

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

September 18, 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, September 18, 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)
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
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
L. Sansom, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston
N. Nicholson, Autism Ontario-Kingston Chapter

Guests:

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: Reporting Progress: Building our Vision for the Future, Special Education Services in the District

The Educational Services Leadership team highlighted sections of the September 2019 document, 'Enhancing Special Education Services in Our District':

D. Scarlett highlighted upcoming work in the area of to building capacity with all school staff to support the development and implementation of exemplary Individualized Education Plans. Student Support and Learning Support teachers recently had two days of training focused on IEP development.

K. Leggett spoke to restructuring some Educational Services teams to increase consistency of in-school supports, build school capacity to meet needs of students and effectively allocate resources. Board Speech and Language Pathologists and Communication Disorder Assistants have been working with groups at the Kindergarten and Grade 1 level to help students with gaps in early literacy skills.

L. Conboy spoke to collaborating with our community partners to promote social inclusion and student learning and well-being. Educational Services is collaborating with Queen's psychology program and Maple Family Health Team to develop tier one sessions called "I Got Your Back". This will include youth engagement and student voice, with pilots running in targeted secondary schools.

L. Rousseau highlighted the implementation of school engagement interventions in collaboration with Maltby Centre and School Attendance Counsellors to support students with mental health concerns and persistent school absences. The focus will be on grades 6, 7 and 8 students. The pilot will run at Southview and Calvin Park.

H. Box spoke to supporting the implementation of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA). The Board has received additional funding to support students with autism. The Autism Team will facilitate half-day professional learning in the area of autism/ABA for school teams. These sessions will include practical discussions and will be site-based.

S. Burnett highlighted the implementation of recommendations from the internal review committee of the current service delivery model for secondary school to community services. Educational Services requested feedback in the areas of student programming, IEPs, and professional collaboration, and has developed recommendations that will be implemented with staff this year.

J. Murphy spoke to supporting District Learning Centre (Behaviour) staff with targeted academic programming to meet the needs of all learners. Educational Services will be working with teachers through a UDL lens around individualized programming. J. Murphy also shared that LDSB has been asked to present at the Council for Exceptional Learners annual conference regarding their work in UDL.

P. Dendy asked about the effects of funding on special education class sizes in secondary schools (i.e., School to Community classes). Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that secondary School to Community classes have not been impacted due to increases in secondary school class size.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell stated that starting in October only staff that who are presenting will attend SEAC meetings.

Principal Scarlett provided an Educational Services update:

- Building Educator Capacity: Responsive to our schools across the district with professional development in after school learning series, courses, workshops and presentations throughout the school year
- Assistive Technology support to our classrooms and teachers across the district
- Autism Team will complete ABA training at specific school sites
- SST/LPS teachers Sept. 13 & 16 on IPRCs, IEPs, and SEA information
- Successful Interventions for EAs working with Complex Behaviours: A Skill Based Approach (Y- training) and Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training sessions for 3 days the last week of August for Teachers, Administrators, Educational Assistants additional BMS training will occur on the Sept. 27 P.A. day
- Deaf Awareness Week September 22 – 28, 2019. International Week of the Deaf is celebrated annually the last full week of September. The purpose of Deaf Awareness Week is to increase public awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture.

6. **Correspondence**

- Greater Essex County District School Board-Bill 64
- Greater Essex County District School Board-Special Incidence Portion
- Greater Essex County District School Board-E-Learning and Class Size
- Greater Essex County District School Board-Bill 44

7. **Association Updates**

As circulated with the meeting package.

8. **Other Business**

- i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell
 - Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF) 2019-2020
- a) Wellbeing and Mental Health Bundle – Funding has been reduced by approximately half the amount received last year. This funding envelope is dedicated to professional learning and building capacity of educators to support student wellness and mental health.
- b) After School Skills Development Programs (for students with autism) – This funding has been in place for 2 years for select Boards, including LDSB. Beginning this year all school boards will receive funding. LDSB's funding has been reduced by approximately half the amount received last year. Staff will be re evaluating the current structure of the program based on funding allocation.
- c) Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools – Funding has been received allowing the same level of support as last year.
- d) Transition Pilot for Students with Developmental Disabilities – Funding has been received by those school boards participating in the pilot. LDSB is in year 3 of a 3 year pilot.

The Ministry has also added funding to hire additional staff to support students with Autism. LDSB has posted an advertisement for a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA).

- PPM 163: School Board Policies on Service Animals

LDSB has had a procedure for many years and will review to make sure it aligns with current Ministry directives.

- ii) Special Education Advisory Committee Handbook-Chair Karen McGregor

Members were reminded to review the handbook and share with their alternates.

- iii) Member At Large Vacancy-Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

Members were advised that the vacancy is still open, and that no applications have been received. Members were asked to share the advertisement through their contacts.

- iv) SEAC Goal Setting for 2019-2020-Chair Karen McGregor

For the October meeting members were asked to bring back some ideas for goal setting for this year.

SEAC will also revisit the 2014-15 goals to review their current status.

10. Next Meeting Date

October 23, 2019 at 6 p.m.

11. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.