

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2019 March 4
6:34 p.m. - 9:25 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
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
L. Dunlop-Dibbs, Vanier Children's Services
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
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
J. Courtney-Nuyens, Thames Valley Council Home and School Associations
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
N. Davison, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired
C. Krygsman, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)

Regrets: N. Brown, J. Bruce, J. Bennett

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal (+7:15)
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
D. Clark, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation
C. Kechego, Education Director Chippewas of the Thames
S. Khan, Principal, Madeline Hardy (+7:01)(-7:32)
A. Marlowe, Equity and Diversity Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the London Room at the Education Centre.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

With the addition of Elementary Development Education Placement to item #11. the agenda was approved on motion.

3. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting

The report of the 2019 January 8 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was provided for information.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. In-Camera

On motion the committee moved in camera at 6:38 p.m., reconvening in public session at 6:59 p.m.

7. Supporting and Teaching in Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional Programs (CTCC)

S. Khan, Principal, Madeline Hardy and W.D. Sutton presented information on Supporting and Teaching in Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional Programs (CTCC). The nine community agencies involved with the program were highlighted. It was noted the agency partnership agreements are renewed annually. Student admissions, student profiles, classrooms, challenges, student support and the 17 programs were outlined. The CTCC program is monitored by the Ministry of Education.

S. Khan noted there has been a strong focus on transitioning from home to school and school to home for students.

S. Khan reviewed the decrease in admissions over the last four years; causes for the drop in enrollment were outlined.

Questions of clarification were answered by S. Khan.

8. Experiential Learning (Development Education) in Thames Valley District School Board

A. Leatham presented information on the Work Experience Program *Preparing for Life After School*. She noted it's a five year program that supports students with developmental disabilities to pursue a school to work pathway. Currently the program is offered at 10 TVDSB Secondary schools. Program focuses include numeracy, literacy, community awareness, daily living, communication, technology and life skills.

Transition planning, global competencies and criteria for placement were highlighted. A. Leatham noted the Work Experience Program is a certificate program and not a diploma program. The differences between a certificate and diploma were reviewed.

In response to a question it was noted the difference between the Work Experience Program and Locally Developed Program is that the Work Experience Program is not credit based.

Examples of students involvement in the program were provided.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Leatham.

9. School-Based Empower Reading for SEAC

R. Ferrara provided information on School-Based Empower for SEAC. The goals of Empower were reviewed and student programming was outlined. Characteristics for the ideal Empower candidate were identified.

Empower is currently in place in Elementary schools and in 4 Secondary schools. The history and training process of Empower was outlined.

In response to a question it was noted Empower is a 60 minute daily program, recommended to be done 5 days a week.

The Committee watched the video "Empower Has Made a Difference" featuring success stories of students as a result of Empower.

Questions of clarification were answered by R. Ferrara.

10. Special Education Budget

a. Education Programs - Other (EPO)

A. Canham advised TVDSB has received \$345,076.00 in EPO grants from the Ministry to be used by 2019 August 30. The parameters of the funding and plans for it's use to reduce wait times was described.

In response to a question it was noted the wait list is decentralized with varying wait times for speech, language and psychology.

On request, additional information regarding wait times for assessment will be brought forward to the next meeting.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Canham.

11. Special Education Advisory Committee Priorities (Standing Item)

Elementary Development Education Placement

A. Leatham described plans to accommodate students transitioning from grade 8 to grade 9 DE classrooms for the 2019-20 school year.

As 4 new classrooms are created in Secondary, 4 classrooms will close in Elementary. The committee was asked to provide input on options considering some classrooms are purpose-built sites. Through discussion, it was suggested the stability of keeping students in their existing schools in familiar environments and minimal commutes was the best option for students.

Questions of clarification were answered by Administration.

12. Special Needs Strategy Update (Standing Item)

A. Morse noted SEAC needs to update the information for the SEAC booth. It was suggested a brochure be created.

13. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

a. Standard 3

A. Canham reviewed Standard 3: Roles and Responsibilities of the Special Education Plan outlining changes to the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

b. Standard 5

A. Canham reviewed Standard 5: The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Process and Appeals outlining changes to the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

c. Standard 10

A. Canham reviewed Standard 10: Individual Education Plans (IEPs) outlining edits to the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

d. Standard 11

A. Canham reviewed Standard 11: Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario outlining changes to the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

14. Modified Day Guidelines (Standing Item)

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

In response to a questions it was noted the majority are in primary grades.

Discussion occurred regarding tracking modified for secondary school. It was noted there are too many varying factors in secondary.

Questions of clarification were answered by A. Canham.

15. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. TVDSB (SEAC)'s Letter to MOE and Response from Minister MacLeod's Office

Vice Chair Cook presented for information a copy of a letter drafted on behalf of SEAC to Minister Thompson and MacLeod expressing concern for special needs students who are currently on waiting lists for services, requesting funds to reduce wait times.

b. Durham District School Board (SEAC);s Letter to the MOE

Vice Chair Cook presented for information a copy of a letter from the Durham District School Board (DDSB) to Minister Thompson expressing concern at the lack of increase to the Special Incidence Portion previously announced for the 2018/2019 school year.

c. Peel District School Board (SEAC)'s Letter to the MOE

Vice Chair Cook presented for information a copy of a letter from the Peel District School Board to Minister Thompson expressing concern for the students that have been negatively impacted as a result of recent changes in funding to special education.

16. Rescheduling of February 12, 2019 Meeting

The 2019 February 12 SEAC meeting was cancelled. It was determined to schedule two meetings on 2019 May 27, one at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., to make up for the cancelled meeting.

17. Other Business

There was a request to add links to the community agency websites (member organizations) on the TVDSB SEAC web page.

18. Forum: Association Updates

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

19. 2018-2019 Meeting Dates

The 2018-2019 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for 2019 April 2, 12:15 p.m.

20. Future Agenda Items

- Accessibility Committee Update (April)
- Role of a Special Education TOSA (April)
- TVDSB - IPRC Student Placement (April)
- PPM 161 Update (May)
- Exceptionality Data and Trends (May)

21. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. by motion.

Paul Cook
Vice Chair