



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 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 A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) Z. Rogers, Community Living Kingston L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario Regrets: C. Carriere-Prill, Member-at-Large C. Norwich-Stevenson, Member-at-Large
	Staff:
	M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services J. Lalonde, 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. Vail, Special Education Program Coordinator A. Ward, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Rose-Hartwick, Special Education Support Teacher
Guests:	Recorder:
None	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

1. WELCOME

The postponed January 25, 2023, SEAC Meeting was completed before the beginning of the February 15, 2023, SEAC Meeting.

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 Lloyd that the agenda be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Not applicable due to cancellation of January 25, 2023, SEAC Meeting.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Presentation: Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Creating Supportive and Inclusive Classrooms – Jessi Lalonde and Cheryl Snider, Special Education Program Coordinators and Lisa Rose-Hartwick, Special Education Support Teacher.

An in-depth presentation was given highlighting the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Program. Chair McGregor called upon SEAC Members for questions.

7. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Linda Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario (ESO)

March Is Easter Seals Month! This campaign is our biggest initiative to raise the very much needed funds for children and youth living with physical disabilities to obtain the services, mobility, and communication devices needed for them to thrive. I am so pleased to share with SEAC all the fun and amazing ways we can get out and help us reach our goal this year.

Smitty's Family Restaurant is hosting their 25th Annual Pancake Days in support of Easter Seals Ontario, February 21-22, 2023. When you order their endless stacks of buttermilk pancakes for \$10.99 all proceeds will go to ESO, as well as all tips the staff earn will generously be donated. (Press release attached).

Throughout the month of March, we are asking our friends, families and corporate sponsors to support our month-long invites to raise funds and awareness by either registering an online team and asking for pledges or donating to an existing on-line team in our region.

Our sponsorship package offers exceptional promotions of your support for Easter Seals Ontario through the purchase of ad spots that will showcase your support on Global News Kingston all throughout the month of March with the lowest costs that will ever be offered!

I am very excited to announce The First Annual *Curl For Kids* event that will take place on Friday, March 24, 2023, hosted at Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. This is one more great way to come out and support Easter Seals Ontario. You can register a team with some friends and come have a great day raising funds all while having fun! You can sponsor the event or even donate an item for our auction!

Superintendent Scot Gillam shared with SEAC Members that Constance Carrierre-Prill, Member-at-Large, and Chantele Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston SEAC Member have both resigned from SEAC. A posting for a new Member-at-Large SEAC Member will be initiated in March. We are also reaching out to the Down Syndrome Association Kingston to find a replacement.

8. OTHER BUSINESS – Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report

A. Ministry Updates:

Children and Youth In Care (CYIC) Transportation and Stability Reports

Interim reports for the Transportation and Stability Supports for Children and Youth in Care are due March 1, 2023. As a reminder, the goals of the CYIC funding are as follows:

- Improve the educational experience and outcomes of children and youth in care by ensuring positive and stable connections to school, school supports, and learning opportunities during times of instability and transition;
- Promote mental health, well-being, and positive educational experiences by providing transportation to support a stable school and learning experience as well as educational supports; and
- Ensure that the unique identities of children and youth in care are supported by community and cultural connections, trauma-informed approaches, positive relationships with peers, and caring adults at their school.

B. Educational Services Update:

Educational Services Leadership Team Update

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that Vice Principal Grasse has been transferred to LaSalle Intermediate and Secondary School effective February 3, 2023. Jen has been an integral part of the Educational Leadership Team for the past few years, and her work with the Autism Team, Speech-Language Pathologists, Tri-board, Special Incident Portion (SIP), and countless other initiatives has been greatly appreciated. Educational Services is pleased to welcome Nicola Dillard to the team as the new Vice Principal. Nicola comes to Educational Services with a wealth of experience, most recently as the Vice Principal of Molly Brant. Please join me in welcoming Nicola to the team.

Professional Learning PA Day

As reported in last month's Superintendent Report, Educational Services and Program staff, along with community partners, provided professional learning for Educational Assistants during the February 3, 2023, PA Day. Attendance was very healthy and feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive.

Special Education Review

As previously reported, Educational Services leadership is supporting the system in conducting a Special Education Review beginning February 27, 2023. Information was shared with Principals on February 1 and Trustees on February 8, 2023.

The purpose of the Special Education Review is to examine our current special education supports and services and identify areas for refinement and enhancement to meet the needs of all learners within an inclusive learning environment. We will complete this goal by gathering student, family, staff, and community partner voices to assist in identifying priorities and key areas which may impact the success of students with special education needs.

We will be using Thought Exchange to gather feedback. Thought Exchange allows individuals to respond to a question, then interact with other responses, in an attempt to organize the most prevalent thoughts together. The question we will be asking is as follows:

What key supports and services are important for students with special education needs to experience success at school and reach their full potential?

The Review will begin the week of February 27, 2023, for students with special education needs and their families. Later, in April, we will ask the same question of Limestone staff and Community Members/Partners. Students will respond to the questions within the school setting and will be supported by staff when necessary. We envision this being accomplished in classrooms, small groups, or individually as required. Families will also be asked to complete the question during this week. An exchange link with QR code will be sent out to families. Schools have been directed to work with families on ensuring they can access the Thought Exchange, and examples have been provided to school staff in order to support the completion of this work. Finally, all staff and community partners will be provided with the link/QR code via the LDSB website and social media. Information will be analyzed during the Spring of 2023 and a report provided to the Board and public in the fall of 2023.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.