



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

**Wednesday, November 2, 2016
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: C. Bennewies, L. Harper, N. Rothwell, K. Fox, D. Barkley, D. Pratley, J. Costello, T. Sparling

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

Staff Present: P. Blair, M. Pfaff

Member Regrets: T. McGregor, L. Geddes,

Guests Present: W. Williams, J. Campbell

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: C. Bennewies seconded by D. Barkley
CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the October 5, 2016 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes D. Barkley seconded by L. Harper
CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Definition of Inclusion – Vice Principal Pfaff

This was discussed briefly at the last meeting. The committee was divided up into groups, with the handout from the Principal and Vice Principal definition of inclusion, to work on a specific definition of inclusion from SEAC's perspective. Vice Principal Pfaff asked each group to speak to their suggestions. Notes will be collated for an upcoming meeting. Vice Principal Pfaff thanked everyone for their input.

2.2 Program Policy Memorandum #8: Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities – Vice Principal Pfaff

We also discussed this at the last meeting.
Question: Has the definition of Learning Disabilities changed? Answer: Vice Principal Pfaff noted it has changed, by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and will follow up. The date of issue for this PPM was 2014. Would have been a lengthy review, which was in 1992.

From PPM #8

The Ministry of Education defines learning disability as one of a number of neurodevelopmental disorders that persistently and significantly has an impact on the ability to learn and use academic and other skills and that:

- *affects the ability to perceive or process verbal or non-verbal information in an effective and accurate manner in students who have assessed intellectual abilities that are at least in the average range;*

results in

(a) academic underachievement that is inconsistent with the intellectual abilities of the student (which are at least in the average range) and/or
(b) academic achievement that can be maintained by the student only with extremely high levels of effort and/or with additional support;

- *results in difficulties in the development and use of skills in one or more of the following areas: reading, writing, mathematics, and work habits and learning skills;*
- *may typically be associated with difficulties in one or more cognitive processes, such as phonological processing; memory and attention; processing speed; perceptual-motor processing; visual-spatial processing; executive functions (e.g., self-regulation of behaviour and emotions, planning, organizing of thoughts and activities, prioritizing, decision making);*
- *may be associated with difficulties in social interaction (e.g., difficulty in understanding social norms or the point of view of others); with various other conditions or disorders, diagnosed or undiagnosed; or with other exceptionalities;*
- *is not the result of a lack of acuity in hearing and/or vision that has not been corrected; intellectual disabilities; socio-economic factors; cultural differences; lack of proficiency in the language of instruction; lack of motivation or effort; gaps in school attendance or inadequate opportunity to benefit from instruction.*

The original definition does not talk about level of intelligence, which has now been addressed in this updated definition.

This has been implemented and practiced since it came out in 2014 and we wanted to make sure that SEAC was up to date with this specific PPM. Discussion followed.

2.3 Delegations to SEAC – Superintendent Blair

Superintendent Blair reported that SEAC does not entertain delegations. SEAC is an advisory body, so delegations do not to come to SEAC. The committee is set up to look at all exceptionalities, rather than hearing individual concerns.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Lexia – Vice Principal Pfaff

Hold over to December meeting agenda.

3.2 Funding to Support Student with Autism – Superintendent Blair

Superintendent Blair noted that in June, we received memo from the Ministry of Education (MoE) regarding funding that boards will receive this transitional funding, which will be in place for two years. Transition programming, students who may be in Connections for Students program. Students will be getting Intensive Behaviour Interventions (IBI) therapy through Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC), these students come into the board, and transition meetings are set up to get supports in place. Report to MoE was sent in earlier this week, so funds will start to flow to boards. There are a number of supports that can be utilized using these funds. Sue Wiffen, ABA Support Specialist, will look after these students. We will only have a few students to whom this will apply. Once the plan is in place, Superintendent Blair will report back to SEAC. This is connected to the larger transformation of Autism programming. You can run an after school program with the funds, but the students we have are at opposite ends of the board, so this makes it a challenge to get them together.

3.3 Update – Superintendent Blair

Superintendent Blair had several updates for SEAC:

- Eleanor Salmon, System Principal will be retiring at the end of December. The information went to the last board meeting. We are in the process of working on her replacement.
- Math Program: Dreambox. This will be for students in the junior division who have lagging skills in math. We have 240 licences to be distributed to schools and is a computer-based program. Other school boards have used the program and have had success.
- Renewed Math Strategy; in Ontario math scores are below provincial standard. Looking at students who significantly under-perform in math, other students who are under another exceptionality and self-identified native, Matis, also under perform. Judy Campbell noted there is a group of fourteen resource teachers, who come together once a month and then go back to their schools to work with other teachers in their schools re; Math. Collaboratively planning and teaching together. Judy goes out to the schools once a month to support the resource teacher, who will then support the teachers in their schools.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee: Rothwell: nothing to report at this time.

5.0 Association Reports

Community Living, St. Marys and Area: The 13th annual walkathon Create a Smile raised over \$14,700 to be used to pay for things that enhance the lives of people with disabilities, their families and the communities they live in.

Autism Ontario: Fifty families applied for funding. Examples: one to one support for social activities, one family went to the states, plane ride, respite for the families and social outings.

Other items: Together We're Better contest. Posted on the SEAC group. UTES won 3rd in the province, and got a pizza party for their class. They created a mural. Deadline is Monday, January 23, 2017. Winners will be announced in February.

[Link to poster](#)

6.0 Student Senator Reports

No report

7.0 Future Agenda Items

- Orientation for SEAC members
- Calendar/plan of what's happening in schools
- Budget – Cheri Carter (February, May, June)
- Parent Workshop
- Lexia
- Dreambox

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

- December 7, 2016

Future Meetings

- January 4, 2017
- February 1, 2017
- March 1, 2017
- April 5, 2017
- May 10, 2017 (**Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month.**)
- **May 31, 2017 (New date to review 2016-2017 budget.)**
- June 7, 2017

These dates will be posted on the Board website.

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by J. Costello to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:50 pm.

**Committee Members
2016 – 2017**

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>	Eleanor Salmon <i>System Principal</i>	Alyson Kent <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>		