



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2023

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 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 Regrets: H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston
	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 Regrets: J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator
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 November 8, 2023

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the November 8, 2023, 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, 2023/24 Monitoring Document – Principal Michael Blackburn and Vice Principal Nicola Dillard shared an in-depth presentation on the December 2023, Monitoring Document.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

8.1 **Haley Clark, Autism Ontario** - Autism Ontario Updates were shared with SEAC.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

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

A. Ministry Updates:

Policy/Program Memorandum 169: Student Mental Health

- Three-Year Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy and One-Year Action Plan
- Joint Local Planning with Community-based Child and Youth Mental Health Providers
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- Consistent Use of Evidence-informed Brief Interventions and Standardized Measurement
- Suicide Prevention and Postvention Protocols
- Virtual Care Delivery
- Enhanced Educator and Staff Mental Health Literacy
- Mandatory Mental Health Literacy Learning for Students – 7/8 MH Modules
- Family Mental Health and Literacy Awareness
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Mental Health Absences

MASCE Meeting Highlights (Pages 19-26)

- February 2022
- November 2022
- March 2023

2023 Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA)

The Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA) is a template for school boards and children's aid societies to use to create local protocols that support the academic success and well-being of students in care or students receiving services from societies. The Ministry of Education (EDU) and the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) launched the JPSA in 2015.

The 2023 JPSA has been updated to reflect current applicable legislation, policies, programs, and practices to enhance services to support Children and Youth in Care. It includes special considerations for Indigenous students, to be considered when societies and school boards update their local protocols. In addition, the 2023 JPSA has been updated with input from the education and the child welfare sectors such as feedback from school boards and societies.

The major updates to the JPSA include:

- Consideration for Indigenous, Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQI+ students and communities, and the provision of identity-based, culturally responsive and trauma-informed supports.
- Information about new programs and grants, such as EDU's Transportation and Stability Supports for Children and Youth in Care (CYIC), the Indigenous Graduation Coach program, and the Graduation Coach program for Black Students.
- New section on school board enrolment, with guidelines for enrolment and attendance.
- References to updated provincial acts and guidelines, such as:
 - The Child, Youth and Family Services Act, CYFSA, 2017
 - The Enrolment Register Instructions, 2012
 - Ontario's Quality Standards Framework to Improve the Quality of Care for Children and Young Persons in Licensed Residential Settings, 2020.
- Reports and recommendations from the Office of the Chief Coroner (e.g., Information sharing, enrolment, attendance, student mental health and well-being supports, etc.).
- Updated terminology to refer to children and youth in care rather than crown wards.

The original content in the 2015 template was revised and condensed to provide space for additional features, such as:

- Promising practices for collaboration and supporting students (based on feedback from school boards and societies).
- Enhanced areas for local customization.
- Additional subsections on how societies and school boards can promote student well-being, extra-curricular activities, and community supports.
- An updated glossary (terms defined in the glossary are marked with an Asterix (*) when first referenced in the document).

B. Educational Services Update:

NeuroVibes Event

Limestone and Queen's University will be offering an evening for families and the public to learn more about neurodiversity, neurodiverse affirming practices, and the extent of community supports. The event takes place on January 25, 2024, at the Faculty of Education Library. More details to come.

Research Projects

Educational Services staff and Professor Ian Matheson from Queen's are working on two important research projects that will benefit staff and students in Limestone. The first project involves a deeper dive into the Special Education Review data, and more specifically, the information shared around "belonging." The second project involves what students know about their own Individual Education Plans and how that relates to self advocacy. Another aspect of this work is learning more about what teachers know about student self advocacy and how it is approached in classrooms.

Clinical Psychology Outreach Program (CPOP)

The CPOP is up and running once again. Psychology students from Queen's University will be supporting secondary schools during the lunch hour and will be conducting Lunch and Learn Topics. Topics include sleep hygiene and exam preparation. This project is supported by psychologists from LDSB and Dr. Sue Buchanan from Queen's.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

9.2 Special Education Mission Statement Review – Principal Michael Blackburn and Vice Principal Nicola Dillard shared information on the Special Education Mission Statement.

Based on the suggestions and input received from SEAC, along with research of other boards' Educational Services Mission Statements from around the province, we have developed a mission statement for Educational Services and SEAC in support of students, not a mission statement on behalf of all the students with special education needs or a mission statement for just those students, it is a mission statement that guides our work in supporting students. This proposed mission statement is below:

Our mission is to support the creation of equitable, supportive, and fully inclusive learning spaces where all students can achieve their goals, develop to their full potential, and experience success. Our purpose is to support staff in recognizing the unique strengths and needs of every student and to enable the conditions for learning, engagement, belonging and achievement.

Principal Blackburn asked SEAC to read over the mission statement and email any feedback, suggestions or comments to Jill Senior, and a finalized version will be brought back to SEAC at a future meeting.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.