

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 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**
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

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Kitchener, ON, Canada N2H 3Z1
519-578-3660
info@wcdsb.ca



SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

Date& Time:	October 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.
Location:	Teams Meeting
Next Meeting:	November 3, 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 September 8th Minutes Motion by: Seconded	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Michael Jacques – Author of the “Here’s my Book”	M. Jacques
6. Ministry Updates (10 min)	
7. SEAC Committee Functions 7.1. Review of the Sections 5-8 of the Special Education Plan	All
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

[illegible]

	SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	
Please highlight any information you feel is unclear or needs to be clarified in this section.	Clarification of the Public Consultation Survey	Where it states IEP and IPRC – refer them to that section for further detail	Under Section The Parent(s)/Guardian the 4 th bullet says “ <i>becomes acquainted with the school staff working with the student</i> ”. Parents are told to only communicate with teachers not EAs. The bullet could be better clarified.	Mentions of Collaborative Teams could maybe provide more information on what Collaborative Teams are or link to a place in the document that goes into more detail of the make-up and purpose of these teams.	
Please highlight any information you feel has been left out or should be added in this section.	<p>Clarification between the IEP and IPRC</p> <p>Parents feel they do not know the process and clarify why an IPRC is not needed</p>	N/A	<p>The Summary states “<i>It is important that all involved in Special Education understand their roles and responsibilities, which are outlined below.</i>”. Not all roles involved in Special Education are listed below, EA and CYCW are missing, and potentially other roles.</p>	When talking about early interventions it gives the impression that it is solely newly registered students that are the focus. We felt it would be worth highlighting that the drive for early intervention is not solely new registered JK students. Many students come into the board without a diagnosis without a link to any association or maybe are new to Canada. Regardless of when the special needs are discovered, once their needs are known there is a strive to 'intervene early'.	

Overall General Comments for this section.	Loved the AP Memo – loved that it is connected to the process in the plan Connect with PAAC on SEAC about opportunities for SEAC members	Clear, and good information	Under The Ministry of Education , the 4 th bullet states, “ensures that school boards provide <i>appropriate</i> Special Education programs and services for their exceptional pupils” The term <i>appropriate</i> is vague. It’s broad covering but a parent could push back and ask what is appropriate.	N/A	
Does this section adequately address the section topic (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	We ran out of discussion time.	Yes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee will continue with the Special Education Plan review at the upcoming meetings. 					
6. Ministry Updates (10 min) 6.1. Durham District School Board letter to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks to Pilot project that Ministry proposed for students with Autism – timing concern. Gerald to check if there have been any updates since this was messaged. 6.2. Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board letter to the Minister of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of support - Bill 172 regarding Fetal alcohol Syndrome 					G. Foran
7. SEAC Committee Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on letters to community members 4-year term at the table Person can sit but not as the voting member official member before the election 					All
8. Policy Advice to the Board N/A					
9. Updates (20 minutes) 9.1. Association Updates WRFN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On August 25, WRFN hosted a Q&A session for our School Issues Support Group with superintendents from WCDSB and WRDSB. While it was an emotional conversation at times, it was very helpful and informative. Thanking Gerald Foran with WCDSB and Scott Miller with WRDSB for joining us. 					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WRFN will be hosting an IEP workshop on September 29th in partnership with WCDSB and WRDSB. Details and a flyer will be available soon. <p>WWDSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Alternate Member– Gillian Hadden who has a 14-year-old daughter with Down syndrome at Holy Family ➤ CDSS has an educator's package which is a guide to an inclusive education for students with Down syndrome available on their website for free download: ➤ https://cdss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CDSS-Educator-Package-English.pdf ➤ CDSS announced DS Awareness Week will now be October 24th to the 31st to align with the American weeks so we can share the same coverage. ➤ WWDSS Current Awareness Event: The WWDSS Any Which Way You Can A-Thon will take place virtually on Sunday, September 26th, 2021, at 3:45pm. <p>9.2. Trustee Updates Board of Trustees – August 30th</p>	
<p>10. Pending Items N/A</p>	
<p>11. Adjournment</p> <p>Motion by: Jeanne Gravelle Seconded: Tracey Weiler</p>	
<p>12. Action Items Place Holder</p>	

Guest Speaker Michael Jacques

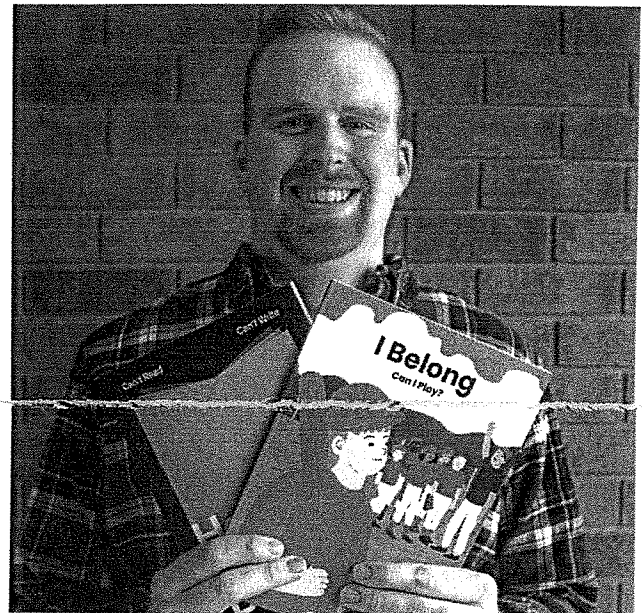
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“My mission is to be a role model for youth and inspire them to celebrate their differences and include everyone.”

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Superintendent of Special Education you are well aware of the obstacles students with challenges face everyday in todays society. From the classrooms to workplace to community our world has a lot of work to do in order to create authentic inclusion. As a retired Principal, I witnessed the commitment from parents and staff to support, teach and guide students. I also felt many resources focused on what it means to have a disability rather than focusing on the abilities and potential of every student.

One way to create a more inclusive society is by inspiring youth. Hearing from individuals who are sharing their personal story to make a greater impact in the world.

My son, Michael Jacques, like anyone else wants to feel included. He has autism and an intellectual disability and faces many challenges day to day. However, at 29 years old he is an inspiration and role model to many. He cannot read or write but has written two books with the help of technology and support from others, sell over 20,000 copies. He's been appointed to MACSE (a provincial committee that provides advice to the Minister of Education on issues of Special Education). He is the VP of Community Living Ontario and is international recognized by the Queens Commonwealth Trust as a young adult making a positive change in his community.



Over the last 3 years he has done over 200 in person presentations and over 100 virtual presentations across the country. His audiences vary but most are with schools boards, talking directly with elementary and secondary students (individual classes or entire school), staff (on PD days) and with parents (eg. parent engagement meetings, SEAC meetings, etc.).

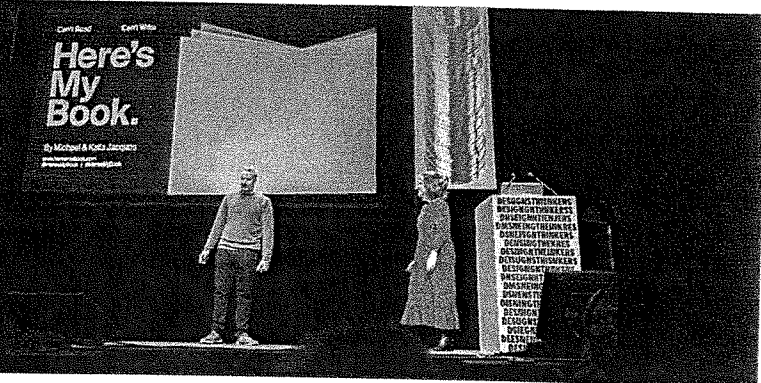
I have attached a 1-page flyer to this letter that will provide you more information about Michael or you can visit his website at **www.heresmybook.com**

Michael as a proud graduate of the Catholic School System would be honoured to receive an invite to be a Guest Speaker. If you would like further information please contact us at **michael.jacques1@gmail.com**

Michael's hope is to share his story, connect with people, and inspire a more inclusive, accepting world. We believe a large part of this starts in the education sector.

Take care & thank you for your time.
Marcel Jacques (Michael's proud father)

A story to be shared



Michael is a public speaker and activist, who in 2018 wrote and self-published *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book* using speech-to-text technology. In 2020 he released a children's book that he co-authored with Heather Gale titled, *I Belong: Can I Play?*

At a young age, Michael was diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability. Never one to shy away from obstacles, Michael has made his authorial debut, sharing experiences from his life to help audiences understand accepting and belonging. His story demonstrates the empowerment that comes from being comfortable in your own skin, knowing your strengths, valuing relationships, and giving back to your community.

Michael looks for opportunities to inspire and educate people on diversity and inclusion. What Michael has learned being part of this conversation is that diversity is a reality, we need to embrace and celebrate differences. On the other hand, inclusion is a choice, we have a responsibility to make sure everyone in our world belongs. Through his brave story, witty personality, and positive outlook on life, Michael is an inspiration to many. He speaks to schools (elementary, secondary, and post-secondary), educators, organizations, parents, communities, etc. both in-person and virtually.

Michael gives back by donating partial proceeds of his book sales to Special Olympics Canada and Community Living, two organizations doing great work in these areas.



Contact Michael for speaking opportunities at:
michael.jacques1@gmail.com

Things you should know about Michael:



Young leader and public speaker receiving international recognition on the Queen's Commonwealth Trust website.



Wrote his first book by dictating to his iPad and has sold over 20,000 copies. Book available in English & French.



Wrote a children's book with Heather Gale titled, *I Belong: Can I Play?* Available in English & French and has sold over 1,000 copies.



Elected Vice President for the Board of Directors with Community Living Ontario.



Special Olympic athlete, competing in baseball and basketball.



Appointed to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education.



Chosen as Fonthill's 2019 Citizen of the Year.



Works at Sobeys Grocery Store in Fonthill.