

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2018 November 12
6:30 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.

MEMBERS

M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children
J. Bennett, Trustee
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
M. Cvetkovich, Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
C. Dendias, Chippewas of the Thames
T. Grant, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network-ELMO (Chair)
C. Goodall, Trustee
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
S. Young, Autism Ontario London
R. Tisdale, Trustee(+6:40)
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
A. Morse, Easter Seals
C. Thammavonga, Association for Bright Children
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
B. Furac, Community Living London
J. Nuyens, Thames Valley Council of Home & School Associations(+6:55)

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
D. Clark, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
P. Venesoen, Research and Assessment, Assistant
B. Mai, Association for Bright Children
D. Reed, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
N. Davidson, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children
I. Frick, Student Trustee(-7:16)
S. Polhill, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee Elect
M. Ferdinand, Manager of Social Work (+6:35)(-7:44)
V. Fernandez, Manager of Speech and Language(+6:35)(-8:01)

Regrets: S. Dobaczewski, J. Schaeffer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grant called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Dundas Room at the Education Centre.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda with the addition of item #15 was approved on motion and carried. Agenda items #13, 11 and 14 were addressed first.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS FROM 2018 October 9

The minutes of the 2018 October 9 meeting were provided for information.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2018 October 9

a. Meeting and SEAC Exit Survey Draft item 8.0

Chair Grant provided for information the revised SEAC Exit Survey and the revised SEAC Meeting Form. Copies were provided to the committee members prior to the meeting. There were no recommended changes to either document.

All members were invited to complete the Exit Survey and Meeting Form. The expectation was set that members fill out their meeting form based on the most recent meeting they attended.

A. Canham will send an electronic version of the survey to those members that did not complete the survey at the meeting within one week.

The following motion was moved and carried:

THAT the amended SEAC exit survey and amended SEAC meeting survey be used as tools to evaluate the committee.

6. SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES (STANDING ITEM)

a. 2018 October 9 Activity Recap –“What should SEAC be working on this school year?”

Collated responses from the breakout activity at the committee meeting of 2018 October 9 meeting was deferred to the committee meeting of 2019 January 8.

7. SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY UPDATE (STANDING ITEM)

J. Gritzan noted the transfer of responsibility for school-based rehabilitation service contracts under the School Health Support Services program from the South West Local Health Integration Network (SW LHIN) to Thames Valley Children Centre (TVCC) will occur on 2019 January 1. This is for school-based Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech and Language Therapy services in publicly funded schools.

8. SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN (STANDING ITEM)

a. Special Education Plan Standard Two

A. Canham noted that SEAC will be aligning the Special Education Plan with the 2018-2019 Operational Plan. It was noted that the 2018-2019 Operational Plan needs to be presented to the committee for discussion, with the opportunity to offer input (with how it relates to SEAC). The 2018-2019 Operational Plan will be presented at the 2019 January 8 meeting.

b. Special Education Plan Standard Five

When placing a student TVDSB currently has three options for placement which are allowed to be stated in the IPRC Statement of Decision: regular classroom with indirect support, regular classroom with withdrawal assistance (this applies to the Secondary Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Transitions and Hearing Impaired Resource programs) and special education self-contained class full-time. There needs to be clarification where TVDSB fits as other school boards have varying numbers of options and the Education Act states there are five placement options. This will be addressed in 2019 through sub-committees. An overview will be provided to SEAC for discussion, before a decision is finalized.

It was noted that often families move between school boards and inconsistencies between school boards can be disruptive for the students, this is a factor that needs to be considered.

9. MODIFIED DAY GUIDELINES (STANDING ITEM)

A. Canham provided an updated on the number of students on modified days, noting the number of students in elementary has increased to a total of 36 students. The number of students on modified days for medical reasons was identified.

It was noted kindergarten students on modified days do not count towards the total number, if the request for modified days is initiated by the parent. Discussion considered the reasons for requests.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Canham.

10. CORRESPONDENCE (STANDING ITEM)

a. Letter Upper Grand District School Board 2018 October 10

Chair Grant presented for information a letter from the Upper Grand District School Board in support of Bill 44, Education Amendment Act (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). A copy was provided to the committee members prior to the meeting.

Discussion occurred around prenatal alcohol exposure, questions of clarification were answered by Chair Grant.

Chair Grant read a thankyou note from S. Builder, former Superintendent for Special Education to the committee.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Mental Health and Behaviour Program Review

A. Leatham presented an update on the Mental Health and Behaviour Program. It was noted a *jurisdictional scan summary* was completed and results showed the program was consistently delivered across multiple boards including: a tiered approach, placement options and placement criteria. A. Leatham outlined the mental health and program review process map and provided a handout.

P. Venesoen presented information on the TVDSB Special Education Behaviour Support and Services Feedback Staff Survey 2018. The staff surveyed included Teachers and Early Childhood Educator's(ECE), Educational Assistant's(EA) and professional staff. Over 600 responses were received. P. Venesoen reviewed the categories of questions, the strengths and areas for improvements in each category were highlighted.

It was noted in response to a question that an EA floats to support multiple students or classrooms and can support grades K-12; an ECE is assigned to a specific classroom or student and supports only kindergarten.

A. Leatham reviewed results from the IEP Audit observations. The improvements that have been made to the program thus far were highlighted.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Leatham, P. Venesoen and A. Canham.

Discussion occurred around parent engagement. Efforts to improve parent engagement were described including geographical, childcare and transportation barriers.

It was noted that two more self-contained classes have been added. Additional questions are welcomed by email to A. Leatham.

12. FORUM: ASSOCIATION UPDATES

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

13. CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS UPDATE

A. Canham presented an update on the Case Management System (CMS). The number of elementary and secondary students with direct service contact, the referral process, the number of referrals, the 14 disciplines and the benefits were highlighted.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Canham, M. Ferdinand, A. Leatham and V. Fernandez.

14. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES, SUMMER CAMP 2018

V. Fernandez provided an update on the Speech-Language Pathology (S-LP) summer camp, which hosted 97 students this summer. The camp hosted sites in Elgin County, Oxford County, Middlesex County, and two sites in London. The camp ran a morning session to improve articulation. The students that attended had been previously identified and referred to the camp; enrollment was up from 32 students last year to 46 this year.

The afternoon session was focused on phonological awareness. These students were also identified and referred by a speech pathologist. Student enrollment increased from 39 students last year to 51 students this summer.

V. Fernandez outlined a typical day of camp including books, crafts, games one-on-one time and camp ended with parent day. Parent Day saw an increase in attendance this year at 73% up from last year's attendance of 62%. Surveys were completed afterwards and the results were positive.

Questions of clarification were answered by V. Fernandez. It was noted the camp is always accepting volunteers

15. RECOGNITION

C. Goodall offered his appreciation to the committee for the daily contributions and support they continue to offer to the TVDSB students.

Chair Grant recognized the Trustees as the champions of the committee making sure the needs of the Special Education students are heard at the board level.

R. Tisdale extended her appreciation to the committee for their passion noting how much she has learned from committee members.

S. Polhill thanked J. Bennett and R. Tisdale for their work noting the impact they have had on implementing changes that have been reflected in schools over the years.

Chair Grant thanked all the members of SEAC for volunteering their time, for their contributions of knowledge, and dedication to the committee.

A. Canham expressed his gratitude to the committee for their engagement, effort and countless hours they have invested to make SEAC such an effective committee.

J. Bennett thanked Chair Grant for her dedication and drive to make sure things are always moving forward, and positive change is happening.

16. MEETING DATES

Unless noted otherwise, meetings will be held in the London Room.

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:15 p.m. (Dundas)

Monday, March 4, 2019 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 12:15 p.m. (Dundas)

Monday, May 6, 2019 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 27, 2019 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 12:15 p.m.

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Exceptionality Data & Trends (December & May)
- Informal Suspension (ongoing)
- Creating a Survey for Gifted Program (D. Ensing)
- Update on Phonological Awareness Screening Changes (V.Fernandes)
- Gifted Programming in Secondary (September)
- Self-Contained Class Process/Locations/Numbers (October)
- Primary Accelerate Class Video (September)
- Behaviour Analysts Update (November)
- November – LD Team (Update on Empower, Lexia)
- SAL – Supervised Alternative Learning/ Alt.Ed Process (SEAC Priority)

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by motion.

**TRACY GRANT
CHAIRPERSON**

RECOMMENDATION: