

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2019 January 8
12:20 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.

MEMBERS

B. Furac, Community Living London
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario(+12:54)
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
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 Development Support Group
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
N. Davison, VOICE for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
J. Courtney-Nuyens, Thames Valley Council Home and School Associations
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
J. Bruce, Elementary Principal
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
B. Williams, Corporate Services(-12:41)
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
S. Dobaczewski, Vanier Children's Services
C. Beal, Superintendent (+12:43) (-1:26)
S. Macey, Manager, Finance(+12:43)(-1:26)
A. Goldie, Finance Analyst (+12:43) (-1:26)
C. Kechego, Education Director Chippewas of the Thames

Regrets: D. Clark, C. Thammavonga, N. Brown, L. Dunlop-Dibbs,
M. Barbeau,

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Canham called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. in the London Room at the Education Centre.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda with the removal of items 6.a and 6.b was approved on motion and carried. Item 6a. will be covered under agenda item 13 and item 6.b will be covered under agenda item 15.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

A. Canham presided over the election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019. This year the Chair of SEAC will be a Trustee and the Vice-Chair will be an agency representative.

Trustee J. Bennett was elected to the position of Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term ending 2019 November 30. P. Cook was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

All ballots were destroyed.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS FROM 2018 NOVEMBER 12

The minutes of the 2018 November 12 meeting were provided for information.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2019 MARCH 5

a. **2018 October 9 Activity Recap "What should SEAC be working on this school year?" -item #6.a**

See agenda item 13.

b. **Special Education Plan Standard Two-item #8.a**

See agenda item 15.

7. SPECIAL EDUCATION YEAR END FINANCES

A. Canham introduced C. Beal, S. Macey and A. Goldie who provided, for information, the Special Education 2017-2018 Year End Statement.

The statement was reviewed; questions of clarification were answered by administration.

In response to a question, the approaches being taken to fill the open Educational Assistant (EA) positions long term, were described highlighting the partnership with Fanshawe College- Woodstock campus. It was noted there are a shortage of EA's province wide contributing to some of the staffing issues. The managerial position in Psychology Services will be reposted next week.

8. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING 2019-2020

A. Canham reported on the 2019-2020 budget for Special Education, noting there will be minimal impact from the Education Programs – Other (EPO) funding cuts. Information on the budget allocations for staffing in 2019-20 and plans for the 2019-20 budget year will be available in early spring, 2019.

9. TVDSB'S REACH AHEAD PROGRAMMING FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

R. Ferrara provided an overview on the Reach Ahead Program describing eligibility, entrance to the program and programming.

10. BEHAVIOUR ANALYSTS UPDATE

A. Leatham reported all four behaviour analyst positions have been filled. Their role supporting students and professional learning was described.

It was noted data detailing the number students being supported will be added to the 2019 February 12 SEAC agenda.

11. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

A. Leatham reported the Behaviour Management System(BMS) may be individualized to meet the unique training needs of teachers and support workers supporting students with Autism in TVDSB.

A. Leatham reported the Forest City Program at Central Secondary School has been replicated at other sites, particularly those in the county, under a new name of the Work Experience Program where 41 students have been placed this year. It was also noted four new classes have been created to accommodate the 149 applications for students in Developmental Education. They will be opening in the following schools: B. Davidson, Central Elgin, Huron Park and Banting.

R. Ferrara reported the School-Based Empower session will be held for Administrators 2019 Feb 5. This learning session will provide information regarding the implementation of Empower in a number of new TVDSB schools.

It was noted this is the last year of the Learning Development Pilot Project at Cleardale P.S.

R. Ferrara outlined the Special Education Snapverter pilot currently being offered to 17 schools in both Elementary and Secondary. Snapverter is an easy to used add-on for Read&Write Google Chrome that transforms classroom papers and files into readable PDF documents for easy sharing and reading aloud via Google Drive. It was also noted that deaf and hard of hearing and vision equipment additions have been made to the SEA automation system.

R. Ferrara reported the Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be more streamlined as a result of the IEP audit. A working group has been established to review and revise the Early Identification policy and procedure.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Leatham, R. Ferrara and A. Canham.

12. IN CONFERENCE UPDATE

R. Ferrara and A. Leatham outlined the details of the IN Conference scheduled for 2019 February 9. It was determined that A. Morse will set up the SEAC booth at the conference. It was noted there needs to be more direct communication to parents of students with Special Education needs regarding available options.

J. Capaldi offered to create a website banner highlighting the IN Conference that can be featured on each school website.

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES (STANDING ITEM)

A. Canham reported on the SEAC priorities determined by the committee. It was noted these priorities will be used when creating the SEAC plan next year. Discussion centered on how to best communicate with families and how to increase awareness of the work of SEAC.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Canham.

It was determined the orientation for SEAC members will be held prior to the SEAC meeting on 2019 February 12 at 11a.m. in the Dundas room at the Education Centre.

14. SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY UPDATE (STANDING ITEM)

J. Gritzan presented information on the waitlist for Occupational, Speech and Physio Therapy at the Thames Valley Children's Center. It was noted therapy guidelines are changing in 2020 to allow changes to services to reduce waitlist times. Thames Valley Children's Centre has updated their website as of 2019 Jan 1.

The following motion was moved and carried:

THAT SEAC compose a letter to the Ministry of Children and Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and the Minister of Education and copied to other SEAC committees, to outline concerns regarding waitlist times and the volume of students on waitlists.

15. SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN (STANDING ITEM)

A. Canham provided information on the Special Education Plan and outlined the options for reviewing the plan. It was determined a subcommittee will be created to review the plan. D. Reid, S. Young and B. Furac volunteered to sit on the committee.

16. MODIFIED DAY GUIDELINES (STANDING ITEM)

A. Canham reported on the number of students on modified days, noting the decrease since the last report.

Discussion occurred and questions of clarification were answered by A. Canham.

17. CORRESPONDENCE (STANDING ITEM)

a. Letter from Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board in support of Bill 44, Education Amendment Act (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

b. Letter from Windsor- Essex CDSB

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Windsor-Essex Catholic District Board requesting the Ministry of Education follow the recommendations of the Auditor General to review the formulas used to determine Special Education Grants. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

19. FORUM: ASSOCIATION UPDATES

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

20. MEETING DATES

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.

21. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Exceptionality Data & Trends (January & May)
- Update on Phonological Awareness Screening Changes(V. Fernandez)
- CTCC Programming in TVDSB (February)
- LD Team (Update on Empower, Lexia)
- Forest City Program & DE Placements (February)
- IPRC Student Placement (April)
- Accessibility Committee Update (February)
- Behaviour Analysts Update

22. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. by motion.

Joyce Bennett
CHAIRPERSON

RECOMMENDATION:

None.