



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

**Wednesday, October 8, 2015
7:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: D. Pratley, L. Geddes, L. Harper, D. Barkley, K. Fox, T. McGregor.

Non-Voting Members:

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

Member Regrets: T. Sparling, G. Haber, J. Costello, C. Bennewies.

Guests Present: H. Finch, J. Baird Jackson, S. Janmaat

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the September 9, 2015 agenda: L. Geddes, seconded by L. Harper.

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the June 17, 2015 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes L. Geddes seconded by L. Harper.

CARRIED

1.3 Approval of the October 8, 2015 agenda: L. Harper seconded by D. Barkley as amended.

CARRIED

1.4 Approval of the September 9, 2015 minutes: D. Pratley seconded by D. Barkley.

CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 None

3.0 New Business

3.1 SEAC Orientation – Helena Finch, Learning for All Coach

PowerPoint: Guide to understanding the roles and responsibilities of SEAC at AMDSB. Helena explained SEAC's role, who the members are, and their responsibilities. Link to AMDSB website for Learning Services:

<http://yourschools.ca/special-education/>

Helena talked about some members of the LS team, why it's important to have a SEAC chairperson and their role, responsibilities of members, membership regulations, how meetings work, motions, amendments, acronyms.

Helena took us through a sample script for a Motion.

SEAC links:

Special Education Plan on the AMDSB website: http://yourschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/pdf/documents/our_schools/spec_ed_plan/Special-Education-Report-2015.pdf

AMDSB SEAC: <http://yourschools.ca/special-education/special-education-advisory-committee/>

AMDSB Special Education Links: <http://yourschools.ca/special-education/special-education-links/>

PAAC on SEAC: <http://www.paac-seac.ca/>

Ministry of Education on Special Education Resources:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html>

Standards for School Board's Special Education Plans:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/iepstand/iepstand.html>

Katie thanked Helena for her presentation.

3.2 Special Education Plan edit: Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies section (Pages 45-47) – Helena Finch

Handout. Guidelines from the Ministry on what needs to be in the Plan.

Helena noted the people she met with to review this section of the plan.

These people work with teachers, and community agencies. Information in black is the existing information, information in blue is current information and what the group would like to put into the plan. Information in red, is what the committee would like removed. Helena walked the group through the section of the plan. Some information that will be removed, will either be placed in a more appropriate section or is already in another section.

Instead of have separate sections for parent and teacher, because the roles are so important together, these 2 sections were put together.

CATYO Section: A booklet goes out to all parents, who bring the book with them, when they register their child.

Discussion followed.

Lynette thanked Helena for her presentation.

3.3 SEAC Calendar – Superintendent Blair

We spoke last time about a monthly calendar. There are a number of things that we can't do because of labour issues. BIPSA – we can't do this. Can't meet with teams of people from schools. Superintendent Blair can fill this in, once we know where things stand. Usually in May, we do an IEP review, but at this point, that can't be put on the calendar. Superintendent Blair will update as the situation progresses.

3.4 AODA Report: Facilities Update – Superintendent Janet Baird Jackson, Superintendent of Corporate Services

Handout: Accessibility of School Buildings.

Superintendent Baird Jackson gave background of Ministry funding. The Board has been actively working toward consolidation, to build new schools, which are more accessible. Little Falls P.S. and Maitland River E.S. are two of the newest buildings. When it came to building the new school in Listowel, we built a 2 story school, with a good elevator. If built on one story, it would become an accessibility issue for someone to walk from one end of the school to the other. The Rotary Club in Exeter and Easter Seals helped with funding to install an elevator at South Huron DHS. In one school we moved the library from the second floor to the first floor in one of our schools. We've been doing this all along, without legislation. Power door openers are in all schools, with the exception of one. Demarcation of parking spaces have been done. Gender neutral washroom signage. Life safety upgrades, added strobe lights. Upgrading exit signage, not just the word, but has a running man outline. Installing lower water fountains. Converting pea stone to wood fiber in playgrounds. Work with community organizations to put in accessible playgrounds. Continue to install accessibility accessories in all washrooms. Work has been done on ventilation, to improve air quality. Lynette thanked Superintendent Baird Jackson for her report.

3.5 Updates on IEPs – Superintendent Blair

IEPs should be completed by the 30th school day, but because of sanctions, this may not be done. An IEP that was created at the end of the year, is still in place and programming is still in place. Teachers are working on them, but they may not be completed by the deadline. If a student moved in just before the end of the school year, we would follow the IEP contained in the OSR.

3.6 Labour Updates – Superintendent Blair

You might hear that some meetings can't happen after school, such as an IPRC meeting. This is only true for elementary schools where teachers need to be in attendance. Trustee Pratley noted that negotiations began early this week, but we haven't heard any news yet.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee Pratley: Superintendent Blair and some Learning Services staff are noted in an Education Watch document. This has been posted to the SEAC Conference.

5.0 Association Reports

S.B. & H. Association of Ontario. L. Harper noted the group receives no government funding, and do their own fundraising. Lottery calendar currently on sale. There are 25,000 calendars at \$25 each. See Lisa for a calendar, or check out the website: <http://www.sbhao.on.ca/about-us/tgif-lottery-calendar>

Stratford & Area Community Living: T. McGregor noted the summer program ran for the second year at Stratford Northwestern and St. Mike's. Also worked with students at Stratford Central SS. Students gaining more friendships outside their classes/school. Help students maintain those friendships. Four year trillium grant, same student for the four years, goes hand in hand with inclusion. Will keep the group updated. How can we make this a concerted effort when funding runs out? Question: Is it only students involved with community living? Answer: No, the students are identified by the school, advice from the staff who can identify a student who may need a friend or companion. Don't have to be involved with community living, just fortunate enough to be at one of these schools.

Other items:

Students in the workplace. Looking at how we can offer WHIMS to students with special needs.

T. McGregor talked the School to Work Program. Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities (MTCU) will provide funding for students to attend current funding structure. Going to present the need for this funding to stay in place.

Superintendent Blair noted 95% of our students with Developmental Disabilities are not employed.

Quiet room issue in the news reports. Are their quiet rooms used in AMDSB schools? Superintendent Blair reported that we have dismantled one of the last quiet rooms. If a student needs a quiet space, we have Snoezelen Rooms, which is not a room where the student would be confined. Instead this room would have calming items for the student. The student is never left there alone.

6.0 Student Senator Reports

No report

7.0 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 (February, May, June)
- Parent Workshop

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

- November 4, 2015

Future Meetings:

- 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 Doris Barkley to adjourn.

No quorum.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:54 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>	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>		