



AGENDA – SEAC MEETING

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – 5:30 PM

Limestone Education Centre

220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://bit.ly/OCT11SEACMTG>

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 – September 13, 2023** (Pages 5-9)
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
6. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**
 - 6.1 **Presentation: Summer Mental Health and Learning Supports for Students with Special Education Needs** - Laura Conboy, Mental Health Lead and Wendy Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Lead

Limestone District School Board

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7. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Autism Ontario Updates

ENGLISH Updates:

Live Moderated Webinar Panel: Exploring and Engaging Autistic People's Experiences with Applied Behaviour Analysis

October 17, 2023, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

<https://bit.ly/45Oy8o6>

- *This presentation is brought to you by Brock University and Western University. To move forward as a field comprised of people who value ethics, progress, and neurodiversity-affirming practices, applied behaviour analysis (ABA) researchers and practitioners should listen to the experiences and perspectives of the community to meaningfully support Autistic people. This virtual panel is situated within a larger ABA initiative focused on improving the practice of ABA. This synchronous virtual event will allow participants the opportunity to engage with panel members. The goal is for participants to understand a sample of current ABA sentiments and ideas for progress.*

The Journey to Adulthood Discussion Workshop *(for parents and caregivers of autistic youth ages 16-20).*

Wednesdays, October 25 - December 6, 2023. 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=8966> *(Registration opens October 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM)*

- The Journey to Adulthood Discussion Workshop is a virtual workshop open to parents and caregivers province wide. It is a series of six discussions featuring topics relevant to the transition from youth to adulthood. Each session includes discussion and resources around specific topics on the journey to adulthood. *Registration is limited, opens October 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM.*

Autism Ontario Presents: Exploring Autism

October 26th, 12-1 pm

<https://bit.ly/3PbZgqh>

- This webinar aims to introduce autism and neurodiversity. We will discuss autism and neurodiversity, the features of autism, and provide information on how autistic people may perceive and interact with their environment. We will also discuss how you can be an autistic ally, offering practical tips and strategies on how to create an inclusive environment and support autistic people in your home, school, or community. At the end of the webinar, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and participate in a live Q&A session with a member of the Autism Ontario team.

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FRENCH Updates:**Santé mentale 101**

2 octobre 2023, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicism/event/info?id=8771>

- Autisme Ontario et l'Association canadienne pour la santé mentale aimerait vous offrir un atelier intitulée Santé mentale 101. Cette présentation offre un aperçu de la santé mentale, de la maladie mentale et de la stigmatisation connexe. Cette séance aborde un vaste éventail de maladies mentales, de symptômes et d'options de traitement. Nous explorons en profondeur la dépression et l'anxiété.

Autisme Ontario présente : Exploration de l'autisme

16 octobre 2023, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

<https://bit.ly/3t2LZJa>

- Ce webinaire a pour but d'expliquer ce qu'est l'autisme et la neurodiversité. Nous parlerons de la neurodiversité, de l'autisme et des caractéristiques de l'autisme, et nous indiquerons comment les personnes autistes peuvent percevoir ce qui les entoure et interagir avec leur environnement. Vous apprendrez également comment être un.e allié.e de la cause autiste, avec nos conseils pratiques et nos stratégies sur la façon de créer un environnement inclusif et de soutenir les personnes autistes à la maison, à l'école ou dans la communauté. À l'issue du webinaire, les participant.e.s auront l'occasion de poser des questions et de participer à une séance en direct de questions-réponses avec un membre de l'équipe d'Autisme Ontario.

Explorer et mettre à profit les expériences des personnes autistes concernant l'analyse comportementale appliquée

17 octobre 2023, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

<https://bit.ly/45Oy8o6>

- Cette présentation vous est proposée par Université de Brock et Université de Western. L'analyse comportementale appliquée (ACA) est un champ d'expertise qui regroupe des personnes qui valorisent l'éthique, le progrès et les pratiques favorisant la neurodiversité. Pour faire progresser leur domaine d'activité et apporter un soutien significatif aux personnes autistes, les chercheur.euse.s et les praticien.ne.s de l'ACA devraient tenir compte des expériences et des points de vue de la communauté autistes. Ce panel virtuel s'inscrit dans une initiative plus globale d'amélioration des pratiques d'ACA. Dans cette séance virtuelle synchrone, les participant.e.s pourront dialoguer avec les panélistes pour avoir une idée des sentiments qui entourent actuellement l'ACA et prendre connaissance des améliorations suggérées.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Scot Gillam (Pages 10-11)

9.2 Accessibility Committee Updates – Presentation - Superintendent Scot Gillam

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

November 8, 2023

11. ADJOURNMENT

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	Present: S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston M. Covey, Community Living Kingston L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario H. Clark, Autism Ontario E. Clow, Member-at-Large K. Hill, Member-at-Large Regrets: A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)
	Staff:
	Present: M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator 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
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

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1. WELCOME

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Including new members:

- Katrina Hill, Member-at-Large
- Erin Clow, Member-at-Large
- Holly Clark, Autism Ontario

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 June 14, 2023

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow that the June 14, 2023, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Administrative Report: Special Education Review – Principal Mike Blackburn and Vice Principal Nicola Dillard shared a summary of the Special Education Review.

6.2 Presentation: Special Education Review Update – Principal Mike Blackburn and Vice Principal Nicola Dillard shared a presentation of the Special Education Review highlighting the key findings of the Review.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Dufferin District School Board – Letter to Minister of Education regarding the recruitment and retention of staff serving in the capacity of Educational Resource Worker (Educational Assistants). Provided for information.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

8.1 Autism Ontario SEAC Nomination Letter – Haley Clark is the new Autism Ontario LDSB SEAC Member. Superintendent Gillam reviewed the Autism Ontario SEAC Nomination Letter and welcomed Haley Clark to SEAC. Letter provided for information.

8.2 Sandra Henderson-Todd, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children, shared that she will be retiring as of September 12, 2023. Superintendent Gillam thanked Sandra for her many years of service as a member of the SEAC committee.

8.3 Linda Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario, shared information regarding the 3rd Annual Grayson Cup at the Cataraqui Golf & Country Club in support of children and youth with physical disabilities. This event is happening on Monday, October 2, 2023.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

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

A. Ministry Updates:

The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 (Bill 98)

The new Provincial Priorities on Student Achievement regulation prescribes three priorities to be adopted by all school boards into their multi-year plans:

- Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
- Preparation of Students for Future Success
- Student Engagement & Well-Being

Policy and Program Memorandum 151 (PPM 151)

The amended PA Day regulation requires school boards to publicly provide more detail on PA Day topics, hosting entities, learning and delivery methods, content, presenter(s), and resources. This information must be posted at least fourteen days in advance of the day in a prominent location on the board's public website or that of the participating school(s) and included in communication to parents. PPM 151 also confirms previous communication to school boards regarding the topics school boards must address during the three mandatory PA Days, provides additional considerations, and resources for school board planning, and reflects the new regulatory requirements.

Policy and Program Memorandum 168 (PPM 168)

PPM 168 contains direction regarding protected time for reading instruction and early reading screening. Students in Year 2 of Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 will be screened for early reading. Protected time in Grades 1 to 3 for foundation reading instruction are discussed, aligned with Foundations of Languages described in Strand B of the new Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Language, 2023. Reading screening will be implemented using ministry-approved, evidence-based early reading screening tools, in accordance with PPM 168.

Policy and Program Memorandum 169 (PPM 169)

PPM 169 outlines requirements for school boards in the consistent delivery of mental health learning and services and provides information/guidelines on new initiatives to support the mental health literacy of educators, school staff, students, and their families. PPM 169 will be effective on January 1, 2024. School boards will be required to annually report on the implementation of requirements using a template provided by the Ministry. An annual reporting template will be sent to school boards prior to the start of the 2023-24 school year. The reporting template will be due to the Ministry on June 30th of each school year. The Mental Health Literacy Modules for Grades 7 and 8 students are being developed by School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) with experts such as Sick Kids Hospital. The modules will be released to the sector for the 2023-24 schoolyear and will be mandatory beginning in January 2024.

Policy and Program Memorandum 124 (PPM 124)

PPM 124 deals mainly with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirement of community involvement activities. Guidance is provided to ensure the needs of students with disabilities and/or special education needs are being met during the initial assigning of eligible activities and the provision of accommodations as applicable. PPM 124 also allows students in Grade 8 to accumulate community involvement hours in the summer before they enter Grade 9.

B. Educational Services Update:

SEAC Presentation Schedule

SEAC members are asked to submit a list of potential presentations for the 2023-2024 school year. Topics will be discussed with Educational Services administration and teams, and a schedule will be provided at an upcoming SEAC meeting.

Short Term Educational Assistant (STEA) support 2023/24

Historically, schools have requested Short Term Educational Assistant support for students who register over the summer and have significant medical or safety needs. STEA has also been historically provided for students who experience significant issues over the course of the summer. STEAs are provided in 6-week intervals so that schools can try and integrate the various needs into their current support model. Occasionally these integrations take longer and STEA positions are renewed in full, or partially. Mike Blackburn and the team at Educational Services do a great job in supporting students and schools with these invaluable supports. To date, we have an additional 39 STEAs supporting students and schools in LDSB.

9.1 SEAC Meeting Topics – Superintendent Gillam called on SEAC members to submit a list of meeting topics they would like to have presented for the 2023-2024 school year.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Sandy Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10/11/2023

A. Ministry Updates:

MH78 Implementation Update

Regional Mental Health Literacy Planning Meetings for Grades 7 and 8 provide a full day, in-person learning and planning session for MH78 Board Implementation Teams. The day will provide an overview of the MH78 modules and will unpack the implementation supports available. There will be a focus on strategies to promote uptake and confidence, as well as access to tools to assist with monitoring the roll out in your boards. Time will be reserved for localized planning and contextualization alongside your SMH-ON implementation support coach. The Ottawa Region date is Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

B. Educational Services Update:

Professional Learning

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) took place last week in Limestone District School Board (LDSB). ASIST is a 2-day, in-person workshop where participants learn to recognize when someone may be thinking about suicide, and how to provide a skilled intervention and develop a safety plan with the person to connect them to further support. We had three trainers from LDSB and one from Pathways to Education. Thirty-one participants took part, including primary elementary teachers, K-12 administrators, three Mental Health and Addictions Nurses, one Public Health Nurse, and three Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB) staff. Providing ASIST training on a regular basis is part of our Mental Health and Substance Use three-year plan. '

Student Support Teacher (SST) Session

The Student Support Teacher (SST) fall session was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. SSTs could choose to attend either the morning or afternoon session. We had over 60 SSTs, along with Educational Services Leadership and Program Team members, join us for a half day of connection and learning. The session began with a land acknowledgement and an invitation for discussion table topics.

Participants engaged in a soft landing that allowed them to practice one of the strategies from the social-emotional learning posters from School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO), currently being distributed to schools. Key areas of focus and system messages were shared. Topics included the Special Education Review, change in the consent process for Speech & Language Pathologists, Kindergarten Intensive Support, Intensive Support Schools, the new Dual Diagnosis class, updates to the Tri-Team Referral Form (BAT, SCS, ATeam), and Priority 8-9 Transitions for Students with an Autism Diagnosis. We also welcomed expressions of interest to be part of a smaller SST Working Group who will collaborate to review and revise our SST Guide to ensure the information is aligned with current practice. Several online resources were highlighted for SSTs, including the Educational Services Minds Online, the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) site, Supportive and Inclusive Classroom Spaces (which was recently developed), Student Friendly Exceptionalities and an Executive Functioning Resource. Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Special Equipment Amount (SEA) updates and resources were shared, such as a Checklist for Reading IEPs, a document to clarify the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Process, and a SEA Process Checklist. The new Assistive Tech Intervention Assistant role was discussed while unpacking what Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 technology support looks like in Limestone.

Lastly, we revisited the timely topic of modifications and centered conversation around the 'What to Do When You Are Concerned About a Student's Progress' document, previously shared with SEAC, which includes suggestions for Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 support and intervention. Opportunities for conversation and questions were welcomed throughout the session, with a focused time dedicated to discussion topics where SSTs were invited to move and talk to colleagues about topics of interest generated by the participants.

C. Accessibility Committee Updates – Presentation - Superintendent Scot Gillam

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