

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 7, 2020
12:42 p.m. – 2:36 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Thammavongsa, Association for Bright Children
S. Lawrence Farrants, Autism Ontario London (-1:39)
B. Furac, Community Living London
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
L. Dunlop-Dibbs, Vanier Children's Services
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children (+12:47)
C. Krygsman, 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
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee
A. Morell, Chair of the Board (+1:07)(-2:11)

Regrets: A. Morse, B. Harvey, L. Turner-Otte, M. Cvetkovich, S. Thomson, J. Bennett

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
M. Phillips, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation
C. Kechego, Education Director Chippewas of the Thames

1. Call to Order

Chair P. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:42 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

The report of the 2019 December 16 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was provided for information.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

In response to a question regarding the After School Skills Development Program, A. Leatham reported 37 students have enrolled to date.

6. Exclusion of a Student - Discussion

A. Canham advised that throughout the month of January Administration will collaborate with Ontario Principals Councils to draft the Exclusion of a Student Procedure.

A group activity was performed to gather input for the procedure. The groups presented their feedback to the committee. The input for the draft procedure was collected by A. Canham.

It was noted the tentative SEAC consultation date is 2020 February 4.

7. System Updates

a. Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals - Review of Draft Policy and Procedure

Administration presented for information and feedback the draft Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Procedure.

The procedure was reviewed.

Questions of clarification regarding accredited training facilities for service dogs, animals maintaining the standard of conduct, providing access to education, the difference between service and emotional support animals and investigating barriers were addressed.

Suggested edits were captured by A. Canham.

The committee requested that the number of students using service animals be provided at each meeting.

b. Ministry of Education PPM 163 School Board Policies on Service Animals

A. Canham advised on the Policy/Program Memorandum No. 163 (PPM163) issued by the Ministry of Education. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

8. SEAC/Department Priorities (Standing Item)

Deferred.

9. Students on Modified Day (Standing Item)

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

Questions of clarification regarding the level of involvement the Special Education Department has with placing a student on a modified day were addressed.

Discussion occurred regarding tracking attendance for Special Education classes in Secondary.

10. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

A. Canham outlined the revisions to the Special Education Plan from the previous year, noting the Special Education Plan is reviewed annually.

A. Canham advised that the Special Education Plan committee is looking for SEAC members to sit on the committee for this year. Timelines, guidelines, and expectations were detailed.

Volunteers were captured by Chair Cook.

11. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. Durham District School Board Letter

Chair Cook presented for information a copy of a letter from the Durham District School Board to Minister Lecce.

The letter expressed concern about the inactive status and effectiveness of the Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education (MACSE). Specifically the failure to meet the minimum number of meetings, the number of vacant positions and the lack of reporting.

12. Other Business

A. Canham advised the IEP Audit Committee is looking for two SEAC members to sit on the committee. Timelines, guidelines, and expectations were detailed.

Volunteers were captured by Chair Cook.

The meeting is on 2020 April 24.

13. Forum: Association Updates (Round Table)

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

14. 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for 2020 February 4, 12:15 p.m.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. by motion.