



AGENDA – SEAC MEETING

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 – 5:30 PM

Limestone Education Centre

220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON

Virtual Meeting Link:

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.”

1. **WELCOME**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 **SEAC Minutes – January 24, 2024 (Pages 3-6)**
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

6. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Presentation: Mental Health Literacy Modules for Grades 7 & 8, Laura Conboy, Mental Health Lead and Wendy Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Lead

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Scot Gillam
(Pages 7-8)

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

March 20, 2024

11. ADJOURNMENT



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd	Present: H. Clark, Autism Ontario E. Clow, Member-at-Large K. Hill, Member-at-Large A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) M. Covey, Community Living Kingston S. Patay, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston Regrets: Trustee K. McGregor
	Staff:
	Present: M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services S. Gillam, Superintendent, Learning for All N. Dillard, Vice-Principal of Educational Services 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
Guests:	Recorder:
Research Analysts: E. Clost-Lambert, L. Gillam	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

Limestone District School Board

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SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

1. WELCOME

Co-Chair Martin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Co-Chair Martin 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 December 13, 2023

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Katrina Hill that the December 13, 2023, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Presentation: Special Education Data – Principal Michael Blackburn and Vice Principal Nicola Dillard and Research Analysts, Ellyn Clost-Lambert and Laura Gillam shared an in-depth report related to Special Education data collected through the *See Yourself in Limestone Student Census*.

Co-Chair Martin called on SEAC Members for questions.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board - Letter to Minister of Education regarding Supporting Students with Special Education Needs, dated January 15, 2024.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

8.1 Haley Clark, Autism Ontario - Report from Haley Clark - Sent to SEAC via email on January 15, 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:

Neuro Vibes

A reminder that Neuro Vibes takes place tomorrow beginning at 5:30 pm at the Faculty of Education Library, Queen's University. This event provides an opportunity to learn, hear from neurodivergent individuals and explore ways to affirm and honour neurodiversity. No registration is required but people are asked to confirm attendance at <http://bit.ly/neurovibes24>

February 2, 2024 - PA Day

On February 2, 2024, Educational Services staff will be providing Professional Development for Educational Assistants (EAs). Sessions include relationship-based approaches, understanding the learner, and ABA in relation to students and their profiles. Other training will be taking place for Educational Services staff and EAs, including Mediating to End Negative Disagreements (MEND) and a Brief Intervention for School Clinicians (BRISC) refresher for Clinical and Social work staff.

Additional Professional Development (PD)

Future Student Support Teacher (SST) PD dates include February 27 and April 23, 2024. Future Learning Program Support teachers (LPS) PD dates include March 5, and April 24th. Topics for both groups include NeuroDiverse Affirming Practices in Schools and Socio-Emotional learning to name just a few. District Learning Centre (DLC) Teachers and Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP) Teachers will be brought together on February 21 and April 30, 2024, in the afternoon for PD. There will be a day of learning focused on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum

Disorders (FASD) on February 22, 2024, at the Education Centre; more details will be shared as details are confirmed.

The Early Years Learning Series will be running in April on April 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2024, after school. More details will be shared as this date approaches. Finally, support for the Grade 7/8 Mental Health Modules will be provided to staff following the completion of elementary report cards.

Co-Chair Martin called on SEAC Members for questions.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

02/14/2024

A. Ministry Updates:

None at this time.

B. Educational Services Update:

February 2, 2024 – Professional Activity (PA) Day

A large contingent of Education Assistants participated in a day of learning and collegiality at Educational Services during the February 2, 2024, Professional Activity Day. Educational Services staff, including Principal Michael Blackburn, Vice Principal Nicola Dillard, Special Education Coordinators Ash Ward, Jessi Lalonde, Tiiu Vail, and Cheryl Snider, and our Mental Health Lead Laura Conboy provided multiple sessions on topics like supporting diverse learners, relationship-based approaches to supporting students, and bringing the joy. A huge thanks to everyone who made this day such a success.

Special Education Service Delivery Model

As previously reported to SEAC, a Special Education Review was completed in the Spring of 2023 to gather feedback from students and families related to key supports and services that directly impact student success.

Findings from the review identified the need for ongoing capacity building for educators and support staff, multi-tiered systems of support within schools, and flexible and responsive learning environments with a focus on purposeful, planned, and meaningful inclusion.

Achievement and success of students with special education needs continues to be an area of concern within LDSB and alternative approaches to supporting students in the margins should be explored.

Schools and families continue to advocate for school-based supports for complex learners to safely and supportively engage in inclusive learning environments.

Students shared that they need flexible and responsive spaces within the school setting to regulate, access support, and connect to caring and knowledgeable adults.

LDSB currently has four District Autism Classrooms (DAC), five District Learning Centres (DLC), and 2.5 Learning Disability Programs (LD). In addition, there are currently 19 itinerant and site-based School to Community teachers, and a 1.0 Itinerant Behaviour teacher. School to Community teachers primarily serve students who have an identification of Developmental Disability through the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process. Similarly, the Itinerant Behaviour teacher provides service to a small number of students with behaviour/safety concerns.

At the system level, we currently have three District Teams: The Behaviour Action Team, the School to Community Team, and the Autism Team. These teams are deemed to be Tier 3 Interventions and as such, are only available through a referral process. These teams contain the following staff: 1.8 Speech Language Pathologist, 0.5 Clinical Consultant, 8 Student Support Counselors, 1 Board Certified Behaviour Analyst, and 3 Intervention Assistants.

Finally, Educational Services is supported by four Special Education Coordinators, two of whom primarily support students with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities, and two who support other services such as Individual Education (IEP) development and Transition to Kindergarten.

Based on the Special Education Review and an assessment of services provided by Educational Services, we will be proposing some changes to the current service delivery model based on the following considerations:

- Equity of access to supports and services in a students' home school.
- Flexible and responsive support, programming, and access to spaces that adapt and respond to a student's unique learning profile.
- Fully inclusive learning environments supported by caring and knowledgeable staff.
- Increased access to supports/services through a reduction of independent and identification specific service delivery.

A detailed description of these changes will be shared by Principal Blackburn.

Prepared by: Scot Gillam, Superintendent of Education, Learning for All