



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

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: K. Morrison, J. Jack, D. Pratley, H. Klassen, L. Geddes, T. McGregor, K. Ansley, J. McCrea, S. Lee, R. Horst, J. Welch

Non-Voting Members: E. Havenga, A. Copeland

Staff Present: Superintendent Black, Vice Principal Pfaff

Member Regrets: T. Sparling

Presenters: K. Frank, S. Wiffen

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by L. Geddes, seconded by H. Klassen

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of SEAC Minutes – March 6, 2019

Moved by J. McCrea, seconded by S. Lee

That the minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1

3.0 New Business

3.1 Special Education Plan

The Plan must be updated each year & submitted to the Ministry of Education. Some sections we don't have much latitude around the changes, but there are sections that we are able to update and ask for input.

Organizational chart handed out for notes from the committee. These notes will be reviewed & the plan updated accordingly. Members can look through the plan anytime. Please send your feedback by May 15.

3.2 Grade 8-9 Transitions

Kristin Frank, Learning for All Coach, presented good news: re:Action for Inclusion conference. Students from AMDSB attended the conference this past weekend. Staff who attended were very impressed by the experiences

students had networking with other students and also by how far ahead AMDSB is in terms of inclusion. Kristin shared the vision to improve information for students and parents as it relates to the transition from Grade 8-9.

A Transitions Advisory Committee has been created, which includes, SERTs, Community organization members, EAs, parents, Learning Services & Program staff members.

Kristin also provided information on a date for the Transition Fair which has been set for May 29 in the gym at Seaforth PS. The Fair will run from 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

Trustee Geddes: in the process of drafting a letter to the Ministry of Education. If SEAC would like to contribute, that would be welcomed.

5.0 Board Announcements and Updates

- a. Memo #24: Elizabeth Klockman Fund
- b. Memo #25: Gifted Program Grades 9-10 Module #2B Information
- c. Memo #26: Gifted Program Grades 7-10 Module #3 Information
- d. Memo #27: Creation of Medicine Wheel with Metis Artist/Information Plaque
- e. Memo #28: Conestoga College 9th Annual Traditional Powwow
- f. Memo #29: Admissions to Out of School Gifted Program
- g. Memo #30: First Nations, Metis & Inuit Funds
- h. Memo #31: Gifted Module #4 Arts Matter
- i. Memo #32: Elizabeth Klockman Bequest Fund
- j. Memo #33: World Autism Awareness Day
- k. Memo #34: External Collaboration
- l. Work Shop Advisory #08: Indigenous Education Learning Series for Revised Curriculum Grades 4-8

Motion: to extend the May 8 meeting by one hour, moved by K. Morrison, seconded by: L.Geddes.

CARRIED

6.0 Association Reports

Huron Perth Centre:

We are readying for accreditation, an intensive process to demonstrate achievement of high standards in all operations. Self study portion is due April 22 and our site visit is June 13-14.

Canadian Mental Health week is first week of May. Terri will send out a flyer with the many events we do with schools and community. Shout out to Kate at Avon PS and Loriann at Listowel Eastdale PS for their leadership in music and art for mental health events and for ETFO for sponsoring Community consultation seeking feedback from partners regarding our services

Community Living Stratford & Area:

Offering a student connections summer program. Working out of Stratford Northwestern SS and St. Michael's SS. This will begin at the end of April to early May.

We are now working with Peter Marks Conscious Care. St. Marys has a number of people involved. This is a five-week program.

<https://centreforconsciouscare.ca/>

Community Living St. Marys & Area:**Re:Action4Inclusion Youth Conference**

Community Living St. Marys & Area paid for six student registrations to attend the annual R4I conference. Four were AMDSB students. An additional two AMDSB students registration was paid by Re:Action4Inclusion as they are Provincial Youth Advisors. Support, supervision & transportation was also provided by CLSMA to students. This complimented student registration, teacher attendance & transportation provided by AMDSB.

New Initiatives: Include2Improve Youth

Include2Improve is a group of ten youth from the Stratford & St. Marys area. The group was created after attending the Provincial Re:Action4Inclusion youth conference a two years ago. Youth attend schools in the AMDSB, HPCDSB & TVDSB. The mission statement is "Include 2 Improve". They are a group of youth who are looking to develop ideas in order to promote efforts of inclusion in our society. "We take action by making issues involving inclusion in our culture known to all communities and organizations". In the fall of 2018, Include2Improve applied for the Huron-Perth United Way Youth in Action Grant. They were happy the grant proposal was approved. The group has arranged for Michael Jacques, a young adult who has recently published a book called "Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's my Book" to visit Perth County. They have arranged for Michael visit area schools on April 29 & 30th to share with students about his life & how he advocates for inclusive school opportunities. Michael is a person who has autism, an author, son, brother and activist. He is a Special Olympic Athlete, works at Sobeys and is on the Board of Directors for Community Living Ontario. He has been on Breakfast TV and presented to a variety of schools and businesses including Apple, Brock University, Niagara College and TSN Sports Centre. More information can be found about Michael at www.heresmybook.com

Autism Ontario:

Response from Autism Ontario to Ministry Announcement "Ontario Enhancing Support for Children with Autism". (Letter in member package.) Starting April 1, Autism Ontario is taking on new roles to help families with the Ontario Autism Program; providing Service Navigation and developing an ABA Provider List.

The ACM for the Huron Perth chapter is in May and new volunteers are needed for the leadership council. Anyone interested is welcome to contact the chapter to enquire.

Five schools registered to participate in Raise the Flag activities on World Autism Awareness Day. Thank you to Superintendent Black for sending a memo to school staff inviting their participation! Any ideas about increasing participation for next year are welcome.

7.0 Correspondence

Correspondence was included in the agenda package. Superintendent Black reviewed the Ministry's "B" Memo as it relates to the key points in the correspondence.

Superintendent Black presented the key issues as it pertains to special education:

- Class size
- E-Learning
- Autism
- Local priorities fund
- Regulation 274

See attached:

- Letter written by AMDSB Trustees, which includes summarized SEAC notes.

7.1: Windsor Essex letter to MoE

7.2 TVDSB letter to MoE – can table to next meeting.

7.3 BHNCDSB letter to MoE - FASD letter: Tabled Bill 144. This Bill allowed the designation to stand. We already have supports in place for students, and will continue to provide those supports. Don't feel a need to respond to this letter.

7.4 Peel DSB letter to MoE – SIP Claims. We are in a SIP review for last year. This funding impacted a lot of Boards, but did not affect us.

7.5 Durham Catholic DSB letter to MoE. Re: Autism: AMDSB did not see a huge influx of students as of April 1. Lack of supports for classrooms have not been addressed by the MoE. Lack of specialty trained staff in rural areas. Not assigning a placement for students, but will put supports/programs in place for students. Kim introduced S. Wiffen, who is the Board's ABA specialist. She has helped implement the Connections grant from the MoE. We did not have the funding this year. S. Wiffen noted the profile of students coming in may look very different given they will not have supports and therapy as they had in the past.

8.0 Future Agenda Items

- Budget
- Special Education Plan Review/Approval
- Department Improvement Plan 2019-2020 – Visioning
- Board Website – Special Education Update

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

- May 8, 2019 (This meeting will run from 4 pm – 7 pm)
- May 29, 2019

Future Meetings:

- June 5, 2019

These dates are posted on the Board website.

10.0 Adjournment

Moved by K. Morrison to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 6: 05 pm.

Committee Members 2018-2019		
Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Alternate Members
Karen Morrison - Chair <i>Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario</i>	Anne Copeland <i>Elementary Principal Rep</i>	
Stephanie Lee – Vice Chair <i>Community Living – St.Marys & Area</i>	Ed Havenga <i>Secondary Principal Rep</i>	Jennifer Costello <i>Community Living St. Marys & Area</i>
Lynette Geddes <i>Trustee</i>	Kim Black <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	Robert Hunking <i>Trustee</i>
Herb Klassen <i>Trustee</i>	Missy Pfaff <i>Vice Principal</i>	Colleen Schenk <i>Trustee</i>
Terri Sparling <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>	Jane Morris <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	Val Milson <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>
Trevor McGregor <i>Community Living – Stratford & Area</i>		Peg Huettlin <i>Community Living Stratford & Area</i>
Jodee Jack <i>Foundations Huron</i>		Katie Fox <i>Community Living – South Huron</i>
Jan McCrea <i>Autism Ontario</i>		Doris Barkley <i>Autism Ontario</i>
Katie Ansley <i>VIEWS for Visually Impaired</i>		
Robyn Horst <i>Family Services Perth-Huron</i>		
Julie Welch <i>Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)</i>		Tanya Bechard <i>Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)</i>
Doug Pratley <i>Member at Large</i>		