



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

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015
7:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: D. Barkley, L. Geddes, Katie Fox, D. Pratley, T. Sparling,

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

Staff Present: P. Blair, Superintendent (Learning Services)
E. Salmon, System Principal (Learning Services)

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

Guests Present: T. Doherty, Director, Helena Finch

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: _____ seconded by _____

Unable to approve the agenda – no quorum.

1.2 Approval of the June 17, 2015 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes _____ seconded by _____

Unable to approve the minutes – no quorum.

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Special Education Plan

The Plan has been finalized, submitted to the Ministry and is available on the Board's website. Hard copies are available for SEAC members.

Superintendent Blair noted we will start looking at the Special Education Plan to work through revisions for the 2016 Plan.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Strategic Plan – Director Doherty

Director Doherty presented this to Administrators & Trustees last week. This is the fourth year of current plan. We hope to get as much input from stakeholders as possible for the plan. Significant changes were made to the plan four years ago. There may be some changes to the current plan, but not like the last time. We have moved to two priorities, using very consistent language, now that everyone knows our priorities: maximizing student outcomes, and creating positive, inclusive learning environments.

Need to know what students are doing, once they leave our school system and what do we need to do as a school system to help them? Groups like SEAC help the board prepare students who are leaving for independent living. Last year for students is age 21, and to hear they have no prospects, was difficult. Strategic Plan is all about what our students are going to do after they leave our school system. We are the first school board to track our students after they leave our system.

Gathering input on what we are doing right and wrong and looking at it through an inclusive education lens. Principals are going to be a very important conduit for information in developing the plan. Inclusion is bigger than collapsing self-contained classes. We believe the lives of all students are enriched with students of all abilities in the same classroom. Director Doherty will come back and ask for advice from SEAC that he can take to the Trustees

Katie thanked Director Doherty for his presentation.

3.2 Huron Perth Centre information – Terri Sparling

Handouts from Terri are posted in the SEAC Conference.

Terri explained the two handouts and also background which lead to Huron Perth Centre, being awarded the lead agency status.

We know it's been a struggle for people on the waiting list. Wanted to do something to help the situation, reorganize funding, so we can centralize the response. Not there yet, but it's coming. Terri explained the process now when a client calls and also explained the different types of services the Huron Perth Centre offers. Shifted more funds to counselling and therapy, knowing the need is there.

Terri noted it's a process, and there is a need to educate all staff members. We are hoping to be up and running by the end of November. Ultimately still want the client call in. If the client does not want to call, the professional who is concerned, can make the call and start the process for them.

Question: What does the wait list look like today? Answer: Doing data clean up since June, and will have numbers soon. Would be more useful for you to know there are x number of families, who have waited x time. Ministry have never asked about wait list, but now they will be asking and getting this data to report.

Katie thanked Terri for her presentation.

3.3 SEAC Orientation – Helena Finch, Learning for All Coach

Superintendent Blair noted that Helena has taken the Principal Qualification course and will be working with herself and Katie Fox and using SEAC orientation as part of her practicum. We will start orientation in October. Hoping that recent labour challenges are resolved and then we can have teams of people present at SEAC meetings. Helena noted she is very excited to be working with SEAC.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee Geddes noted that Director Doherty will be talking further about the strategic plan.

Trustee Pratley noted there is not much to report. The 2015-2016 budget was passed at the last meeting in June. The Board is very supportive of Special Education.

5.0 Association Reports

Foundations Huron: Katie Fox reported they had busy summer, rolling out the passport program. There is some internal work for three programs and a new brochure, which outlines what the programs do. Chance to make a difference in the community.

Huron Perth Centre: Terri noted the Centre's Golf tournament coming up.

Perth District Health Unit: Doris reported that all assignments have been handed out and nurses are making contact with schools.

Autism Ontario: Doris noted the annual walk is on September 27, to help fund respite fees for families. Walk is held 2 times a year. Have had several new clients come forward.

Other items:

Superintendent Blair noted we have a staff member, who is working with students who are Crown Wards.

Terri Sparling asked about revisions to the Special Education Plan. Katie noted we will look at different sections at a time, rather than the whole plan at the end of the year.

6.0 Student Senator Reports

No report

7.0 Future Agenda Items

- Orientation for SEAC members
- St. Marys video
- Calendar/plan of what's happening in schools
- Definition of Inclusion
- Budget – Cheri Carter (February, May, June)
- Parent Workshop

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

- October 8, 2015

Future Meetings:

- November 4, 2015
- December 2, 2015
- January 6, 2016

- 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.

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by _____ to adjourn.

No quorum.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at _____.

**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>		