



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

**Wednesday, September 7, 2016  
4:00 pm – Maitland Room  
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

**Voting Members/**

**Alternates Present:** C. Bennewies, L. Geddes, D. Pratley, D. Barkley, K. Fox, J. Costello, T. Sparling

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**Non-Voting Members:** R. Lovell

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

**Member Regrets:** T. McGregor, L. Harper, H. Finch, M. Krebs

**Guests Present:**

**Recorder:** C. Trotter

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**1.0 Routine Matters**

**1.1 Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda: C. Bennewies seconded by L. Geddes  
**CARRIED**

**1.2 Approval of the June 8, 2016 SEAC Minutes**

Motion to accept the minutes C. Bennewies seconded by J. Costello  
**CARRIED**

**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 2017 Plan.

**3.0 New Business**

**3.1 Videos: Empower, DCVI: Inclusion**

**Empower:** All new resource teachers receive four days of initial training and then receive refresher training. Sick Kids administer the training and are very stringent with training and support. This video will be sent to CBC, as they are doing an information piece on the program. The program is in all elementary schools, it runs in secondary schools, but the program does look different from elementary. There are guidelines to determine eligibility to the program. Students work in groups of eight or

less. We have found that students are retaining the knowledge and strategies learned through the program.

Question: Is there a waiting list and are there issues with funding?

Answer: we purchased the kits and training a few years ago. We don't have a waiting list. In secondary, sometimes, the challenge becomes which course do the students take, as it is a credit course in secondary. Schools can use it as a locally developed or resource course. The course does require the use of a section.

**DCVI Inclusion video:** Students and staff working together on inclusion. This work was initiated by students.

### **3.2 Google email, Groups & Training**

We will set up training for the October meeting. One hour prior to the meeting. Connie to field questions from the group and book IT staff to do the training.

### **3.3 New School Administration Reps**

Ruth Lovell is the new elementary SEAC rep. Ruth is the Principal at Bedford PS. Ruth has been at Bedford since January 2016. Previously she was at Sprucedale PS. Helen Finch is the new Secondary SEAC rep and is Vice Principal at Central Huron SS.

### **3.4 Learning Services Staff Organization Chart - handout**

Missy Pfaff is the new Vice Principal. Diane Maize is the new Mental Health Counsellor, who used to work for Huron Perth Centre. Goderich, and FE Madill are Diane's schools. She will be clinically supervised by Dr. Anne Robinson.

Five new START EAs, who will be deployed for up to 3 weeks in schools; they will determine student needs and work with the teacher to meet those needs. They will not be in any particular school long term. If an EA is needed long-term, the START EA, an EA from the system will be put in place. All of these START EAs attended the Geneva Centre for Autism Summer Institute training in Aug.

Question: Will we hear from this group? Answer: Yes, later in the school year Dave Higgins will provide an update.

Question: Will they work with the SERT? Answer: No they will work with the classroom teacher. Question: regarding Mental Health Counsellor: Does Anne Robinson look after the other schools? Answer: No. We have contracted services for the other high schools in Huron County with Huron Perth Centre. In Huron County elementary schools, we have Nurses provided by CCAC. Secondary Schools across the board also have counselling from Choices for Change for challenges related to addictions. In Perth County elementary and secondary schools, counselling is provided by nurses from the Perth District Health Unit.

L4All Coordinator: Missy Pfaff has moved to the Vice Principal role, so Judy Campbell, former Learning for All Coach has moved into this role. Amy Kipfer, Coordinator, will be doing very limited coaching. She will be the Equity and Inclusive Education Lead: First Nations Metis Inuit (FNMI). She will work on promoting practices that extend awareness of Indigenous Culture with staff and students.

ESL Coordinator, Coralee Mathews, not only teaches English Language Learners but coordinates the work of all ESL EAs. She also assesses the language proficiency of Newcomers. Once the language proficiency is known, then Coralee sets up the program to be delivered for each student. We've also added two new ESL teachers (Chris Rooseboom & Erin Melo). They are under Superintendent Baker's portfolio, International Education. These teachers will go directly to the schools to work with the students. Again, Coralee meets with all International Education students to assess their needs and then Chris and Erin take over as needed.

Question: Could each of these groups present to SEAC so we have an understanding of what they do? Answer: that can be arranged.

### **3.5 Staff Presentations 2016-2017**

What presentations would SEAC like to see during this school year?

Suggestion: start with a group that services a large population of students and any new programs. Ruth Lovell spoke about the Strive EA at her school and how well it's worked out for the students. Superintendent Blair noted there is one school, FE Madill, which has two Strive EAs. One for the Grades 7/8 and one for grades 9-12.

Transition planning. Superintendent Blair will give the names to Connie to set up their presentation.

Definition of Inclusion. Superintendent Blair noted we will bring that back for another meeting. Director of Education recently asked school administrators for input on a definition for inclusion. Ask the Director to speak about the new strategic plan and what admin said at the last meeting at an upcoming meeting

Talk about the whole move to inclusion.

Would it be helpful to bring back Dr. Sheila Bennett? She is one of the foremost researchers on inclusion in Canada. Or Dr. Jaqui Specht from UWO. Superintendent Blair will set this up for some time during the 2016-17 school year.

### **4.0 Trustee Board Report**

No report as the board has not met since June.

### **5.0 Association Reports**

#### **Foundations Huron:**

**Huron Perth Centre:** We've had a very busy summer. Dealing with retirements and back filling. Invitation by email coming to golf tournament.

**Perth District Health Unit:**

Nurses are gearing to get into their schools. Program is running well, supporting kids from to Junior Kindergarten to secondary schools.

**Autism Ontario:**

Walk for Autism, in Stratford on September 18. Have the potential of 55 families who may apply for support. Husband and wife team have volunteered to share the president role and Doris is staying on as treasurer. Doris noted her son's first day at Lambton College was yesterday. He is enrolled in the CICE Program (Community Integration through Cooperative Education program) which includes 7 topics, he has chosen office admin, and there are three students in his. Tutoring supports in place are great and school has been very supportive.

**Community Living St Marys & Area:** Busy with compliance from the Ministry recently.

**Foundations Huron:** Also busy with compliance.

**6.0 Student Senator Reports – remove this item since we don't have a rep.**

No report. Superintendent Blair to check to see how this came to be, and then we can look into asking for a student to attend the meetings.

**7.0 Future Agenda Items**

- Orientation for SEAC members
- Calendar/plan of what's happening in schools
- Definition of Inclusion
- Budget – Cheri Carter (February, May, June)
- Parent Workshop
- Special Education Plan edits
- Suspensions/expulsions update – Superintendent Baker
- Google/GAFE training

**8.0 Date of Next Meeting**

- October 5, 2016 – **3:00 pm for Google Training.**

**Future Meetings:**

- November 2, 2016
- December 7, 2015
- January 4, 2017
- February 1, 2017
- March 1, 2017
- April 5, 2017
- May 10, 2017 **(Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month.)**

- June 7, 2017
- June 14, 2017 **(Second meeting of the month is for budget.)**

**These dates will be posted on the Board website.**

## **9.0 Adjournment**

Moved by T. Sparling to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:18 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 Vice Principal Learning Services	Randy Wagler <i>Trustee</i>
Terri Sparling <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>	Jane Morris <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	
Jennifer Costello Community Living – St. Marys & Area		
Trevor McGregor <i>Community Living – Stratford &amp; Area</i>		
Doris Barkley <i>Perth District Health Unit Autism Ontario</i>		
Carol Bennewies <i>Member at Large</i>		
Lisa Harper Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario		