



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

**Wednesday, November 1, 2007
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members: K. Fox, L. Geddes, K. Morrison, S. Lee, T. McGregor, C. Bennewies, T. Sparling, D. Barkley

Alternates Present: N. Rothwell

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

Staff Present: P. Blair

Member Regrets: M. Krebs, D. Pratley, M. Pfaff

Presenters: C. Rankin, J. Jones, L. Laframboise

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the November 1, 2017 Agenda

Moved by L. Geddes seconded by C. Bennewies
That the agenda be approved as amended
CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the October 4, 2017 SEAC Minutes

Moved by D. Barkley seconded by T. Sparling

- Question regarding section 3.3 Research protocols. Clarity to be added to last sentence: Looking for strategies to improve inclusive education.

That the minutes be approved as amended.
CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1

3.0 New Business

3.1 Change of meeting dates for budget approval

May 30 & June 6 for budget meetings. Approved

SEAC must review and vote on the budget before it goes the Board for approval. Board reviews budget for final approval on June 12.

3.2 Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) – K. Morrison

K. Morrison explained what a Learning Disability (LD) is. Many resources are on the [LDAO website](#). Scholarships and bursaries are available.

Focus is on students, but help is offered for all ages. Promote and improve the quality of education for those with LD. Discussion followed. More information on bursaries/scholarships to be posted.

3.3 STAR Program – C. Rankin, L. Laframboise, J. Jones

One in ten Canadians have a Learning Disability (LD). The team supports all elementary schools. This year, they are piloting 1 day a week in 4 secondary schools. They offer one on one support for students, with a focus on using the student's technology to increase independence & efficiency as well as provide whole class instruction of apps & programs for all learners. Work on building capacity with teachers of students with LD. Students with LD are capable and smart; have average to above average cognitive abilities and can have at least one area of need that persistently & significantly impacts their learning. Some specific challenges: difficulty accessing text, processing information, remembering & organizing information, communicating ideas, & communicating what they have learned.

[Video: What is Dyslexia?](#)

Read & Write for Google Chrome is available for all students in the board. This is not just for students with LD. There are accessibility features built into iOS devices, which can be customized to each person's need.

Apps for reading: Claro PDF, & Voice Dream Reader. We are fortunate that every student in the board, grades 7-12 have iPads.

Any questions can be forwarded directly to any of the STAR teachers.

K. Fox thanked the group for their presentation.

3.4 Exceptional Pupil Data – Superintendent Blair

There are specific count dates in the Board that affect funding. Oct 31 is one of those dates. Students who have not been identified but need accommodation are IEP only. Very small number of students have not been identified, but these students' needs will still be accommodated. With the assessment, we are already providing supports for them to be successful. Discussion followed.

3.5 Conference: Ontario Disability Employment Network: Rethinking Disability; Doing Business Differently – Superintendent Blair

[Website](#)

This is for adults with disabilities. Superintendent Blair and staff were asked to speak at the conference. Has to be an employment first attitude. We must presume that all adults can work for a fair wage. Pleased with the work in school boards, but blown away that we presume that all kids can work for a fair wage. We need people to be as independent as possible.

3.6 Summer Connections Program – T. McGregor

AMDSB and HPCDSB engaged with PIE and Community Living South Huron a number of years ago. Leads into the Summer Connection Program. As a SEAC committee, how do we get more funding to promote and keep this program running? Many kids with a disability are not asked what they want to be when they grow up.

Superintendent Blair noted the program was run in St. Marys and Stratford in previous summers through Summer Experience Program Funding. Discussion around what this program looks like and funding involved. It was noted that co-op placements can turn into employment opportunities. Transition Planning was also discussed. Superintendent Blair asked the group to leave this request with her.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee Rothwell reported that Trustees have been enjoying sharing time. Strive CYW school Principals spoke to trustees about the program. There was also a presentation for Trustees by the Student Support Team. Appreciate what has been discussed.

5.0 Association Reports

Huron Perth Centre: collaboration time with Dr. Ungar was very well received. Planning meeting next week, to move it forward. There were 27 organizations who came together to talk about people with complex needs. Over 200 people attended the parent workshop at night.

7.0 Future Agenda Items

- Orientation for SEAC members
- Calendar/plan of what's happening in schools
- Progress report from research team
- Finance presentation: January, May, June
- EQAO Provincial Results - Superintendent Morris

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

- December 6, 2017

Future Meetings:

- January 10, 2018 **(Second Wednesday of the month.)**
- February 7, 2018
- March 7, 2018
- April 4, 2018
- May 9, 2018 **(Second Wednesday of the month.)**
- **May 30, 2018 (Budget discussion)**
- June 6, 2018 (Budget discussion)

These dates are posted on the Board website.

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by L. Geddes to adjourn.

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

Committee Members 2017 – 2018		
Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Alternate Members
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>	Val Milson <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>
Stephanie Lee <i>Community Living – St. Marys & Area</i>		Jennifer Costello <i>Community Living St. Marys & Area</i>
Trevor McGregor <i>Community Living – Stratford & Area</i>		Peg Huettlin <i>Community Living Stratford & Area</i>
Doris Barkley <i>Perth District Health Unit Autism Ontario</i>		
Carol Bennewies <i>Member at Large</i>		
Karen Morrison <i>Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario</i>		