

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	<p>Present:</p> <p>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</p> <p>Regrets:</p> <p>A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)</p>
	Staff:
	<p>Present:</p> <p>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</p>
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. 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 Catarauqui 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.