

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 6:00pm**

**Hybrid Meeting:**

In-Person: St. Francis (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) Catholic Education Centre

Online: [Click here to join the 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: T.B.D.**

## **MEMBERS**

WCDSB Trustee – **T.B.D.**

WCDSB Trustee – **T.B.D.**

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

Waterloo Regional Police - **John Gilbert**

Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region - **Cindy Benedetti**

Waterloo Region Family Network – **Erin Sutherland**

Centre for ADHD Awareness – **Daina Colbourne**



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

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## SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

<b>Date&amp; Time:</b>	January 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
<b>Location (Hybrid):</b>	In-Person: St. Francis (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), Catholic Education Centre Online: Via Teams <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	February 1, 2023
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Cindy Benedetti, Erin Sutherland, Daina Colbourne
<b>Administrative Officials:</b>	Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak

1. <b>Opening Prayer</b> Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. <b>Approval of Agenda</b>  Motion by: Seconded:	
3. <b>Declared Pecuniary Interest</b>	
4. <b>Approval of the December 7<sup>th</sup> Minutes</b>  Motion by: Seconded:	
5. <b>School System Operational Business</b>  5.1. <b>Project Search</b>  5.2. <b>Community Transitions</b>	E. Lemak Principal of Student Services F. Cruz Community Transitions Support Worker
6. <b>Ministry Updates (10 min)</b>	
7. <b>SEAC Committee Functions</b>	
8. <b>Policy Advice to the Board</b>	
9. <b>Updates</b> 9.1. Association Updates 9.2. Trustee Updates	
10. <b>Pending Items</b>	



<b>11. Adjournment</b>  Motion by: Seconded:	
<b>12. Action Items Place Holder</b>	



## SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Date&amp; Time:</b>	December 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.
<b>Location (Hybrid):</b>	In-Person: St. Aloysius Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), Catholic Education Centre Online: Via Teams <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	January 11, 2023
<b>Committee Members:</b> Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Cindy Benedetti, Erin Sutherland, Tracey Weiler, Daina Colbourne	
<b>Administrative Officials:</b> Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

1. <b>Opening Prayer</b> Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. <b>Approval of Agenda</b>  Motion by: Kim Murphy Seconded: John Gilbert	
3. <b>Declared Pecuniary Interest</b> N/A	
4. <b>Approval of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Minutes</b>  Motion by: John Gilbert Seconded: Kim Murphy	
5. <b>School System Operational Business</b>  5.1. Mental Health Q&A  5.2. Special Education & Sacraments Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Resources for parents, priests, and catechists for preparing children with special needs for Sacraments shared with the committee.</li><li>➤ Recommended that it is further shared with the schools.</li></ul>	Andrea Snyder Mental Health Lead  John Murphy Religion and Family Life Consultant Jeanne Gravelle Former Trustee Member
6. <b>Ministry Updates (10 min)</b>  6.1. Dufferin-Peel CDSB letter to the Minister: Covid impact on students with special needs – to extend the time student with differing abilities have to remain or continue in Secondary school beyond year 7 year (age 21) 6.2. Durham District School Board letter to the Minister: Urging Minister to evaluate the true costs associated with SIP claims and increase the funds accordingly.	G. Foran
7. <b>SEAC Committee Functions</b> N/A	
8. <b>Policy Advice to the Board</b> N/A	



<p><b>9. Updates</b></p> <p>9.1. Association Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of new members and organizations: Erin Sutherland – new WRFN representative Daina Colburne – Centre for ADHD Awareness</li></ul> <p>➤ <b>WWDSS Updates:</b> WWDSS continues to offer our members cooking classes, speech and music social groups for all ages, Teen &amp; Adult Hangouts, New Parent Program, Mother's Connection, an Evening Speaker Series, and so much more! Our annual calendar is now available for pre-order. More details can be found here: <a href="https://www.wwdss.ca/event">https://www.wwdss.ca/event</a></p> <p>➤ <b>WRFN Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WRFN Family Activity Day at Doon Heritage Village was a wonderful celebration for World Children's Day. We had 80 people join us for a fun and informative afternoon despite the very cold weather and driving challenges that day. Families were happy to see each other – to visit with those they already knew and to meet new people.</li><li>• Kaleidoscope Kids is back!!! This drop-in program for parents and kids is starting up again on Dec 15. It will run on Thursdays from 3 – 5 pm every week except for the week of Dec 26 as the site will be closed. It will be held in the Pavilion at KidsAbility in Waterloo. This program is back by popular demand offering an opportunity for parents to connect and support each other. There will be lots of activities for kids available. Parents will be responsible for supervising and caring for their own children while attending. This program is a partnership between WRFN and KidsAbility. Flyer coming soon.</li><li>• WRFN Drop-in at Early ON across the Region – Erin will be back to all Early ON locations this winter and spring for Drop-in meetings. No appointment is required as meetings are on a first-come, first-served basis. Flyer coming soon with all dates.</li></ul> <p>9.2. Trustee Updates</p> <p><a href="#">WCDSB Board Meeting Bulletin – November, 2022</a></p>	
<p><b>10. Pending Items</b> N/A</p>	
<p><b>11. Adjournment</b></p> <p>Motion by: John Gilbert Seconded: Kim Murphy</p>	
<p><b>12. Action Items Place Holder</b> N/A</p>	



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**Date:** Jan. 11, 2022  
**To:** SEAC  
**From:** Director of Education, Superintendent of Learning: Special Education  
**Subject:** Project Search and Community Transition Support

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**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.

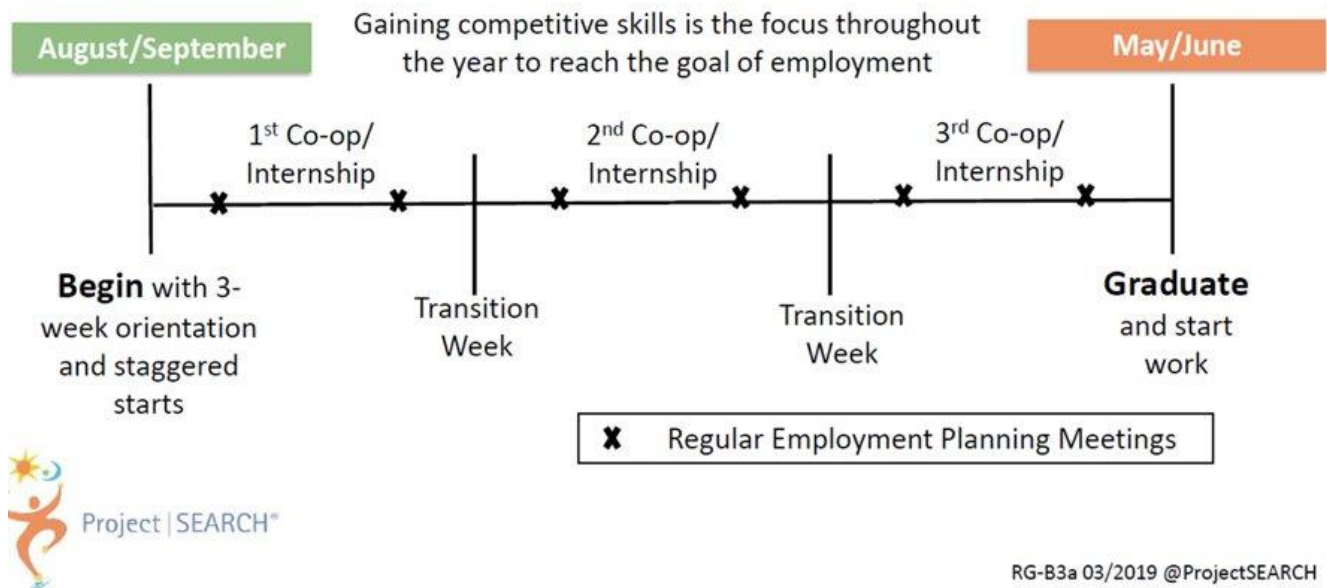
*Everyone is included, respected and welcomed:* To increase improved awareness respect of differences within our school communities.

**Special Education Plan:**

**Background/Comments:**

Project SEARCH: A partnership was formed with WCDSB, St. Mary's General Hospital, and KWHabilitation to bring Project SEARCH to Waterloo Region. Project SEARCH is a 10-month employment preparation program for students with primary diagnosis of an intellectual or developmental disability who are in their final year of secondary school. The program involves a rigorous timeline whereby applications are received early in the year following an information session for potential students. Applicants are screened by a steering committee made up of members from WCDSB, KWHabilitation and St. Mary's General Hospital. The successful applicants are notified in June and begin orientation in August and September.





Students reach their employment goals through real-life work experience (3 internships immersed at St Mary's General Hospital), combined with training in employability and life skills and employment planning and support. We currently have 6 students in this program, and they are in the process of completing their first internship. WCDSB is looking forward to growing the program and will begin the application process for next year's program in the new year.



Our interns are learning transferrable skills, which are applicable in any work environment.

- Skill Development
- Time Management
- Organizational Skills
- Attention to Detail
- Social Skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Working Independently
- Confidentiality
- Following Instructions
- Communication Skills

Community Transition Support Worker: The Community Transition Support Worker works alongside teachers, students, and parents in the transition planning process for our students who receive Special

Education supports. By providing information on the range of services and programs within the community, the Community Transition Support Worker supports student's transitioning from school to work, pursuing further education opportunities, community living, and/or community participation. Through established working relationships, the Community Transition Support Worker liaises and communicates with agencies and organizations that can further provide supports and services to our students upon graduation. Assistance is also providing to families who might need support with the application process for services, including Developmental Services Ontario (DSO), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Special Services at Home (SSAH), and Ontario Autism Program (OAP) funding. In collaboration with the schools and WCDSB Co-Op Departments, the Community Transition Support Worker assists with securing co—operative learning opportunities, community placements, and/or experiential learning opportunities through the Community Connections Program.

### **Recommendation:**

Presented for your information.

**Prepared/Reviewed By:** Tyrone Dowling  
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."