** SEAC supports inclusion in the Avon Maitland District School Board that places the student in their home school and a regular classroom, with their peers, while providing supports & resources necessary to students and staff to ensure their physical, cognitive, emotional, academic and social needs are being met in the classroom and the broader school community. And that updates on the implementation of the inclusion process should be made to SEAC at regular intervals during the year.

Seconded by T. McGregor.

**Discussion:**

How is this motion under the trustee board report and how is this relevant? Following Trustee Pratley's report at the last meeting, it was determined that SEAC had not put a formal motion forward. SEAC members believe it is important to be on the record that the committee agrees with the process.

Everything we do is for the betterment of the children. There has never been any real motion supporting inclusion, even though in our hearts and minds, it is what we do every day. This is the commitment to the strategic plan which benefits all students. It is a commitment, to the board, to say that we support inclusion. After the presentation by Drs. Bennett & Gallagher, we know we need to put our support on inclusion. This is not something that has just come up since the last meeting, we have been discussing the merits of inclusive education at previous meetings.

Regular class placement means that some students with exceptional needs may require time out of the classroom for things like physiotherapy. Some students who do not have special education needs may not be able to stay in the classroom full-time. Schools offer flexible learning spaces.

C. Bennewies is willing to defer the motion at this time.

M. Krebs made the motion to defer C. Bennewies' motion until the next meeting. Seconded by J. Costello.

Consensus to defer the motion until the next meeting. C. Trotter to send the wording to all SEAC members so they are prepared.

**From the last meeting:**

**Motion:** Research shared today, shows this is the model that benefits the entire student population. We encourage this to be the model to support the success of all students. This will come to the next meeting. T. McGregor will work on the wording of this motion.

It was noted that this will reinforce the committee's position on inclusion.

**3.0 New Business****3.1 Learning for All Coaches Presentation**

J. Campbell, Learning for All Coordinator, K. Hayter, K. McKee, & T. Gloor, Learning for All Coaches.

**Handout: Role of the Learning for All Coach**

The team consists of 12 Coaches in both Elementary & Secondary schools. This model has been in place since 2013-2014. Work is based on the Ministry of Education document; Learning for All K-6. The Coaches presentation included what educators are saying about inclusion, description of a Learning for All Coach, what the system impact is for 2016-2017, a day in the life of a Coach, strengthening both social & academic inclusion through collaboration, reflections from teachers, and feedback from administrators.

Discussion followed regarding the coaching process, the difference between inclusion and integration.

### **3.2 Presentation from the AMDSB Board meeting on February 14, 2017**

Trustee Geddes explained the process of how the motion was brought to SEAC. The idea was to take the motion to SEAC for discussion and bring back to the board. Trustees agreed to refer the delegation's presentation to SEAC.

#### **Discussion:**

The motion is to look at all stakeholders. It was noted the delegation is not against inclusion. The research is promising and we need to move forward in the best interests of the students. SEAC is part of the process, receiving presentations regularly. Suggestion to form a small sub-committee to come up with a plan to bring back to the next SEAC meeting.

**Moved by Trustee Geddes to form a sub-committee to look into the information and bring back recommendations to SEAC at the April meeting. Seconded by T. Sparling.**

#### **CARRIED**

Members of this sub-committee: T. Sparling, D. Barkley, N. Rothwell, K. Fox. Superintendent Blair will be available as a board resource to this sub-committee.

### **3.3 Memo Re: Provincial Issues (OSSLT)**

Superintendent Blair noted there were some challenges with the OSSLT in the fall. As a result, it will be offered twice this year. If students were not successful in the fall, they would be able to take it in the spring. EQAO has said that for the upcoming sitting of the OSSLT, at the end of March, it will be available in paper version.

### **4.0 Trustee Board Report**

Trustee Geddes note the new Avon Maitland DSB Director is Dr. Lisa Walsh.

### **5.0 Association Reports**

**Foundations Huron:** The Good Life workshops will be held for students and adults transitioning from high school on March 13 & 14. (Information will be posted to the SEAC Google Group.)

**Huron Perth Centre:** Considering bringing Dr. Michael Unger back in the fall for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the centre. His topic is resilient kids. Great message to be repeated. This will be a free event and the board is welcome to partner with us as well. Also working on a parent survey to parents in both Huron and Perth, who may have used child mental health services, not just Huron Perth Centre services. We are using FaceBook & Twitter and hoping to launch next week. There will be three draws for \$100 gift certificates for participants.

**Autism Ontario:** On February 18 there was a dance for adults/late teenagers. Helps with the transition. There was an article in the Stratford Beacon Herald regarding a Vulnerable Persons Registry. Stratford Police have joined forces with two community organizations on a new safety initiative for people living with dementia or autism. The police, the Alzheimer Society of Perth County and Autism Ontario Huron Perth are now partners in the local branch of the Vulnerable Persons Registry. Story time has worked out well in Stratford and we are hoping to do this in Goderich as well.

Raise the Flag: sent request for information to go out to all schools. The event is held every year on April 2. This year, that date is a Sunday, but we still encourage schools to participate. Information has gone out to all schools and other agencies. If you have a flagpole at your agency, let D. Barkley know. Lots of information on the [raisetheflag.com](http://raisetheflag.com) website. If you would like a speaker, let D. Barkley know.

## **6.0 Future Agenda Items**

- Exceptional student numbers
- Safe Schools data
- Inclusion motion
- Article from the UN
- Orientation for SEAC members (ongoing)
- Calendar/Plan of what is happening in schools
- Definition of Inclusion
- Budget – C. Carter (May, June)
- Parent workshop

## **7.0 Date of Next Meeting**

- April 12, 2017

Future Meetings

- May 10, 2017 (Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month.)
- May 31, 2017
- June 7, 2017

## **8.0 Adjournment**

Moved by C. Bennewies to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 6:20 pm.

**Committee Members  
2016-2017**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Non-Voting Members</b>	<b>Alternate Members</b>
Katie Fox – Chair <i>Foundations Huron</i>	Ruth Lovell <i>Elementary Principal Rep</i>	
Marty Krebs – Vice Chair <i>Member at Large</i>	Helena Finch <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>	Missy Pfaff <i>Vice Principal</i>	Robert Hunking <i>Trustee</i>
Terri Sparling <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>	Jane Morris <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	
Jennifer Costello <i>Community Living – St. Marys &amp; Area</i>		
Trevor McGregor <i>Community Living – Stratford &amp; Area</i>		
Doris Barkley <i>Perth District Health Unit Autism Ontario Huron Perth</i>		
Carol Bennewies <i>Member at Large</i>		
Lisa Harper <i>Spina Bifida &amp; Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario</i>		