



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

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

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

Non-Voting Members:

Staff Present: P. Blair, M. Pfaff, R. Lovell, H. Finch, L. Walsh

Member Regrets: M. Krebs, L. Harper

Presenters

Board Resource: S. Kunkel

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by L. Geddes, T. Sparling
That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the March 1, 2017 SEAC Minutes

Moved by C. Bennewies, D. Barkley
That the minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2.0 Welcome to Lisa Walsh, Director

K. Fox welcomed Director Walsh.

3.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Motion from January, February & March meetings

Motioned by C. Bennewies, L. Geddes

That SEAC supports inclusion in the Avon Maitland District School Board that places the student in their home school and a regular classroom, with their peers, while providing supports & resources necessary to students and staff to ensure their physical, cognitive, emotional, academic and social needs are being met in the classroom and the broader school community. And that updates on the implementation of the inclusion process should be made to SEAC at minimum twice during the school year.

That the motion be approved as presented
CARRIED

3.2 Update from the SEAC Sub-Committee

The sub-committee met on March 8 and April 10 to review the February 14 motion from the Board.

Review of Board Motion and Information

On February 14, 2017, the Board moved:

“that the Avon Maitland District School Board as the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to provide the board with the processes and strategies for carrying out the following:

1. Describes the vision in AMDSB for inclusive education, and in particular for those students with developmental disabilities;
2. Outlines the current practices throughout the District with feedback on their effectiveness through input from all stakeholders including but not limited to: students, parents, teachers, EAs, and Administration;
3. Identify best practices and opportunities for inclusive education is realized throughout our District and bring forward a progress report on strategy/process following April SEAC meeting.”

Discussion from the SEAC Sub-Committee for the motion followed.

- Sandy Kunkel, MISA Lead explained research methodology including representative sample size, open ethics, clearance & literature reviews. Depending on the sample size and other factors, research costs run from \$22,000 to upwards of \$76,000. These amounts do not include additional costs associated (ie release time, etc.) Research would involve students placed in regular classes full-time, along with their parents, adult service providers & educational assistants in the elementary panel.
- SEAC has been involved in the drafting of the definition of inclusion.
- Regarding #2 of the motion, staff were asked to identify practices included; student’s IEPs, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Differentiated Instruction (DI), Assessment for Learning, Response to Intervention, are all current evidence-based practices and would apply to all students.
- The sub-committee looked at the options coming from the motion. One of the items not listed, but recognized, are the Adult Service Providers. They would be a good source of information around the competencies of the students coming into the adult system; what are their skill sets? The Committee discussed if all students, parents & teachers would be interviewed. Do we poll all these listed?

- The sub-committee considered the scope of research, related costs, literature review, ethics proposal.
- Scope of the research. Currently have 115 students placed in the regular classroom. Do we interview all students, parents and teachers? For a scope, researchers advise looking at a representative sample, which will yield valuable data and make it a more manageable number.
- The visible costs pertain to the scope. Researchers will provide a cost, which include a best case scenario.
- There was a literature review which done 2 years ago, so the researchers will not have to start from the beginning, which will save costs.
- A new ethics proposal could take up to a year to get approval. We have researchers from Brock, who are working with us now, so we don't need the full ethics review.

Moved by T. Sparling, D. Barkley

Recommendation

It is recommended by SEAC that the AMDSB consider the following when moving forward with new research:

- Scope: representative and proportional sample size
- Be mindful of the cost
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of previous researched stakeholder groups if not necessary
- Stakeholders who have been interviewed for previous research might not be considered for new research

In addition, the school board should partner with Brock University because:

1. The ethics clearance is currently open
2. The past history of satisfaction with the quality of research conducted to date
3. The previous literature review has been completed; would just require an updated review
4. The timeliness of research is expedited because the ethics clearance is open

That the recommendation be approved as presented.

CARRIED

D. Barkley and D. Pratley thanked the sub-committee members for their due diligence. This information will be presented to the board.

3.3 Draft Definition of Inclusion

SEAC reviewed the Draft definition, and agreed to remove 'which is reflective of society'.

Inclusive education in the Avon Maitland District School Board values the individual, social and academic contributions of every learner. Inclusive education acknowledges that every student has unique characteristics, interests, abilities and learning needs that are enriched in a common learning environment through student-centered pedagogy. Inclusive education embraces diversity, to create rich learning communities where all students are supported to learn and grow together in general education settings regardless of difference.

The definition will be added to the Special Education Plan.

Moved by: L. Geddes, T. McGregor

That the definition of inclusion be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4.0 New Business

4.1 Annual SEAC School Community Conference update

The committee previously discussed having post-secondary workshops, however, this can not happen. Dr. Musslewhite, Speech Language Pathologist, has presented to board staff in the past and will speak to board staff on May 23 during the day and hold a parent session during the evening at Anne Hathaway P.S. Her work is on emergent literacy. SEAC members are invited to come to either session. C. Trotter will send electronic copies of the poster to all SEAC members to pass along to their respective agencies.

We will work on the option of post-secondary pathways for the fall.

4.2 The committee received an email from K. Lucas to Chair Wagler with the Delegation Package.

K. Fox explained the email, letter and package.

5.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee Pratley noted that Sesame Street has introduced a puppet with Autism.

Trustee Geddes: Reported Trustees received a technology presentation which is for all students, but ties in for students with exceptional needs.

6.0 Association Reports

Foundations Huron: Have been asked to sit on the accessibility committee for the upcoming International Plowing Match. This is a new committee for the IPM.

Committee recognizes that all people need to be able to attend. There will be universal, accessible washrooms, raised platforms, one larger washroom that will have a lift. K. Fox will provide more information, to be passed along to schools and will also be able to provide input to the IPM committee. The group is also looking for more volunteers to work in the education tent.

Huron Perth Centre: HPC is excited to be bringing Dr. Michael Unger back to talk about Raising Resilient Children in the fall 2017. This will be for parents & broader community. It is to celebrate the Centre's 40th Anniversary. Terri also noted that the two plans for CYMH have been submitted to MCYS and would be pleased to present on these plans at a future meeting. The plans are available for review on HPC website at <http://www.hpcentre.on.ca/>

Autism Ontario: April 2 was World Autism Day. A number of schools participated. D. Barkley spoke at both two schools; students led the event at one school, and at the other school students raised \$500, exceeding their goal of \$300. Talked to many other schools. Received an email from a secondary school, they would like to do an awareness week. Participating schools were featured on the Board website.

Community Living – Stratford & Area: Conscious Care, pilot project, with six agencies. St. Marys and Stratford Community Living agencies were both selected to participate. Peter Marks from Conscious Care has done a lot of work with researchers, and made a lot of connections. He looks at it from the teacher's perspective, since the teacher is more conscious of what's happening in the classroom. Also talks about the needs of the students – what's going on with them. Would be a good topic for SEAC. The hopeful outcome of the pilot is the Ministry of Community and Social Services funds the program. Peter's techniques are based in fact. **Website:** <http://centreforconsciouscare.ca/>

Stratford Festival – Relaxed Program. These are specifically designed to welcome patrons who benefit from a less restricted audience environment. Patrons of all abilities are welcome, including, but not limited to those with intellectual or learning disabilities, sensory processing conditions or autism. Their relaxed attitude to noise and movement within the auditorium, and some minor production changes may be made to reduce the intensity of light, sound and other potentially startling effects. For more information: [2017 Relaxed Performances!](#)

Starting 5th year of student connector program. When university exams start, student will be in Stratford Central Secondary School, Stratford Northwestern Secondary School and St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School. Working on more funding for more schools.

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
- Conscious Care (Classroom)

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

- May 10, 2017 (Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month.)

Future Meetings:

- May 31, 2017
- June 7 2017

These dates will be posted on the Board website.

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by D. Barkley to adjourn.

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 5:45 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>	Missy Pfaff <i>Vice 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>		