

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

September 9, 2019, 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

London Room

Note: For those meetings starting at 12:15 p.m., lunch is provided in advance; please arrive early.

Meetings are scent free

Pages

1. Call to Order
2. Confirmation of Agenda
3. Conflicts of Interest
4. Report of the Previous Meeting 1
The report of the previous meeting is provided for information.
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Departmental SEAC Priorities
7. Ontario Transfer Payment Agreements
 - a. Professional Assessments
 - b. LD Pilot Project
 - c. After School Skills Development Program
 - d. Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools
8. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)
9. Students on a Modified Day (Standing Item)
10. Correspondence (Standing Item)
 - a. Grand Erie DSB 5
 - b. Durham Catholic DSB 6
 - c. Hastings and Prince Edward DSB 7

- d. Greater Essex DSB Bill 44 9
- e. Greater Essex DSB ELearning
- f. Greater Essex DSB Noah & Gregory's Law 10
- g. Greater Essex DSB SIP

11. Other Business

12. Forum: Association Updates

13. 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

Monday, September 9, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 1, 2019 12:15 p.m.
Monday, November 11, 2018 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 7, 2020 12:15 p.m.
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 12:15 p.m.
Monday, March 9, 2020 6:30 p.m.
Monday, May 4, 2020 6:30 p.m.
Monday, May 25, 2020 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:15 p.m.
Monday, June 8, 2020 6:30 p.m.

14. Future Agenda Items

15. Adjournment

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2019 June 11
12:24 p.m. - 3:14 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Thammavonga, Association for Bright Children
B. Furac, Community Living London
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario(-3:01)
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario(+12:51)
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
L. Dunlop-Dibbs, Vanier Children's Services
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children(+12:34)
M. Cvetkovich, Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
J. Wright, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)
T. Grant, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network
S. Young, London Autism Developmental Disabilities(+1:44)
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
J. Courtney-Nuyens, Thames Valley Council Home and School Associations
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
B. Mai, Association for Bright Children
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee

Regrets: L. Turner-Otte

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
J. Bruce, Elementary Principal(-2:50)
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
A. Marlowe, Equity and Diversity Coordinator(-1:04)
S. McNaughton, Assistant to A. Canham(+2:28)

1. Call to Order

Chair J. Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.m. in the London Room at the Education Centre.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion.

3. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting- 2019 May 27 5:00/7:00 pm

The reports of the 2019 May 27 (5:00 p.m.) and 2019 May 27 (7:00 p.m.) Special Education Advisory Committee meetings were provided for information.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Response to Bluewater District School Board (item# 5.0 2019 May 27 5:00 pm)

A draft response in support of the Bluewater District School Board was presented to the committee for information and feedback.

Questions regarding the status and terms of reference for Bill 44 were answered by T. Grant.

Suggested edits were captured by A. Canham.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing and providing input on the drafted letter of support, the letter be sent to Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education in support of the Bluewater District School Board.

6. Draft Accessibility Plan for 2019-2021

A. Marlowe presented for information the draft TVDSB Accessibility Plan 2019-2020. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

Questions of clarification regarding the 2025 target deadline, enforcement, funding, accessibility hubs, levels of accessibility and identifying priority projects, were answered by Administration.

It was noted SEAC will be added to the list of contributing committees in the Accessibility Plan.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing and providing input to the 2019-2021 TVDSB Accessibility Plan, SEAC recommends that the plan be approved by the Board of Trustees.

7. Individual Plan of Care/Parent Portal Demonstration

A. Canham demonstrated the new in-house solution created to allow parents to complete the Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) form online. The program will be beta-tested with parents at St. Georges PS, Woodland Heights PS, and Caradoc PS. The intent is to launch the form in August 2019 as part of the parent portal.

It was noted parent/guardian(s) can still complete forms on paper if that is their preference.

Questions regarding non-compliant caregivers, frequency of form completion, medical reports, updating prescriptions, prescription letters, dispensing prescriptions and prescription signatures were answered by Administration.

8. Exclusion of a Student - Update

A. Canham provided an update on the status of drafting a policy and procedure pertaining to the exclusion of a student from school. Examples of situations were provided where the procedure would apply.

It was also noted exclusion is not used for discipline and parent/guardian(s) are provided the opportunity to appeal the decision.

The draft will be provided to SEAC in the fall for consultation.

Discussion occurred regarding treatment plans, noting wait times for many potential treatments could hinder the student returning to school in a timely manner.

Questions regarding completion timelines, modified day guidelines and defined periods were answered by Administration.

9. Special Education Budget 2019-2020 - Update

A. Canham provided an update on the Special Education budget for 2019-2020. A. Canham reported there was no change to the budget presented at the 2019 May 27 SEAC meeting, with the exception of the Primary Reading Pilot that has been renewed.

Questions regarding the Primary Reading Pilot were answered by Administration.

S. Young expressed concern regarding the reductions of staffing in the Special Education department. Administration noted the Special Education department reported the smallest reduction in funding and has considerably exceeded the current budget to ensure student needs are met.

Questions regarding support to gifted students at the secondary panel and redistribution of responsibilities were answered by Administration.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing the Special Education budget, SEAC notes grave concerns regarding the impact of provincial budget reductions on the ability to provide services for students with special education needs. SEAC appreciates the commitment of the Board of Trustees in continuing to support Special Education and our most vulnerable students by increasing the deficit. SEAC recommends that the Special Education Budget be approved by the Board of Trustees.

10. Organization of Professional Services Management Team

A. Canham reported there were four job postings this year for a Manager of Psychology. Additionally a head hunting company was hired to fill the position and there were zero applications. As a result, the existing managers will be reorganized.

There will be two Managers of Professional Services and a Clinical Lead of Psychology position was created to manage clinical services for the psychologists.

Questions regarding the clinical lead position, the size of the professional services team, and the division of workload for managers, were answered by Administration.

11. Special Education Advisory Committee Priorities (Standing Item)

None.

12. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

A. Canham reviewed the revised Special Education Plan outlining changes to the document. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting. A handout was provided to reflect revisions to Standard 3: Roles and Responsibilities to reflect the management changes related to professional services (agenda item 10).

It was noted the plan will go to the Board of Trustees at the 2019 June 25 meeting of the Board.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing and providing input to the 2019-2020 Special Education Plan, SEAC notes several concerns related to the impact of budgetary constraints on system support staffing and the restructuring of staff. There is concern that the reduction in funding could impact staffs' ability to implement this plan and meet the needs of our most

vulnerable students. SEAC recommends that the plan be approved by the Board of Trustees.

13. Modified Day Guidelines (Standing Item)

A. Canham reported on the number of Elementary students currently on a modified day program.

14. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. Brant Haldimand and Norfolk Catholic DSB

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board to Minister Thompson expressing concern regarding the recent changes to the provincial funding model for Autism services and the impact it will have on children, families and school boards.

b. Durham DSB

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the SEAC Chair of the Durham District School Board (DDSB) to Minister Thompson expressing concerns regarding the provincial funding model for class size averages and mandatory e-learning.

15. Other Business

A. Leatham provided a final copy of the SEAC brochure for information.

16. Forum: Association Updates (Round Table)

Round table updates were completed. Committee members highlighted some of the events and activities planned by their various organizations throughout the summer. As a follow up to the meeting, event flyers will be emailed out to the committee members as they are received by Corporate Services.

17. 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

The 2019-2020 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

18. Future Agenda Items

None.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Joyce Bennett
CHAIRPERSON



Grand Erie District School Board

Education Centre: 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3
 (519) 756-6301 | granderie.ca | info@granderie.ca | Fax: (519) 756-9181

April 25, 2019

Hon. Lisa Thompson, MPP
 Minister of Education
 14th Floor, Mowat Block
 900 Bay Street
 Toronto, ON
 M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Thompson,

Re: Proposed Class Size Changes and E-Learning Requirements

The Grand Erie DSB SEAC is writing in support of the concerns expressed by the Durham Catholic DSB contained in their letter of April 9, 2019 and attached herein.

We share the concerns about the impact the proposed changes will have on all students, but particularly the risks to a successful education this poses for students with special needs.

We further agree with the concerns about mandatory e-learning with respect to inequitable access to technology and the lack of teacher support required by some students as well as the variance in learning styles.

In closing, we join in requesting the Minister seriously reconsider the proposed class size changes and the mandatory secondary credits via e-learning.

Sincerely,

Kyle Smith, Chair
 Grand Erie DSB SEAC

Cc: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

Enclosure(s):

1. April 9, 2019, Copy of letter from Valerie Adamo, Chair SEAC Durham Catholic DSB

SUCCESS for Every Student



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith



RECEIVED

APR 18 2019

Tuesday April 9, 2019

Dear Minister Lisa Thompson
Minister of Education
Mowat Block 22nd Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

I am writing today, on behalf of the Durham Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee to express our concern about the recent changes to the provincial funding model for class size averages and mandatory e-learning courses.

We are very concerned about the impact these changes are going to have on students with special education needs and our students who are at-risk for a variety of social, emotional and academic reasons. These most recent changes will have a detrimental impact on their education. The proposed class-size average of 28 is not in the best interest of any student, especially students for whom individual attention, additional support, and a differentiated program is essential for their success. Relationships with teachers are critical for this group of students. The research is very clear; children and youth develop resiliency when they have strong connections with one or more caring adults. Students who are not connected at school and are struggling as a result are not likely to develop the connections with teachers when they are in classes of 30 or more.

Students with special education needs or students who are at risk require significant support to have meaningful and equitable access to education. This drastic increase in the class-size averages is the opposite of such support. When secondary schools begin timetabling to meet your proposed class average, fewer teachers will mean a reduction in course options or sections. The negative impact will be multifaceted.

- Fewer courses mean fewer teachers to support our students in terms of their well-being.
- Fewer courses mean fewer electives; electives are often the glue that keep students connected to school.
- Fewer courses means specialized classes that support students with learning needs (e.g., Learning Strategies (GLEs)) will disappear because they typically have lower enrolment.
- Fewer courses means that students' options will be limited which will in turn limit the pathway choices of our students.

The proposed change requiring all students to take four mandatory e-learning credits is equally as concerning for this particular group of students. Besides the obvious issue of inequitable access to technology and Wi-Fi across the province, e-learning will simply not benefit all students. Individual learning styles are varied and not all students have the independence, problem-solving skills or resiliency to be successful in e-learning platforms. This includes, but is not limited to students with special education needs or students who are already at-risk for learning difficulties. Four mandatory courses will further erode choice from students who need to have the opportunity for as much choice as possible.



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Shannon Binder, Chair of the Board
Mandy Savery-Whiteway, Director of Education

Possibilities
TODAY & TOMORROW

June 4, 2019

The Honourable Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Thompson:

As representatives of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB), we are writing to express our concerns about the recent changes to the provincial funding model for autism services and the impact that it will have on children, families, and school boards.

The new funding model means that school-age children who have moderate to severe autism requiring Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy to teach them learning skills, behaviour management and communication will no longer have adequate funding from the government for the clinically recommended 20 to 40 hours per week. Expecting school boards to "close the gaps" in such clinical or therapeutic needs sets unrealistic expectations for both educators and parents/guardians. Many families within our board will be unable to pay for the therapy their children need out of pocket based on the new funding model. As a result, many of these children will enter the school system without the skills that they need to be successful.

We are also concerned that many children who have been receiving one-on-one therapy will be inadequately prepared to transition to school full-time, if the decision to send them is based solely on a lack of funding for further therapy. Placing these students in the classroom may create health and safety concerns for all. Children with autism are not the only children who require more supports than are currently available in school and in the community. We are concerned that the proposed changes in autism funding will also have a negative impact on what can be provided for all our students with special needs in our schools.

We urge the Ministry of Education to review their funding decision and revise the Ontario Autism Plan based on the recommendations of relevant stakeholders, including parents and clinical experts. We also hope that the Ministry will also investigate and remedy the shortfalls in funding for other disabilities affecting the children in our province.

An invitation is being extended to our local members of provincial parliament to attend a fall SEAC meeting, to continue discussions and advocacy that the Ministry of Education review their funding decision. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kelly Allan

Kelly Allan,
SEAC Chair

Carolyn Baldwin

Carolyn Baldwin,
SEAC Vice-chair



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Possibilities
TODAY & TOMORROW

Shannon Binder, Chair of the Board
Mandy Savery-Whiteway, Director of Education

c.c. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Mandy Savery-Whiteway, Director of Education
Shannon Binder, Chair of the Board
Ken Dostaler, Superintendent of Education – Student Services
Todd Smith, MPP Bay of Quinte
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

Greater Essex County District School Board

451 Park St. W., P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1 · 519-255-3200



July 5, 2019

Honourable Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lisa Thompson:

The Greater Essex County District School Board's (GECDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) would like to acknowledge and support Bill 44 to amend the Education Act to provide for board activities to promote awareness and understanding of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including best practices to support pupils who may have FASD. Currently, the GECDSB provides an annual professional development session each fall for teachers who have students in their classrooms identified with FASD. However, any additional professional development supports or awareness initiatives from the Ontario Ministry of Education would be beneficial to our educators who work diligently to support all students on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Fuduric".

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Greater Essex County District School Board

CC: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

Greater Essex County District School Board

451 Park St. W., P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1 • 519-255-3200



July 5, 2019

Honorable Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Education
22nd Floor Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Thompson,

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Greater Essex County District School Board is writing in support of Bill 64, ***Noah and Gregory's Law, Transition to Adult Developmental Services and Supports***. The Act recently passed its second reading and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills. We ask that you strongly and actively support this Bill to ensure its passage to a third reading as soon as possible.

Students with developmental disabilities, along with their families, already face many challenges regarding crucial services and the cessation of these supports at age 18 causes increased and unnecessary burdens. We ask that you support the implementation of Bill 64 to improve their transition to adult services.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'M. Fuduric'.

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Greater Essex County District School Board

CC: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
CC: GECDSD Board of Trustees