

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020

6:00 pm Teams Meeting

WCDSB Mission Statement

*As disciples of Christ,
we educate and nurture hope
in all learners
to realize their full potential
to transform God's world.*

CHAIR: Irene Holdbrook

MEMBERS

WCDSB Trustee – **Jeanne Gravelle**

WCDSB Trustee – **Tracey Weiler**

Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society – **Kim Murphy**

Waterloo Regional Police - **John Gilbert**

Autism Ontario – Waterloo Chapter

CNIB – **Irene Holdbrook, Chair**

Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region – **Stuart Cross**

Waterloo Region Family Network – **Sue Simpson**

Members at Large – **Kristen Feduck, Sarah Van Dyke**



**Waterloo Catholic
District School Board**
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

35 Weber St. W., Unit A
Kitchener, ON, Canada N2H 3Z1
519-578-3660
info@wcdsb.ca



SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

Date& Time:	Wednesday, May 20 th , 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Location:	Teams Meeting
Next Meeting:	June 3 rd , 2020
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Tracey Weiler, Jeanne Gravelle, Irene Holdbrook, Stuart Cross; Sue Simpson, Kristen Feduck, Sarah Van Dyke	
Administrative Officials: Laura Shoemaker, Gerald Foran	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	L. Shoemaker
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Seconded:	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest	
4. Approval of the March 4th Minutes Motion by: Seconded	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Budget 5.2. Special Education Report	R. King L. Shoemaker
6. Ministry Updates (10 min) 6.1. GECD SB SEAC Letter to Minister of Education – February 2020 6.2. HPEDSB SEAC Letter to Minister of Education – February 2020 6.1. NPSCSB SEAC Letter to Minister of Education – April 2020	L. Shoemaker
7. SEAC Committee Functions	
8. Policy Advice to the Board	
9. Updates (20 minutes) 9.1. Association Updates	

9.2. Trustee Updates	
10. Pending Items	
11. Adjournment	
12. Action Items Place Holder	



SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes

Date& Time:	Wednesday, March 4 th , 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Location:	Board Room, Catholic Education Centre
Next Meeting:	April 1 st , 2020
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Tracey Weiler, Jeanne Gravelle, Irene Holdbrook, Stuart Cross; Sue Simpson, Kristen Feduck, Sarah Van Dyke	
Administrative Officials: Laura Shoemaker, Gerald Foran	
Regrets: Sarah Van Dyke, John Gilbert	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	L. Shoemaker
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Jeanne Gravelle Seconded: Karen Kovats	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest N/A	
4. Approval of the January 8th Minutes Motion by: Tracey Weiler Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle	
5.School System Operational Business 5.1. Special Education Visioning Committee Laura Shoemaker explained the history and function of the Special Education Visioning Committee. Gloria Lasovich and Gerald Foran added their comments. Laura explained that the committee was created in 2013 as a committee that represents the voice of all Principals regarding Special Education in schools. 1. MANDATE: To achieve equity and inclusive education in the WCDSB through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared and committed leadership - eliminating discrimination through the identification and removal of bias and barriers. Equity and inclusive education policy and practices- supporting positive learning environments so all students feel engage in and empowered by what they are learning; 	Laura Shoemaker and Visioning Committee Representatives - Principals Gloria Lasovich and Gerald Foran

<p>supported by the teachers and staff from where they are learning; and welcome in the environment they are learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountability and transparency- demonstrating through clear measures of success and communication to our stakeholders about our progress towards achieving equity for our students. <p>2. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION- DEFINITION:</p> <p>Education that is based on the principles of acceptance and inclusion of all students. Students see themselves reflected in their curriculum, their physical surroundings and the broader environment in which diversity is honoured and respected.</p> <p>3. SHARED BELIEFS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quality, inclusive, faith-based education Fairness is not sameness Inclusive education is the cornerstone of our Catholic social teachings All students can succeed <p>"As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each student has his or her own unique patterns of learning Successful instructional and assessment practices are founded on evidence-based research, tempered by experience and ministry policies Universal design and differentiated instruction are effective and interconnected means of meeting the learning or productivity needs of any group of students Classroom teachers are the key educators for a student's academic achievement, mental health and well-being Educators need the support of the large community to create a learning environment that supports all students Independence is the goal for our students <p>4. SUB COMMITTEES – looking for ways to improve the processes <i>Throughout the years some committees were dormant depending on the current situation.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> IEP Compliance Programming for Exceptionalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning disabilities DD/MID Behaviour Gifted Training, Development and Learning for All Staff Restructuring of Services, Processes and Supports in Student Services Use of Community Supports to Enhance Student Learning Mental Health Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Questions and Answers regarding Special Education Visioning Committee functions.</i> 	
<p>5. Ministry Updates (10 min) N/A Negotiations Ongoing</p>	<p>All L. Shoemaker</p>
<p>7. SEAC Committee Functions</p> <p>7.1. Pro Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2000 available to SEAC Committee. 	<p>Jeanne Gravelle</p>

https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2020/02/2020-02-24_Board-of-Trustee-Agenda.doc.pdf	
10. Pending Items N/A	
11. Adjournment: <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> Motion by: Kim Murphy Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle </div>	
12. Action Items Place Holder	



Date: May 20, 2020
To: SEAC
From: Director of Education, Superintendent of Learning: Special Education
Subject: Covid School Closure Update

Type of Report:

- ☐ Decision-Making
- ☐ Monitoring
- ☒ Incidental Information concerning day-to-day operations

Type of Information:

- ☐ Information for Board of Trustees Decision-Making
- ☐ Monitoring Information of Board Policy **XX XXX**
- ☒ Information only of day-to-day operational matters delegated to the CEO

Origin: (cite Education Act and/or Board Policy or other legislation)

Board Governance Policy 1:0001 Ends

Alignment to the MYSP:

Nurturing Our Catholic Community:

Faith is lived and witnessed in community: To strengthen and cultivate school, parish and home relationships.

Students and Staff are healthy in mind body and spirit: To strengthen system commitment to school, student and staff spiritual health.

Everyone is included, respected and welcomed: To increase improved awareness respect of differences within our school communities.

Special Education Plan:

N/A

Background/Comments:

Our Student Services team has been working with schools supporting students, staff and families virtually during Covid 19 school closure. Student Services meets weekly to update communications from the board and ministry. Each discipline meets weekly to bring forward questions and concerns to their supervisor and each Family of Schools meets as a collaborative team discussing students on their caseload. Our team has been reaching out to special education teachers and classroom teachers supporting them in providing resources and strategies when working with students with Individual Education Plans. Staff continue to work with community partners to ensure successful transition to school as well as monitoring students in crisis and reaching out to students in care. Every Friday the Student Services team provides webinars on professional learning topics as per defined by the special education teachers and administrators. The learning is available to all staff. The first Friday of the PD offering had over 400 educators sign up for a virtual learning workshop.



Below is a summary of Ministry communication and WCDSB communication to staff with respect to Special Education during school closure.

Supports to Educators:

The Ministry of Education is offering facilitated remote/virtual learning for educators through a series of webinars, including on how to support students with special education needs remotely. In addition, the ministry will be posting resources for parents and teachers on supporting students with special education needs. Educators can visit <https://www.d2l.com/k-12/ontario/> to register for webinars.

As well, the registration deadline for the Ontario Educator Online Autism Training Program offered through the Geneva Centre for Autism has been extended until June 30, 2020.

Mental Health Supports:

Our Social Workers continue to provide mental health support to students remotely. This includes students who have been receiving prevention and intervention services in schools by social work staff, and those students who come to the attention of staff during the school closure period as needing additional support

Special Education Resources:

In order to further support staff, students and parents, please note the following information from our Student Services Department:

On Staff Net you will now find a new tab called: ***Educator-Led Learning @ Home.***

The Special Education tab will include information and tip sheets to support Classroom and Special Education Teachers as they begin educator-led learning at home.

On the WCDSB Website, parents will be able to access a tab called: ***"WCDSB Learn @Home"***

This will include information and tip sheets from Student Services that is directed to parents as they support at home learning.

In order to facilitate the sharing of resources developed by Special Education Teachers, the **WCDSB Special Education Teacher Google Classroom** has been created.

IEPs:

Reg. 181/98 requires that IEPs be completed and a copy sent home no later than 30 days after placement of a pupil in a program. **This timeline is not suspended under any of the emergency legislation invoked to date.**

Transitions:

Our SELs and support staff are working alongside community agencies to support the transitions of our students from pre-school into our school setting for September 2020.

For students transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9, should the elementary school administrator deem it necessary to meet virtually with the secondary school to discuss some of the students transitioning, they may wish to set up a virtual meeting with appropriate staff including the secondary administrator.

Identification, Placement & Review Committee Meetings:

A school principal may choose to refer a student to an IPRC, or if a parent requests an IPRC, the principal must refer the pupil. Given that principals have discretion to refer a pupil to an IPRC when the parent has not made a request, referrals will be suspended until schools are open.

We encourage members of SEAC to touch base with their organizations to bring forward any issues or concerns to the SEAC chair so we may ensure we are meeting the needs of our learners and families at WCDSB



Recommendation:

Presented for your information.

Prepared/Reviewed By: Loretta Notten
Director of Education
Laura Shoemaker
Superintendent of Learning: Special Education

*Bylaw 5.2 “where the Board of Trustees receives from the Director of Education a monitoring report that flows from a responsibility delegated to the Director under Board Policy – **except where approval is required by the Board of Trustees on a matter delegated by policy to the Board** – the minutes of the Meeting at which the Report is received shall expressly provide that the Board has received and approved of the Report as an action consistent with the authority delegated to the Director, subject in all instances to what otherwise actually occurred.”

Greater Essex County District School Board

451 Park St. W., P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1 • Tel: 519-255-3200



February 20, 2020

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2

Honourable Stephen Lecce

The Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education (MACSE) plays a vital role in providing feedback and advice to the Minister of Education and other ministries on special education programs and their delivery.

We are supporting the concerns of the Durham District School Board (DDSB) in regard to the current inactive status of MACSE. We strongly agree with the statement put forward by the DDSB that with the growing number of students with special education needs and complex profiles, now more than ever, MACSE plays a vital role in providing ongoing information and guidance to the provinces 72 school boards.

We are also in agreement with DDSB's recommendation that moving forward, six of the voting members be selected from the Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) in the six Ministry of Education's regional areas. This method would not only be more expedient in identifying members to sit on MACSE but it would also ensure geographical and exceptionality representation with knowledgeable and experienced individuals who bring valuable SEAC experience to the advisory committee role.

We call on the Ministry of Education to move forward and fill outstanding MACSE vacancies so that the committee, mandated by the Education Act can resume its previous duties. In order to make this happen, we too, would be willing to make a representative available from the GECDSB's SEAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Omstead".

A. Omstead
Chair, SEAC
Greater Essex County District School Board



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Lucille Kyle, Chair of the Board
Sean Monteith, Director of Education

Possibilities
TODAY & TOMORROW

February 14, 2020

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce:

As representatives of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB), we are writing to express our support to concerns expressed in letters from Durham District School Board (dated June 3, 2019), Greater Essex County District School Board (dated July 5, 2019) and Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board (dated December 11, 2019) SEACs. Our group feels strongly that the concerns expressed in each of these letters will pose serious risks for our students, especially those with special needs and students who attend schools in rural areas and/or with declining enrolments.

Administrators in our district's smaller secondary schools have reported to us for many years that building timetables to meet the needs of all students, in all pathways, can be very challenging once they are faced with declining pupil populations. The proposed increases to average class sizes by our presiding government will decrease the availability of compulsory courses, and more specifically electives courses, that many of our students require or are interested in, to further their interests and help them gain employment advantages. As stated in previous letters submitted to you by other concerned districts, "An increase in average class size will only exacerbate the issue in smaller schools that are already challenged with decreased course selection." Reducing the number of caring adults in the lives of our youth stands to detract from our focus on creating successful outcomes for our future community leaders.

Further to increased class sizes, the introduction of mandatory online courses would not meet the needs of individuals with learning disabilities, developmental disabilities and other learning differences who require additional support from their educators. We agree with other school boards that the online format is simply not suitable for everyone and making them compulsory does not recognize the individual needs of students.

We urge the Ministry of Education to review its position and revise the plan for education based on the recommendations of relevant stakeholders, including parents and community experts. We also hope that the Ministry will investigate and implement the suggestions outlined by the Durham District School Board, specifically:

1. Provide e-learning opportunities to students across the Province as an option, but not make it mandatory for all students.
2. Encourage professional learning for staff, and e-learning exposure for students in Learning Strategies courses to allow for specific opportunities to explore the D2L platform and gain direct experiences with digital learning with the support of their special education teachers. This will allow students to self-assess their confidence and suitability to this learning delivery method.



Hastings and Prince Edward
District School Board

Possibilities
TODAY & TOMORROW

Lucille Kyle, Chair of the Board
Sean Monteith, Director of Education

3. Allow students access to all pathways (community living, workplace, college, university) online, should they wish, including during alternative school times, to encourage students to explore other opportunities (e.g., summer courses).
4. Slow down changes to class size and establish clear guidelines to measure and monitor the impact on students, particularly those with special needs.
5. Provide further transparency about students' pathways and monitor how changes are impacting pathways, including students earning a Certificate of Achievement and Certificate of Accomplishment.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Allan

Kelly Allan,
SEAC Chair

Lisa Anne Chatten

Lisa Anne Chatten,
SEAC Vice-chair

c.c. Lucille Kyle, Chair of the Board
Ken Dostaler, Superintendent of Education – Student Services
Todd Smith, MPP Bay of Quinte
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

File

April 29, 2020

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Honourable Stephen Lecce:

Re: Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

On behalf of the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board and its Special Education Advisory Committee, I am writing in support of the concerns brought forward by both the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) regarding the current status of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE). We agree with the statements put forward by both the DDSB and GECDSB, that with the growing number of students with special education needs and complex profiles, MACSE plays an even greater role in providing ongoing information and guidance to school boards and Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs).

Furthermore, we are in agreement with both the DDSB and the GECDSB's recommendations to have representative members selected from each of the SEACs in the six Ministry of Education's regional areas. This approach would allow MACSE membership to be more representative of the varying geographical contexts across the province of Ontario.

We agree that the current structure of MACSE that includes representation of the various exceptionalities is necessary, as these individuals bring vast knowledge and experience and offer valuable input to the MACSE. In addition, in an effort to support MACSE being a more active provincial advisory council, we ask that consideration be made to host MACSE meetings in a virtual environment. This approach would remove potential barriers for those who see much value in being part of MACSE however are unable to travel to face-to-face meetings, thus preventing them from volunteering to be part of the advisory council. This would particularly be helpful for those travelling from the Northern regions of the province.

We kindly request consideration of our suggestions outlined above to fill current MACSE vacancies in a collaborative and equitable way.

Sincerely,



Leo de Jourdan
Chair

- c. Ontario District School Boards SEAC
Hon. Vic Fedeli, MPP - Nipissing
Marie Derosier, NPSC SEAC Chair
Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education