

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
<p>B. Godkin K. McGregor (Chair)</p>	<p>Present:</p> <p>A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) Z. Rogers, Community Living Kingston C. Norwich-Stevenson, Member-at-Large H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children</p> <p>Regrets:</p> <p>C. Carriere-Prill, Member-at-Large C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston C. Roberts, Easter Seals Ontario</p>
	<p>Staff:</p> <p>M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services H. Box, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead W. Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator S. Gillam, Superintendent, Learning for All J. Grasse, Vice-Principal of Educational Services C. Snider, Special Education Program Coordinator T. Bonham Carter, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Rose-Hartwick, Educational Services Secondary Student Support Teacher J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator</p>
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: Trustee Godkin 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 17, 2022

MOVED BY: Andrea Martin that the May 17, 2022, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Presentation: Building Our Vision for the Future: Enhancing Special Education Services in Our District – June 2022 Monitoring Report

Principal Michael Blackburn and Vice Principal Jenn Grasse presented a report illustrating the indicators of success in key areas of focus under the four Big Ideas of the Special Education Services Monitoring Document.

1. **Reallocation of Resources:** Restructuring supports, services, teams and programs to meet the changing needs of students and schools and to equitably distribute resources.
 - **Key area of focus:** Enhancing – Expand the collection of role-specific data to inform the allocation of resources, supports and services. Provide timely, responsive, and ongoing support to school teams based on urgent student need.
 - **Indicators of Success:**
 - Collaboration with data research analyst.
 - Data collection tools developed with all affinities.
 - Currently collecting service and support delivery data.
 - Tri-Team Referral data.
2. **Professional Learning:** Provide ongoing and relevant professional learning to a variety of staff in order to build capacity to meet the needs of diverse learners in an inclusive learning environment.
 - **Key area of focus:** Enhancing – Improve access to and availability of online resources and professional learning.
 - **Indicators of Success:**
 - Minds Online resource development and access.
 - Referral processes and packages.
 - Archived professional learning sessions.
 - UDL resource development.
3. **Strengthening Partnerships and Leveraging Supports:** Strengthen and enhance partnerships with families and community partners to leverage supports and maximize student learning and well-being.
 - **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Communicate and collaborate with students, families, staff, and community partners to gather voice and lived experiences.
 - **Indicators of Success:**
 - ASD awareness (system and school-based initiative).
 - ACES coalition.
 - School Climate Data (student census).
 - Equity Committee survey
4. **Learning for All:** Support the implementation of differentiated, precise and research-based instructional strategies to support the learning and well-being of all students.
 - **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Support the development and implementation of precise and personalized plans for students (IEP, SSP, Medical).

➤ **Indicators of Success:**

- Collaboration and school training with classroom educators.
- System Wide Training – SSP development and revision.
- Transition Meetings.
- Community partner collaboration and instructional support for Medical POCs.

Educational Services Secondary Student Support Teacher, Lisa Rose-Hartwick, **Special Education Program Coordinator**, Hugh Box, and Special Education Program Coordinator, Jessi Lalonde, each shared a positive student experience to bring the success of our Monitoring Plan to light.

Chair McGregor called upon SEAC Members for questions regarding the June 2022 Monitoring Report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board – Letter to Minister of Health and Minister of Education regarding nursing shortage, dated May 4, 2022. Provided for information.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Easter Seals Ontario

On June 12, 2022, we have our *DO MORE* event with BioPed to get out and walk, run, swim, roll anything to show you are “doing more” to support Easter Seals 100th Anniversary. This event will take place all across Ontario on June 12, 2022. Here in Kingston, we will be hosting a walk at Lake Ontario Park Place at 1:00 pm.

I have attached the poster.

On July 10, 2022, Easter Seals will host its Annual Regatta at The Kingston Yacht Club. This year we will be including a Family Fun Day Element to our event. 104.3 Fresh FM will be hosting the event! We will have face painters, vendors, and lots of other fun elements to the day as well as some awesome vessels out on the water.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Administrative Report – Superintendent’s Report:

Ministry of Education Update

As stated at the last SEAC meeting, due to the election, the Ministry has provided no new updates with respect to Special Education.

Educational Services SEAC Update

Summer Mental Health and Special Education Supports

As previously reported, LDSB received Priority and Partnership Funding (PPF) to support Mental Health and Special Education initiatives throughout the summer. Supports will be provided to summer school, the elementary literacy camps, and to support transitions back to school for students with special education needs. A Student Support Counselor/Adolescent Care Worker and Learning Program Support Teacher will be provided to summer school for four weeks. In addition, three Educational Assistants will be provided to the elementary literacy programs for the duration of the camps. Finally, Educational Assistant time will be provided to support transition meetings for students with special education needs in late August and early September. The PPF funding will also be used to support Professional Learning and Training. The following courses will be offered to staff over the summer: Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) Training, Y Training, Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) Training, Community Resilience Initiative (CRI) Training, and Centering Black Youth Wellbeing.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis

Beginning in May 2022, Clinical Staff will expand their diagnostic scope of practice to add Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to our services. Being able to diagnose ASD within the school system as part of the clinical consultation or psycho-educational assessment, will allow the clinicians to ensure that LDSB students can access school-based services without a delay, that staff understand the full profile of the student, and that appropriate recommendation/supports are put in place promptly.

Mental Health Staffing Adjustments

As previously reported last month during the budget conversation, Mental Health funding was increased to allow for boards to hire additional staff to support student mental health. In LDSB, after careful consideration and consultation, the following additions were made to our staffing compliment:

- 1.6 Social Workers
- 0.8 Adolescent Care Worker
- 0.5 Student Support Counselor
- 0.4 Registered Psychologist

Additionally, even though it wasn't through this particular GSN funding, we are also adding 0.1 Speech/Language Pathologist. We are very pleased to announce that these postings have already been enacted, and we look forward to having increased staffing next year to support student mental health.

Empower Program Expansion

In the fall of 2020, LDSB implemented the Empower Program in eight different sites across the district. In the fall of 2021, we expanded the implementation of the program to seventeen sites. While some sites received the support of an Elementary Literacy Itinerant Teacher to facilitate the program, other sites offered the program through their own Student Support Teacher allocation. The roll out has been successful using both delivery models. In the two years that we have offered the Empower Program, we have witnessed some incredible benefits. Student achievement levels have increased by an average of two grade levels in reading, students who have participated in the Empower Program have demonstrated a significant increase in confidence, and engagement in school is significantly improved. This achievement, coupled with confidence and mindset, will undoubtedly impact the pathway for each student who completes the Empower Program. For the 2022-2023 school year, a model has been created that allocates additional support so that most schools will have access to the Empower Program. Each school is unique, and the support required to run the Empower Program looks different at each site, but we are very pleased that most schools will have access to this very important support. For the past two years, we have had a team of four Elementary Literacy Itinerant Teachers who have supported the initial implementation and successful delivery of the Empower Program throughout LDSB. The team has also been instrumental in developing resource manuals, data collection tools, and progress reports. These manuals, tools and reports will be shared with each school well in advance of needing them and support will be provided as necessary. We look forward to bringing back data to share with SEAC on the implementation and successes of the Empower Program throughout LDSB.

MH Lit: Student Mental Health in Action

Between May 11 and June 1, 2022, the School to Community Services Educator at Ernestown Secondary School and the Mental Health Lead piloted School Mental Health Ontario's MH Lit: Student Mental Health in Action. *MH LIT: Student Mental Health in Action* is a series of four lessons to support the development of basic mental health knowledge and help-seeking skills. The lessons are designed for use with secondary students, focusing on building their understanding of mental health and mental illness, signs of mental health problems, and how/where to access help when needed. Five students participated in the once/week lessons, focusing on knowing the facts, knowing yourself, helping yourself, and helping a friend.

9.2 Inclusive Opportunities

SEAC member, Candice Roberts had provided a request for information on inclusive opportunities for students with special education needs, including those with physical difficulties. Candice had to send late regrets, and we will follow up with her at our September 2022 SEAC Meeting. Principal Blackburn and Superintendent Gillam reviewed a recent application through the Ministry for expanding and breaking down the barriers of accessibility. The actual application was for school boards to implement initiatives to prevent and also remove accessibility barriers experienced by students with disabilities for the 2022-2023 school year. Funding will be provided for projects or proposals that involve removing barriers; promoting and supporting inclusive and accessible activities for educating students, educators, parents, and the broader school community about disabilities, services and supports; and finally, to raise awareness about the value and benefits of accessibility and inclusion. The Limestone District School Board application will provide expanded opportunities for students with special education needs to participate in team or club sport participation. The funding will be used to identify and address barriers of participation, create unique and specialized opportunities for extracurricular or sports activities, and to develop resources and purchase equipment for accessible physical education activities within the schools. We are hoping to partner with several local organizations, including Community Living, City of Kingston Special Olympics and Easter Seals.

Prior to calling for a motion to adjourn, Superintendent Scot Gillam welcomed Educational Services Secondary Student Support Teacher, Lisa Rose-Hartwick, and Special Education Program Coordinator, Jessi Lalonde, to the Educational Services Team. As well, Superintendent Scot Gillam noted Assistive Technology Resource Teacher – SEA Coordinator, Joseph Hamilton is moving back to teaching in the classroom. Finally, Superintendent Scot Gillam thanked Special Education Program Coordinator, Hugh Box, for his passion and commitment to students and wished him well on his retirement.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.