



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

**Wednesday, June 1, 2016
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: K. Fox, C. Bennewies, D. Pratley, T. Sparling, L. Geddes

Non-Voting Members:

Staff Present: P. Blair

Member Regrets: T. McGregor, J. Costello, L. Harper, G. Haber, E. Bannerman, E. Salmon, M. Krebs, D. Barkley

Guests Present: H. Finch, C. Carter

Recorder: D. Gingerich

We did not have quorum. The agenda and minutes could not be approved.

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the June 1, 2016 agenda: _____ seconded by _____
CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the May 11, 2016 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes _____ seconded by _____
CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Learning for All Parent workshop – results – P. Blair

Responses from attendees summarized in a handout.

It was noted how people found out about the event. Only one via school newsletter.

Comments: Found it very relevant & would participate again. Participants listed topics they would like to see in the future. Teacher comment: thinks this would be a good speaker to bring in for Teacher professional development. Eye-opening, changed their way of thinking. T. Sparling suggested that some of the topics on the feedback could be done by HPC.

Trustee Pratley will send his Trustee Report to be uploaded to the SEAC Conference. Dr. Clinton was amazing. Her personality came through in the

presentation. Nice to know that research supports what we know in our hearts. Has previously watched Dr. Clinton's videos; her content at the event was great.

K. Fox noted that people stayed around afterwards to chat. She takes this as a good sign. Speaker was relatable. Dr. Clinton acknowledged a mom in attendance with a fussy baby and turned the situation into a teachable moment that validated the mom. Katie suggested that the presentation was about shifting thinking. She would now like tools.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Revisions to Special Education Plan – H. Finch

Section 17.2 The first 2 paragraphs have now replaced the previous 4. Some wording in the text was changed. More information was added to the bullet about Transportation plan.

- 15.0 Discussion. Should MH referral numbers be removed from the CCAC portion as it is not part of the Spec Ed plan? It is in Learning Services portfolio, but we do not program cost for MH. Remove the MH row from the box.

Staffing section is not complete yet. Hopefully for the next meeting.

3.2 2016-2017 Budget – C. Carter, Associate Superintendent of Finance

C. Carter handed out the budget for review and a Ministry's Guide to Special Education Grant. Cheri will have extra copies to hand out next week also. (Cheri to get handouts to Randy who will be taking Doug's place on June 8.)

At June 8 meeting, Cheri will answer questions. Hoping SEAC can approve the budget, which will then go to the Board on June 14 for Trustee approval.

All expenses are incremental.

SEPPA amount has held stable.

SEA equipment –

GSN – SEA claims-based

The amount deferred in 2014/15 is to be spent in 2015/16.

High Needs – the Ministry is calling it a new name. The Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSNEA). (See page 6 of the Ministry Guide for details.) The Ministry is removing the historical HNA amount.

The good news is that we are up in our DSNEA number.

SCC allocations: there is no change in revenue. There's a change in the allocation to special education. The figures have decreased.

Special Education revenue has not changed much.

START EA program: when a student lands in a school and we don't know they are going to be there, we've put temp Educational Assistant (EA) support in there. It's hard to move those EAs out of the school then because the school gets used to having the EA there. A START EA is at the school to build capacity with the school teams, including the teacher, not just the student.

Staffing expenses are down but other costs are up so our budget is about the same.

- Down one in L4A Coaches. One coordinator has moved to the Vice Principal role in Learning Services.
- Strive EA going into 3 new schools which didn't have before.

Program Costing portion – Cheri would like SEAC feedback on this before it goes to Trustees.

- Coordinators moved out of “classroom teacher” designation and into “coordinators and consultants” designation.
- Our benefit costs are increasing due to increased rates.
- Learning Services System Principal and Vice Principal are part of “coordinators and consultants” designation. SEAC suggested Cheri note this on the supporting documentation.
- Line 10 classroom computers: we are not projecting any carry over to next year so we are offsetting the expense.
- School Office: when schools have special education expenses, they allocate it to Special Education. Section has their own budget. Enhanced items will sometimes be coded to Special Education.

SEAC will have time to review and bring questions to next meeting. **Send your questions to Connie so Cheri can prepare the answers ahead of time.**

Superintendent Blair asked that SEAC keep staffing information confidential. C. Carter asked that Debbie send the four budget sheets to SEAC members.

Katie suggested a START EA presentation next school year.

3.3 Summer Institutes – P. Blair, Superintendent

Next week a summer institute package will go out to schools. Summer institutes (workshops) take place during the last two weeks of August. Interested staff will register for the institutes.

LS will be offering some workshops.

- Woodcock Johnson testing

- A workshop about preparing for an inclusive classroom
- Social Thinking workshop. Trainers will be coming from US. This is about rethinking how we teach social skills to students
- Offering Forest school at North Woods E.S.
- BoardMaker

4.0 **Trustee Board Report**

Currently working on budgeting and strategic plan. Had enrolment report. Doug attended the Dr. Clinton presentation. In terms of budget, it's basically the same even though enrolment is down.

5.0 **Association Reports**

Foundations Huron: (K. Fox) Annual General Meeting is Wednesday, June 22 at Lakeshore United Church in Goderich.

Huron Perth Centre: Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16 at the Festival Inn, Stratford. Flyer has been posted to the SEAC Conference.

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
- Show the final draft of the Special Education plan
- Budget questions and approval
- SEAC members will need a GAFE email address. Should SEAC members have GAFE training? K. Fox would like to come to training.

9.0 **Date of Next Meeting**

- June 8, 2016 **(Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month and will be for budget only.)**

Future Meetings:

- **September 7, 2016**

- October 5, 2016
- November 2, 2016
- December 7, 2016
- January 4, 2017
- February 1, 2017
- March 1, 2017
- April 5, 2017
- May 10, 2017 (Second Wednesday of the month)
- June 7, 2017
- June 14, 2017 (This date to be confirmed)

These dates will be posted on the Board website.

10.0 Adjournment

Moved by _____ to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at _____ pm.