



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
B. Godkin K. McGregor (Chair)	Present: C. Norwich-Stevenson, Member-at-Large H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children Regrets: C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston Z. Rogers, Community Living Kingston A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) C. Carriere-Prill, Member-at-Large
	Staff:
	M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services A. Ward, 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 J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Rose-Hartwick, Educational Services Secondary Student Support Teacher
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

Limestone District School Board

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

1. WELCOME

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Principal Michael Blackburn introduced the Educational Services SEAC Team for the 2022-2023 School Year.

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 – June 8, 2022

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin that the June 8, 2022, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Candice Roberts, Easter Seals Ontario

Candice Roberts has decided to step down from SEAC for this year. We thank Candice for her time and service over the past years. We are currently seeking a representative from Easter Seals Ontario to join SEAC.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Administrative Report – Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Scot Gillam shared highlights of our Summer Learning Programs. Supports were provided to summer school, the elementary literacy camps, and to support transitions back to school for students with special education needs. An Adolescent Care Worker and a Student Support Counselor were provided to summer school for four weeks. We also had Educational Assistant support for some students who were attending our camps that required extra assistance. Lastly, Educational Assistant time was provided to support transition meetings for students with special education needs in late August and early September. A more fulsome report will be brought back to the October SEAC meeting as the data is still being finalized.

Ministry of Education Updates:

Additions to Support Mental Health

• Social Worker	1.60
• Adolescent Care Worker	0.80
• Student Support Counsellor	0.50
• Registered Psychological Associate	0.40
• Speech Language Pathologist	0.10

Educational Services Update:

Program Updates and Locations

- Frontenac Nexus to Bayridge SS
- Holsgrove DAC to Bayridge PS
- RG Sinclair LD to Rideau Heights

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month

September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month and the International FASD Day took place on September 9, 2022. Information packages, compiled with the assistance of FASD workers from Kingston Health Sciences Centre and KidsInclusive, were shared with our schools, and social media posts are being sent out during the month. Educational Services staff, including Intervention Assistants, District Team Members, Student Support Counsellors, and members of the Behaviour Action Team will be provided with professional learning opportunities that support students and families dealing with FASD. Resources will be shared across the district and at the Educational Services September staff meeting.

K-12 Accessibility Standards

The K-12 Accessibility Standards Development Committee was created in 2017 to address barriers facing students. The role of the Standards Development Committee was to provide recommendation to the government on removing and preventing accessibility barriers in the publicly funded education system. The long-term objective is that by 2025, the publicly funded K-12 education system will be fully accessible, equitable, inclusive, and learner-centred:

- By removing and preventing accessibility barriers impeding students with disabilities from fully participating in, and fully benefiting from, all aspects of the education system.
- By providing a prompt, accessible, fair, effective, and user-friendly process to learn about and seek programs, services, supports, accommodation, and placements tailored to the individual strengths and needs of each student with disabilities.

The K-12 Accessibility Standards identifies recommendations in 10 areas:

- Attitudes, behaviours, perceptions, and assumptions
- Awareness and training
- Curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Digital learning and technology
- Organization barriers
- Social realms
- Physical and architectural barriers
- Planning for emergency and safety
- Timelines and accountability
- Transitions

The Limestone District School Board (LDSB) Accessibility Committee's 5-year plan is due for renewal beginning in January of 2023. The Committee will be integrating the recommendations of the K-12 Standards into the next 5-year plan to assist with meeting the provincial goal discussed above by 2025.

SEAC Accessibility Committee Representative

The Limestone District School Board Accessibility Committee is extending an invitation for a SEAC member to join the committee. Meetings take place five times a year on Tuesday mornings. Meetings are hybrid in nature.

SEAC Presentation Schedule

SEAC members are asked to submit a list of potential presentations for the 2022-2023 school year. Topics will be discussed with Educational Services administration and teams and a schedule will be provided at an upcoming SEAC meeting.

Special Education Plan: Building our Vision for the Future

Principal Blackburn began presentation by sharing with SEAC an overview of past practices and outlined future opportunities for SEAC to engage in the Special Education Review Process.

As SEAC members will recall, the Building our Vision for the Future: Enhancing Special Education Services in our District (2016-2021) was extended for the 2021-22 school year. For the 2022-2023 school year, we will continue to use this document to monitor and review services to our system. However, beginning in the Fall of 2022, Educational Services will begin the process of reviewing/updating and adjusting the previous Special Education Plan.

The purpose of the Special Education Review is to gather information, input, and voice from students, families, staff, and community partners to inform our Special Education Plan and the supports and services that we provide system wide. The Special Education Review is typically conducted every five years, but as you know, we extended that timeline due to the impact of COVID19 on our system and our department. We do continue to implement the recommendations from the existing plan and monitor those recommendations. The last review was completed in June of 2016, and out of that review came many important recommendations which our department has implemented and actioned over the last five years. We have brought that information to you through our Monitoring Plan three times a year, around key goals that we work to ensure an inclusive and equitable system for students with special education needs.

Review Process – Past Practice

The past practice of the review was extensive. Consistent questions were asked of our stakeholders to gather their input through the review:

- Within the area of Special Education, what does our school/school board do well?
- What innovative ideas would you suggest for Special Education within our school/system to enhance student well-being, learning, and inclusion?

Multiple approaches were used to gather input:

- Focus groups with schools
- Interviews with students
- Surveys that were sent to staff and school council committees
- Town Halls that were facilitated through our community partners

When we find ourselves at the end of a five-year cycle, we should pause long enough to think about how we might do things differently, what have we learned since the last time we completed a review, and do we have new thinking or ideas we want to bring to the table.

Educational Services have already discussed the following future possibilities:

- Centering and elevating student voice
- Using technology to support information gathering
- Support from Data Team
- School and Staff Leadership
- Building on our existing plan and system strengths

Input from SEAC is very important. You have committed your time to being on this committee, and you have a very important role to play in guiding Special Education Services and providing us with input and advice. We are thinking about how we, as a system, might gather the important information we are looking for to gather next steps.

At the October SEAC Meeting, we would like to hear your thoughts on how we might engage in an open, accessible way of engaging our community. You may be a member of a community organization, you may have a child with special educational needs within our system, and we are interested in your opinion on how we might approach this work. If you could give some thought to that question of how we might gather this important information, we would value your input as we begin to craft our plan collaboratively for this year.

Anticipated Timelines:

- Sept – Dec: Development of process and methods for information gathering
- Jan – March: System wide information gathering
- April – June: Analysis and Interpretation of information gathered
- July/August: Review Writing
- September 2023: Review Sharing
- 2023-24 School Year: The important work continues!

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.