

**Special Education Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Limestone District School Board**

**February 20, 2019**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held in Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees:** K. McGregor, Chair  
B. Godkin, Trustee

**Members:** A. Ballance, Family & Children's Services, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington.  
N. Carson, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario  
P. Dendy, Member-at-Large  
D. Jalovcic, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston  
S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children  
A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)  
L. Sansom, Association for Bright Children of Ontario  
E. Sheldon, Community Living Kingston  
S. Shunk, Member-at-Large

**Staff:** H. Box, Special Education Program Coordinator  
S. Burnett, Special Education Program Coordinator  
L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead  
K. Leggett, Vice-Principal of Educational Services  
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All  
J. Murphy, Special Education Program Coordinator  
D. Scarlett, Principal of Educational Services

**Regrets:** C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston  
N. Nicholson, Autism Ontario-Kingston Chapter  
L. Rousseau, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator

**Recorder:** Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

**1. Welcome**

Trustee McGregor called the meeting to order, welcoming all those in attendance to the meeting.

Trustee McGregor read the Indigenous greeting:

"The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land."

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*MOVED BY: N. Carson, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.*

**3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Associate Superintendent McDonnell called for nominations for Chair of SEAC.

Trustee Godkin nominated Trustee McGregor. Trustee McGregor accepted the nomination.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell called for nominations two more times. Hearing none, the nominations were closed.

Trustee McGregor was acclaimed as Chair.

Trustee McGregor called for nominations for Vice Chair of SEAC.

Erin Sheldon put her name forward for Vice Chair. The nominations were called two more times. Hearing none, Trustee McGregor closed the nominations.

Erin Sheldon was acclaimed as Vice Chair.

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**5. Business Arising From the Minutes**

None at this time.

**6. Presentation: Universal Design for Learning**

J. Murphy and D. Scarlett provided a presentation on Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

An overview of the concept of UDL was shared, where it was stressed why UDL is important for all learners and how the foundation is being built to implement UDL in LDSB.

The UDL guidelines organizes and provides a language for teaching and learning, for all the materials and resources we already have. UDL organizes these and thinks of them in terms of how the different options reduce barriers for all learners to access, build, and internalize expert learning skills.

The UDL framework offers an overarching approach to designing meaningful learning opportunities that address learner variability and suggests purposeful, proactive attention to the design of goals, assessments, methods, and materials. The UDL Guidelines are a tool to support educators, curriculum developers, researchers, parents, and more to apply the UDL framework to practice.

UDL is about all about learners, and as such the concept is embedded in all areas, including the Board's Strategic Plan. Educational Services and program team continues to support staff with this learning through PD sessions, pre-surveys to ensure we know what teachers need with their learning, listening to teacher voices, and providing options and choices for learning. Educational Services is modeling the elements of UDL in our PD across the district.

Educational Services is always working toward meaningful inclusion through understanding the variability of the students in each classroom and providing options and opportunities that optimize learning for all students through choice.

**7. Educational Services Update:**

D. Scarlett shared an update on the Professional Development that has occurred over the past few months:

- Student Support Teacher/Learning Program Support Course occurred in the fall
- Learning Disabilities Learning Series: reading, writing, self-advocacy, executive functioning during month of January
- Putting the "Pro" in Proloquo2Go
- My Blue Print Professional Learning for Secondary Teachers in School to Community Programming during February
- Drop-in IEP and Report Card Support during month of January
- Implementing a Workbox System to Promote Student Independence
- Educational Services Leadership team continues to participate in numerous webinars, workshops, book studies and professional development to support our district learning in multiple areas including UDL
- Learning Program Support Teacher and Student Support Teacher Sessions throughout the school year: "Closing the Gaps"/ Diagnostics: student profiles/ data collection/ accommodations and modifications/ Universal Design for Learning
- Clinical Consultants participated in a webinar to learn more about autism
- Behaviour Management Systems trainings all throughout the year
- Elementary & Secondary SCS teachers were involved in professional development on the October PA day
- Online modules created for the district in Minds online (IDD and FASD)
- Google Read and Write support continues in schools across the district with additional evening sessions
- Overcoming Anxiety and School Refusal: Mar. 4 & 13
- Social Narratives and Video Modeling: Feb. 27
- Helping Students Manage Their Anger Using Cognitive Behaviour Theory: Apr.3
- SCS elementary and secondary teachers in on the PA day: April 5
- Eating and Weight-related Problems among student Population: May 2
- Compassion Fatigue: May 9
- Educational Services staff will participate in the Indigenous Blanket exercise
- Educational Services all staff participated in workshops in the area of mental health and Universal Design for Learning on the November PA day

It was clarified that My Blueprint is a tool to support students with course selection and post secondary planning, that provides an opportunity to link with outside resources to help with transitions. It is used with all students in grade seven and onward.

**8. Correspondence**

- Durham District School Board

This letter was regarding the reduction in SIP funding.

- Thames Valley District School Board

This letter is regarding rehab services being transition to children's treatment centres, and the concerns around waitlists.

**9. Association Updates**

As circulated with the meeting package.

**10. Other Business**

- i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

- 2018-19 Education Programs – Other (EPO)

The following transfer payment agreement(s) from the Ministry of Education related to special education are approved for the 2018-19 fiscal year:

- ASD - After School Skills Development Program
- Mental Health Workers
- Pilot to Support Transitions to Post-Secondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities
- Children and Youth in Care Transportation Supports (Application Process)
- Well-Being: Safe, Accepting and Healthy Schools and Mental Health – Theme Bundle
- Special Education Professional Assessments

- ii) Proposed Updates to EQAO Reporting Denominator

As part of its modernization process, EQAO is examining reporting practices including potentially changing how the denominator is used in EQAO reporting for Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

- iii) Tri-Board SEAC

The Tri-Board SEAC will be held on May 15, 2019 at Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board from 5-7:30 p.m.

It was decided that the previous strategic planning document for SEAC would be reviewed at the next meeting.

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**11. Next Meeting Date**

March 27, 2019

**12. Adjournment**

*MOVED BY: E. Sheldon, that the meeting adjourn.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.