

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	Present: H. Clark, Autism Ontario E. Clow, Member-at-Large K. Hill, Member-at-Large H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston K. Wood, Community Living Kingston A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) Regrets: S. Patay, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario
	Staff:
	Present: M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services S. Gillam, Superintendent, Learning for All C. Snider, Special Education Program Coordinator T. Vail, Special Education Program Coordinator A. Ward, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead W. Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator Regrets: N. Dillard, Vice-Principal of Educational Services
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

1. WELCOME

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair McGregor read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

“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. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow that the agenda be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 SEAC Minutes May 13, 2024

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the May 13, 2024, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Scot Gilliam replied to Andrea Martin’s previous question regarding the Mission Statement stating that SEAC is still open to additional suggestions and revisions through the month of September 2024.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Building Our Vision for the Future, Enhancing Special Education Services in our District, 2023-2024 Monitoring Document – Principal Michael Blackburn shared a presentation explaining key areas of focus and the indicators of success for the Special Education Services Monitoring Document.

1. **Programs and Programming – *Programs and Programming Matter*:** Explore and implement programs and programming that are personalized to student’s strengths and needs, and responsive to goals, progress, and future opportunities.
 - **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Support school teams to implement purposeful, planned, and meaningful inclusion for students.
 - **Key Indicators:**
 - Intentional integration to support transitions
 - Equitable and Inclusive Classrooms resource
 - Embed in professional learning opportunities
 - Place Alignment Planner – Dual Diagnosis class
 - Planning for Intensive Support Teacher (IST) and Student Support Teacher (SST) professional learning for the 24–25 school year
 - Inclusion as foundational to spec-ed service delivery changes

2. **Individualized Supports and Accommodations – *Supports Matter*:** Explore and implement supports and accommodations that increase access and opportunities for learning and reduce barriers to success.
 - **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Support processes and practices for understanding diverse learners (student profiles, goals/hopes, gifts, areas for growth).
 - **Key Indicators:**
 - Student friendly Individualized Education Plan (IEP) resource
 - Shelley Moore Resources and Learning
 - Neurodiversity and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Queens partnerships
 - Strengths based student profiles
 - Executive Functions and Assistive Technology Day for Secondary Teams and Program Team learning
 - Intentional shifts in language
 - FASD class presentations
 - ECPP Teachers – collaborative exploration of student profiles and support strategies

3. **Inclusive and Supportive Culture – *Culture Matters*:** Explore and implement strategies to support an inclusive and supportive culture that creates a sense of belonging, teamwork, and shared belief in what is possible.
 - **Key area of focus:** Beginning>Continuing – Communicate and collaborate with students, families, and community partners to gather voice and lived experiences.

- **Key Indicators:**
 - Neurovibes and UDL events – intentional gathering of voice
 - Secondary Student Alliance
 - Work with Community Partners in schools with students and school teams
 - Lived Experiences at Staff meetings
 - Voices from the Margins
 - Openness to diverse perspectives, both approving and dissenting
 - T2K process - involvement of families and developing partnerships
 - Elevating and supporting student voice (transitions, community events, self-advocacy)

- 4. **Staff Support/Human Resources Matter – *People Matter*:** Explore and implement staff and team capacity building to support a team approach within a multi-tiered system of support.
 - **Key area of focus:** Beginning – Facilitate system and school-based Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) within a multidisciplinary teams framework.
 - **Key Indicators:**
 - Affinity groups articulation of Tiers of Service
 - Multidisciplinary approach to new Intensive Support Team
 - Secondary school team exploration of tiers of support
 - Intentional multi-disciplinary work at Ed Services – building a foundation
 - SST and future IST learning
 - Foundational to the restructuring is embedding MTSS in every school as a focus moving into next year
 - Framing and development of new roles and teams

Chair McGregor called upon SEAC Members for questions regarding the 2023-2024 Monitoring Document.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

8.1 Haley Clark, Autism Ontario – Autism Ontario June 2024 Updates. Provided for information.

8.2 Linda Clouthier, Easter Seals – Easter Seals Family Funday Regatta on Saturday, July 27, 2024. Funds raised will help families of children with physical disabilities living in Eastern Ontario to purchase equipment for mobility and daily living and send their kids to Camp Merrywood. Email and poster sent to SEAC via email on June 10, 2024.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Scot Gillam shared the following:

A. Ministry Updates:

None at this time.

B. Educational Services Update:

Inspiring Possibilities Celebration

Community Living Kingston and District has selected Special Education Coordinator, Tiiu Vail, to receive an Inspiring Possibilities Award at their upcoming celebration on June 24, 2024. Tiiu is being recognized for her collaborative efforts on promoting inclusion and advocating for the rights and opportunities of individuals with intellectual disabilities. They also recognize her positive, dedicated, and creative approach in supporting all students in getting the most out of their school experience, and the team at Educational Services could not agree more and offer her our sincerest congratulations on this prestigious recognition.

Service Deliver Allocations

As a result of the Special Education restructuring, we are pleased to announce that all schools have received their allocations of Student Support Teachers (SST), Intensive Support Teachers (IST) and Educational Assistants (EA) for the 2024-2025 school year. An additional 28 IST teachers were distributed to 25 elementary schools, an additional 14.95 SST time was distributed among the elementary sites, and 17 EAs were added to the school allocations. Furthermore, an additional 3.0 Student Support Counselors (SSC) were added to school groupings, and we also hired an additional Special Education Coordinator to assist with Mental Health and Well-being and to support a family of schools. Specific allocations will be discussed in my verbal report to SEAC later this evening.

Intensive Support Teacher Training

Newly hired Intensive Support Teachers will have a day of training on June 19, 2024, in order to begin preparations for this new position. IST teachers will also have access to Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training opportunities prior to the school year beginning.

9.2 Student Support Teacher (SST) and Intensive Support Teacher (IST) Allocations Presentation – Superintendent Gillam shared a presentation explaining Special Education Supports.

Special Education Supports

- 28 ISTs at 25 sites
- Increase of 14.95 SSTs
- 3.0 SSCs – 17 schools impacted
- 17 EAs

Successful Accessibility Week

- Resources
- Red Shirt Day
- LESSA Track
- Inclusive Play Project Fun Fair

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.