

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

**December 10, 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 Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees:** K. McGregor, Chair

**Members:** S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children  
D. Jalovcic, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston  
A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)  
C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston  
C. Whalen, Family & Children's Services, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

**Staff** L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead  
K. Leggett, Vice-Principal of Educational Services  
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All  
D. Scarlett, Principal of Educational Services

**Guests:** M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education

**Regrets:** P. Dendy, Member-at-Large  
H. Box, Special Education Program Coordinator  
S. Burnett, Special Education Program Coordinator  
J. Murphy, Special Education Program Coordinator  
L. Rousseau, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator  
B. Godkin, Trustee  
E. Sheldon, Community Living Kingston  
N. Carson, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario

**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) Letter to Minister

The members reviewed the letter, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

*MOTION: To approve the letter as presented.*

*MOVED BY: A. Martin. Carried.*

b) Goal Setting

The members reviewed the document that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Suggestions for edits were made, and a revised copy will be presented at the January meeting.

**5. Presentation: Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston**

Djenana Jalovcic, President, shared a presentation about the Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston (LDAK). LDAK is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide leadership in learning disabilities advocacy, research, education and services, and to advance the full participation of children, youth and adults with learning disabilities in today's society.

The services and activities the organization provides are:

- Summer Camp: Reading and Robots Rock
- Parents Forum: Speak Up for Ability
- Assistive and Accessible Technology Support
- Resource Library and Online Resources
- Referral and Advocacy Assistance, Awareness Raising
- Representation on Advisory Committees
- Queen's – LDAK Activities
- Community Education Sessions/Events

Information was shared about the Provincial Parents Association Advisory Committee (PAAC) on SEAC Survey, which will inform PAAC on SEAC members about the effectiveness of SEACs across the province.

LDAK is looking for ideas, inputs, suggestions on how to reach the most vulnerable students with learning disabilities program for students with learning disabilities, including summer camps.

LDAK is looking for views, ideas, inputs, suggestions, collaboration, partnership for planning and organizing an after-school program for students with learning disabilities.

It was asked how summer camp information was shared, and what documentation is needed to qualify for the bursaries. Bursary recipients are approved through the Boys and Girls club process by showing documentation about their income.

LDSB can work with LAK to share the information about the summer camps and get identify families that would benefit from the services and would require financial support.

Campers do not need a formal diagnosis of a Learning Disability to attend the camps.

**6. Educational Services Update- Principal Darlene Scarlett**

Principal Scarlett shared information about the upcoming Special Olympics event, which will be held in Kingston on June 2-4, 2020.

**7. See Yourself In Limestone: Student Census – Superintendent Babcock**

Superintendent Babcock attended the meeting to share information about the upcoming Student census, a survey mandated by the Ministry of Education.

The goals of collecting the data are:

- To getting to know our learners better;
- To identifying and addressing systemic barriers to student success;
- To eliminating discriminatory biases;
- To creating more equitable and inclusive learning environments;
- To improving student achievement and well-being.

Data collected will be used to help identify systemic barriers and eliminate persistent inequities in the education system and monitor racial and other disparities. Information will be analyzed and linked to achievement outcomes, program access, and delivery.

Throughout the process LDSB is engaging with community groups and partners, families, students, advisory groups, staff, associations and unions.

Secondary Students from across Limestone will participate in Focus Groups to discuss experiences with racism, bias, or barriers, including those who may identify with one or more of these communities based upon:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit
- Race
- Faith
- Ethnicity
- LGBTQ2S+
- Newcomers/Immigrants to Canada
- Impacted by poverty
- Persons with disabilities

The survey will be administered in the Spring. The data will be reviewed over the summer and findings will be shared in the Fall of 2020.

It was asked what mechanisms the Board has in place to ensure privacy. The selection process for student groups was through a personal invitation by staff at the schools. There will also be an Adolescent Care Worker available during session. The Board also has to follow the rules of MFIPPA in the collection, storage and use of student data.

In survey answers are anonymous, and will not identify specific students. LDSB is working with a company to ensure the security of the data.

It was asked if there is a process for students to opt out of the survey. The board will provide communication to explain that students can choose not to participate or only answer some of the questions.

The survey will be on the website for several weeks before offered in the classroom for transparency.

It was confirmed that there will be supports put in place to assist students with intellectual disabilities. The goal of the survey is to be inclusive.

The Board will also have translation possibilities for students who's first language is not English.

**8. Correspondence**

None at this time.

**9. Association Updates**

As circulated with the meeting package.

**10. Other Business**

- i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent McDonnell

This item was deferred. Associate Superintendent McDonnell will send information through email.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

January 22, 2020 at 6 p.m.

**12. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.