

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

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
Waterloo Region Family Network – **Sue Simpson**
Members at Large – **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:	April 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Location:	Teams Meeting
Next Meeting:	May 5, 2021
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Tracey Weiler, Jeanne Gravelle, Irene Holdbrook, Sue Simpson, Sarah Van Dyke	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	G. Foran
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Seconded:	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest	
4. Approval of the March 3rd Minutes Motion by: Seconded	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. WRFN and Experiences of an Exceptional Parent. 5.2. Policy & Procedures for Special Education in Ontario	S. Simpson/Cristina Stanger G. Foran
6. Ministry Updates (10 min) 6.1. HPEDSC letter to the Medical Health Officer of Health	G. Foran
7. SEAC Committee Functions N/A	
8. Policy Advice to the Board	
9. Updates (20 minutes)	

9.1. Association Updates	
9.2. Trustee Updates	
10. Pending Items	
11. Adjournment Motion by: Seconded:	
12. Action Items Place Holder	



SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes

Date& Time:	March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Location:	Teams Meeting
Next Meeting:	April 7, 2021
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Tracey Weiler, Jeanne Gravelle, Irene Holdbrook, Sue Simpson, Sarah Van Dyke	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	G. Foran
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Jeanne Gravelle Seconded: Kim Murphy	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest N/A	
4. Approval of the February 3rd Minutes Motion by: Karen Kovats Seconded: Kim Murphy	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Maximizing the Impact of Support Staff and the Implementation of Behavioural Skills Training (BST)	T. Battistella L. McDonald

Maximizing the Impact of Support Staff

- Knowledge and understanding of:
 - Role of EA/CYCW
 - Role of Classroom Teacher
 - Role of Special Education Teacher
- Comprehensive plan:
 - logic model
 - working groups
 - targeted professional development
 - direct support via collaborative team
 - onboarding

Resources

1. Administrators Guide for Support Staff
2. Educational Assistant Do's & Don'ts
3. Working Together- EA
4. Working Together- CYCW

Behaviour Skills Training (BST)



Staff

Students

Video Modeling

- First-Then
- High Probability Sequence
- Prompting and Prompt Fading
- Teaching Stop
- Teaching Calming Strategies
- Providing Choice
- Physical Distancing

[Providing Choice
Video Model](#)

[Providing Choice Video Model](#)

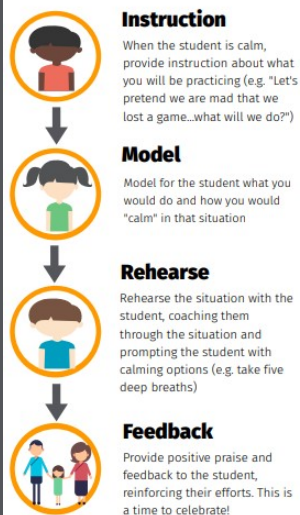
Skill Building Resource Tool (SBRT)



[Skill Building Resource Tool](#)

[Skill Building Resource Tool](#)

Teaching Calming Strategies



Parent Handouts

- Calming Strategies Elementary- Public
- Leisure Skills Secondary- Public
- Reserving Access to Preferred Items Handout
- Offering Choice- Public
- Play Skills Elementary- Public
- Power of Reinforcement- Public
- Token Boards- Public
- First & Then- Public
- Visual Schedules

6. Ministry Updates (10 min)

6.1. Durham District School Board Letter to the Minister of Education

- Ensuring provincial online learning resources, and platforms used to access said resources, are accessible to all students
- Providing high quality online resources

Bring back feedback from the associations that are represented on SEAC if we should send similar letter to the Minister.

6.2. PAAC on SEAC 2020 Survey of SEAC Members Executive Summary and Action Items

G. Foran

Review of the survey led to the decision that there is the interest in organizing training (PD sessions) for SEAC members around key Ministry documents, PPMs and legislations.	
7. SEAC Committee Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest shown by Community Living Cambridge and invitation extended for September. 	
8. Policy Advice to the Board N/A	
9. Updates (20 minutes) 9.1. Association Updates WWDSS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day WDSD (this date represents Trisomy 21, the medical term for DS) From March 1st to 21st - 3 2 1 Dance! Campaign for World Down Syndrome Challenging WCDSB, WRDSB, Upper Grand DSB to engage by wearing colorful socks, posting a picture on social media and use #WWDSS321Dance. WWDSS collaborated with Alysha Brilla to create a song that will be released on WDSD. Chef on Call: For every Donator Burger purchased in the month of March, \$2 will be donated to WWDSS. (Columbia and University) We are supporting the www.readyformyshot.ca promote better policy for COVID vaccine prioritization for our people and others with developmental disabilities Upcoming Evening Speaker Series: Motivation and Reinforcement Workshop on March 23rd and Executive Functioning on April 20th Normie, virtual film screening + Q&A hosted by Idea Exchange with the Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society Friday, March 19, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00pm Register on Eventbrite For more information on all events visit https://www.wwdss.ca/ 	


WRFN:



Parents & Caregivers, please join us on
Thursday, March 11, 2021
from 7 - 9 pm via Zoom
 for an informative workshop on

**Supporting Children and Teens Through
 the Impacts of the Changing Landscape
 of the COVID and post-COVID World**

This webinar will explore the pandemic through the lens of grief and loss. Participants will leave this webinar with a greater understanding of grief as an individual and collective experience and how it shows up across ages and stages in life. Additionally, practical ways that you and those you care about can actively address and process this grief will be presented.

This workshop will be led by Lisa Robinson, a Registered Social Worker with Andrea Warnick Consulting, who focuses her professional and creative energy on supporting children, youth and young adults through tough situations. Her primary focus is on the intersections between grief, anxiety and trauma.


TO REGISTER
 Contact Sue Simpson at
sue.simpson@wrfn.info


 WCFPS is pleased to offer this workshop in partnership with:



Parents & Caregivers, you are invited to an
 informative virtual workshop presentation
 by Paul Davis on



INTERNET SAFETY
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
from 8pm via Zoom

This parent-only workshop is designed to inform and empower parents in the highly digital age we live in.

Paul Davis, a world-renowned expert on internet safety, will be talking about topics such as Snapchat, Tiktok, Instagram, Facebook, Smartphone and digital trails. He will also speak about cyberbullying, texting, image sharing, online gaming and online security.

Please mark your calendars and join us!
 Space is limited.
 Interested participants must pre-register using the link below.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8585858585>
 After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.


 If you have any questions,
 please reach out to
 Sue Simpson at
sue.simpson@wrfn.info


 WCFPS is pleased to offer this workshop in partnership with:


9.2. Trustee Updates

WCDSB Board Meeting

10. Pending Items

11. Adjournment

Motion by: Kim Murphy
 Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle

12. Action Items Place Holder



Date: March 29, 2021
To: SEAC
From: Director of Education, Superintendent of Learning: Special Education
Subject: Waterloo Region Family Network

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)

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:

p.119, Section 15: Accessibility of School Buildings. WCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Background/Comments:

Waterloo Region Family Network (WRFN) Self-Advocacy Liaison, Cristina Stanger, will be presenting to the WCDSB SEAC on barriers experienced by parents with exceptionalities in supporting their children's learning journeys.

As an adult, Cristina discovered that she had exceptionalities of her own and has since grown into a community self-advocate by co-founding a peer support group, sitting on committees, volunteering as a mentor, and through public speaking engagements. Cristina will be sharing some suggestions to help eliminate these barriers. The presentation will focus on the following areas:



- Barriers for parents with exceptionalities to fully participate in their children's education process (teacher interviews/meetings, homework, IEP meetings, assisting with online learning, etc.)
- Personal experiences that expand on the above examples.
- The negative effects on children when there is an expectation that their parent can advocate for them in neurotypical ways and processes that do not include accommodations or alternatives.
- Some proposed ideas to investigate this more thoroughly (e.g., parent survey)
- How to include accommodations and inclusiveness for parents in school processes (e.g., tick box on student registrations to ID parents with unique needs, rethinking mass interviews in gymnasiums, etc.)
- How the board can be more welcoming and inclusive by adding improvements to communication that would allow parents to better advocate for the needs of the whole family.

Cristina is passionate about sharing her lived experience and has worked with WRFN to create the “Ask A Self-Advocate Program” in 2017. Through self-exploration, person-centred problem solving, she believes everyone can discover what they need to be at their best and successfully advocate for themselves.

Recommendation:

Presented for your information.

Prepared/Reviewed By: Loretta Notten
Director of Education
Gerald Foran
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.”

February 19, 2021

Dr. Piotr Oglaza, Medical Officer of Health
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
179 North Park Street
Belleville ON K8P 4P1

Dear Dr. Oglaza:

Re: Prioritization of vaccinations during Phase II in support of students with Special Education Needs and their staff

As staff and students in Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) and the rest of the province pivot between face-to-face and remote learning, members of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) would like to request the Ministry of Health and our local health unit to strengthen its commitment to ensuring the health and safety of students and HPEDSB employees who work directly with students with high special needs, in regional and self-contained placements. Further, we wish to impress upon the Ministry and our local health experts the urgent need to provide students who are of appropriate age and their staff, with access to vaccinations as quickly as possible.

It is important to note that many students within our regional programs are adults and not children. These adult learners often have underlying health conditions, comorbidities (e.g., developmental disabilities such as Down's syndrome, spina bifida etc.) and would benefit from vaccines whether they reside in group home settings, or at home with parents/guardians.

Employees who work on a day-to-day basis within regional classrooms are at high risk for potential infection due to the proximity they must have with students and other staff. Students often routinely require assistance with eating, bathroom support, and transferring or lifting in order to access their programming. Employees are in effect, required to be in close proximity to their students, which adds to the risk of transmission. We value the added responsibilities that these individuals take on and feel they should have access to vaccination programs and information as early as possible.

In conclusion, we stress to the Ministry that, while we understand that there is a phased approach being employed and that resources have been put in place to ensure that vulnerable populations receive their vaccines in a priority sequence, we would also appreciate that our district leaders be informed of procedural steps as soon as possible so that these can be shared with our employees and families.

Sincerely,

Kelly Allan

Kelly Allan, Chair,
Special Education Advisory Committee
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Jason Sweet

Jason Sweet, Vice-chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

c.c. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Todd Smith, MPP Bay of Quinte
Lucille Kyle, Chair of the Board
Lee-Anne Kerr, Chair, Parent Involvement Committee
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees