

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

March 27, 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, March 27, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Members: P. Dendy, Member-at-Large
S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children
A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)
N. Nicholson, Autism Ontario-Kingston Chapter
L. Sansom, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
E. Sheldon, Community Living Kingston
C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston
C. Whalen, Family & Children's Services, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

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
J. Murphy, Special Education Program Coordinator
L. Rousseau, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator
D. Scarlett, Principal of Educational Services

Regrets: N. Carson, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
D. Jalovcic, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston
S. Shunk, Member-at-Large
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All

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 Acknowledgement:

"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: Trustee Godkin, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. **Business Arising From the Minutes**

None at this time.

5. **Presentation: Seac Handbook – K. McGregor**

Trustee McGregor shared copies of the updated SEAC handbook, and highlighted important areas for members to review.

The following organizations will be presenting for the remainder of the school year:

April - (Autism Ontario) Natalie Nicholson

June – (Lennox and Addington Resources for Children) Sandy Henderson-Todd

6. **Educational Services Update: Reporting Progress: Building our Vision for the Future – D. Scarlett**

D. Scarlett reviewed the March 2019 update of the Enhancing Special Education Services in our District document. Updates are shared with SEAC three times per year.

L. Rousseau walked members through 'Supporting Students with FASD K-12' which is an online resource in our Minds On Line. The purpose of the site is to provide online resources for all LDSB educators, with information to support the learning needs of our students with FASD. Staff will find ideas, strategies, resource documents, videos, and links to websites with current research and news about FASD.

C. Tooley asked about social networks for extracurricular activities for students with special needs. D. Scarlett responded that she believed C. Tooley was referring to a pilot program on Peer Networks, which took place at a couple of LDSB schools.

E. Sheldon suggested reviewing SEAC's strategic plan, and updating with inclusion of peer support programs.

7. **Correspondence**

- Durham Catholic District School Board

This letter was regarding the changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

Trustee Godkin suggested that the LDSB SEAC should also send a letter in response to the announcement of changes to the Autism Ontario Program.

Trustee McGregor suggested that due to the time constraints, that LDSB Special Education staff craft the letter, and that it be shared through email for feedback and approval from SEAC members. The members agreed by consensus.

MOTION: To have LDSB staff draft a letter outlining the concerns of the LDSB SEAC around the changes to the Ontario Autism Program, and how they will affect our Board.

MOVED BY: E. Sheldon. Carried.

8. Association Updates

As circulated with the meeting package.

9. Other Business

i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

- Supporting Students with Autism Disorder 2018-2019/2019-2020

On March 11, 2019 the Ministry of Education made an announcement regarding “Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder”. The link to the information on the Ministry of Education website can be found at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/autism.html>

On Monday March 18, 2019 all school boards received a request from the Ministry of Education to complete a survey regarding board pressures resulting from the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP). In all cases where LDSB schools are aware of a confirmed transition, the school will connect with Hugh Box who will support the school through the transition planning process.

- Updated 2018-19 Special Education Funding Memorandum

D. Scarlett spoke to the memorandum included in the meeting package that provides a summary of Special Education Grant funding changes for the 2018-19 school year, including details regarding the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) allocation.

The following is a list of the key changes to special education funding that are summarized in this memorandum:

- DSENA: New Investment and Allocation Details
- Special Education Per-Pupil Amount (SEPPA): New Investment and Allocation Details (Summer 2018)
- Special Incidence Portion (SIP): An increase to the Maximum Amount Per Eligible Claim (Revised Summer 2018)
- Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA): Transition of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Training funding from Education Programs-Other funding into the BEA
- Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional (CTCC) Amount: Name change and update to guidelines (Update: Special Education Funding in 2018-2019)

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D. Scarlett clarified that the Board does not yet have all the information about the specific funding changes. LDSB finance staff will attend a future SEAC meeting to explain the changes once the information is received.

ii) World Autism Awareness Day – April 2, 2019

H. Box shared that this year World Autism Day will be celebrated on April 2. This day presents an extraordinary opportunity to highlight the wonderful achievements and abilities of people who have ASD. Limestone District supports hundreds of students with Autism and at this time of year we invite schools across the district to share some of the great news. Schools in the LDSB are invited to:

- include a thought during morning announcements
- create awareness posters for posting around the school
- choose a book or video to share in class or at an assembly
- have a question box answered by students with ASD
- hold a "Raise the Flag" event to demonstrate your school's commitment to inclusion and acceptance
- "Light it up Blue" by wearing blue on April 2
- share your initiatives on Twitter using #autismawareness or #LIUB

10. Next Meeting Date

Trustee McGregor shared that the committee would be looking at a change to the start time of meetings. A discussion of a proposed time change will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

E. Sheldon suggested allowing remote access for meetings to allow more consistent attendance.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: C. Tooley, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.