

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

June 12, 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, June 12, 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
D. Jalovcic, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston
A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)
L. Sansom, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
E. Sheldon, Community Living 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
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All
L. Rousseau, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator
D. Scarlett, Principal of Educational Services

Regrets: N. Carson, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
J. Murphy, Special Education Program Coordinator
C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston
N. Nicholson, Autism Ontario-Kingston Chapter

Guests: M. Donald, School to Community Techer
D. Abbink, Transition Planning Coordinator
M. Baumann, Manager of Business Services
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

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: S. Henderson-Todd, 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

a) SEAC start time for 2019-2020

The meeting start time for the 2019-2020 school year will be 6 p.m.

5. Presentation: Reporting progress: Building our Vision for the Future, Special Education Services in the District

D. Scarlett, S. Burnett, M. Donald and D. Abbink shared a presentation to update SEAC on the Pilot Project: Transitions to Post-Secondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities.

The Special Education/Success for All Branch of the Ministry is funding the pilot in support of Access Talent: Ontario's Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities. The project is three years in length, running for the 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 school years.

The intended outcomes are improved educational outcomes for students with developmental disabilities by supporting their transition into work, community or postsecondary education, and the sharing of best practices/resources/tools that lead to successful post-secondary transitions.

LDSB is a supporting Board in the project, and the expectations are to:

- participate in a professional learning community (3-4 times per year);
- implement a student-focused approach outlined in their proposal to the ministry;
- share effective transition practices provincially to inform the transition coordinators' projects; and
- strengthen connections with pathways (community living, colleges, employers).

Board and Ministry collaboration is accomplished through videoconferences and a specially designed e-community.

LDSB Goals and Action Plan:

GOAL	ACTIONS
<p><i>Build the capacity of secondary School to Community Services Teachers to support effective pathways planning and successful transitions to life beyond school</i></p>	<p>Leverage the resources that we currently have in our School Board (i.e., Guidance Teachers (GR 7-8), Coop Teachers, Experiential Learning Coordinators).</p> <p>Expand our understanding of the current pathways planning taking place for students at the secondary level.</p> <p>Clarify the role of the teachers in pathways planning.</p>
<p><i>Continue to engage students, families and community partners in effective and ongoing transition planning from school entry to adult life</i></p>	<p>Investigate the MyBluePrint tool as a strength-based, person-centred tool for transition planning.</p> <p>Share our learning and next steps with families, community partners and other school boards.</p>

The project is utilizing MyBluePrint, a Canadian education, career, and life planning website, that includes an Education Planner (Gr 7+) and All About Me (K-6).

Student, family members, community agency staff, and educators can all be given access to a student’s account. The account remains with the student once they leave secondary school.

The features of the Education Planner are:

- Who am I? assessment surveys
- Course selection (“My High School Plan”)
- Comprehensive post-secondary and career databases
- Resume and cover letter builders
- Budget tools
- Goal-setting tools
- Portfolios

The Pathway Planning Lesson Plans & Activities are:

- Wide variety of suggested lesson plans, such as:
- Financial Literacy
- Interview Skills & Mock Interview
- Time Management Strategies
- What is Stress?
- Creating Course Specific Portfolios

The MyBluePrint Working Group is comprised of:

- 6 Secondary SCS Teachers
- BSS, NDSS, KC/KSS, FSS, Planning time teacher: ESS/GREC
- Community Living Kingston representative
- LDSB Pathways & Equity Consultant
- Educational Services Staff

The three subgroups are working on student portfolio templates, MyBluePrint “how-to” resources and transition planning resources.

The next steps are that the My Blueprint Working Group will continue to plan and develop resources, will explore how to introduce the platform to families and community partners, and continue participation in the pilot to expand the knowledge of effective transitions to post-secondary pathways.

It was clarified that the platform is used for all students.

6. Correspondence

- Peel District School Board
- Durham District School Board
- Brant Haldimand Norfolk
- Ottawa-Carlton

7. Association Updates

As circulated with the meeting package.

8. Other Business

i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

- Special Education Grant Funding for 2019-2020

The Ministry released a memo providing an overview of all Special Education Grant (SEG) allocations and highlights key funding changes for the 2019-20 school year. In addition, it provides technical details regarding the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) allocation, including a projected DSENA Table for 2019-20, and a revised 2018-19 DSENA Table using 2018-19 Revised Estimates information.

Superintendent Young reported that there is an approximately 1.2 million reduction to Special Education for next year’s budget. The budget has planned to cover this reduction from other areas. The Social Worker funding has not been announced yet. Funding will continue for these positions from another pocket of money until that funding comes in.

- Special Education Professional Assessments (EPO)

The Ministry of Education has provided targeted funding to address wait lists for students with special education needs. Some of the expected outcomes include:

- Improve the educational outcomes for students with special education needs by supporting timely access to professional assessments;
- Reduce the number of students waiting for a professional assessment and;
- Better manage the allocation of professionals completing assessments through better data collection and record management.

Some Limestone District School Board speech language pathologists and clinicians will be completing assessments during the first two weeks of July in order to address needs in schools impacted by staffing shortages throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

ii) Special Education Plan for 2019-2020 School year

As circulated with the meeting package.

LDSB has received approximately \$58,000 to provide professional learning to staff in the area of autism and additional money to hire an additional staff member with expertise in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), including Board Certified Behaviour Analysts, through the Behaviour Expertise Amount.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell stated that the plan is a public document and will be posted on the LDSB website.

iii) Multi-year Accessibility Plan

As circulated with the meeting package.

The Accessibility Committee meets 4 times per year and is responsible for the development of the plan. The plan is updated annually and is a public document that is posted on the LDSB website.

iv) SEAC Member-at-Large

Letters of application must be received before June 28, 2019.

Members were asked to share the information as appropriate.

v) Special Olympics

K. Leggett shared a presentation about the group of LDSB athletes that participated in the Special Olympics in Toronto in May.

Kingston will host the Special Olympics on June 2-4, 2020.

10. Next Meeting Date

September 18, 2019 at 6 p.m.

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11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: P. Dendy, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.