

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6:00pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In-Person: St. Mary's Board Room (1st 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.*

CO-CHAIRS: Cindy Benedetti and Laura Shoemaker

MEMBERS

WCDSB Trustee - **Bob Sikora**

WCDSB Trustee - **Sally Fuentes**

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**

International Dyslexia Association Ontario - **Laura Shoemaker**

Member at Large - **Jeanne Gravelle**



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

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info@wcdsb.ca



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SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

Date& Time:	June 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Location (Hybrid):	In-Person: St. Mary's Board Room(1 st Floor), Catholic Education Centre Online: Via Teams Click here to join the meeting
Next Meeting:	September 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Cindy Benedetti, Erin Sutherland, Daina Colbourne, Laura Shoemaker, Jeanne Gravelle, Bob Sikora, Sally Fuentes	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Seconded:	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest N/A	
4. Approval of the April 5th minutes: Motion by: Seconded:	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Equity	L.Garrioch Senior Manager of Equity Services
5.2. PD Plans for 23/24	E. Lemak
6. Ministry Updates (10 min)	
7. SEAC Committee Functions	
8. Policy Advice to the Board	
9. Updates	
10. Pending Items	
11. Adjournment Motion by: Seconded:	



12. Action Items Place Holder	
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SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes

Date& Time:	May 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Location (Hybrid):	In-Person: St. Aloysius (2 nd Floor), Catholic Education Centre Online: Via Teams Click here to join the meeting
Next Meeting:	June 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Committee Members:	Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Cindy Benedetti, Erin Sutherland, Daina Colbourne, Laura Shoemaker, Jeanne Gravelle, Bob Sikora, Sally Fuentes
Administrative Officials:	Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak
Regrets:	Sally Fuentes, Kim Murphy, John Gilbert

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Erin Sutherland Seconded: Bob Sikora	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest N/A	
4. Approval of the April 5th minutes: Motion by: Cindy Benedetti Seconded: Erin Sutherland	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Special Education Budget Estimates 23/24 Special Education Budget Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget overview Grant Announcement Special Education funding Special Education expenditures Motion to accept 2023-2024 Special Education Budget Estimates as presented to SEAC Committee Motion: Erin Sutherland Seconded: Cindy Benedetti Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDA (International Dyslexia Association Ontario) suggestions and concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading intervention funds that were received from the Ministry to be available to special education students. ➤ The number of Special Education teachers should increase due to student enrollment increase. 	R. King Manager of Budget and Financial Reporting



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Special Education Liaison to be funded through Math TPA that was received from the Ministry to free some funds for reading supports. ➤ Need for collaboration between Program Services and Special Education. • WRFN (Waterloo Region Family Network) suggestions and comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hoping to hire more Speech and Language Pathologists due to the increase of students that are coming to school with special needs and are not receiving supports due to the backlog in the community. <p>Motion passed</p> <p>5.2. Community & ACTIVE Living Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey for parents of the students that graduated from the program. • Still a draft version and is brought to SEAC for their input, feedback, or questions. • The plan is to send the survey to parents in June. <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wording of child to be changed to student or youth. • Change of plan subtitle: Suggestion that multiple answers should be available. • Sending a survey yearly in upcoming years. 	<p>G. Foran</p>
<p>6. Ministry Updates (10 min)</p> <p>6.1. Letter to the Minister of Education from Kawartha Pine Ridge - SIP Claim Funding</p> <p>6.2. Letter to the Minister of Education from DCDSB – Impact of Covid on the students SEAC represents – Students to stay beyond age 21 due to Covid</p>	<p>G. Foran</p>
<p>7. SEAC Committee Functions N/A</p>	
<p>8. Policy Advice to the Board N/A</p>	
<p>9. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRFN (Waterloo Region Family Network) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WRFN is honored to share that Karen Applebee (SEAC member and WRFN volunteer) received the Matthew MacGregor Award for Volunteerism at Evening of Elegance this past April. We greatly appreciate Karen's ongoing commitment and dedication to WRFN families. ➤ Housing Forum: WRFN is partnering with Extend-A-Family to host presentations by DSO and Region of Waterloo Affordable Housing bringing two systems (provincial and municipal) together for families to 	



<p>better understand processes, etc. The event will be held at DoubleTree Hotel on Fairway Rd. June 20. – flyer to come.</p> <p>➤ Erin is busy attending and supporting families in transition school meetings at this time of year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trustee Updates: WCDSB Board Meeting	
10. Pending Items N/A	
11. Adjournment Motion by: Erin Sutherland Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle	
12. Action Items Place Holder N/A	



Date: 05/29/2023
To: SEAC
From: Director of Education, Superintendent of Learning: Special Education
Subject: Equity

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)

Anti-Racism Act 2017 S.O. 2017 c. 15

Policy Statement and/or Education Act/other Legislation citation:

Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy (2009)
APC037: Equity and Inclusive Education Policy
Ontario's Well-Being Strategy for Education: Discussion Document (2016)
Ontario Ministry of Education Equity Action Plan (2017)

Special Education Plan:

Alignment to the MYSP:

☒ **Awaken to Belong**

- ☒ Every student can see themselves reflected in their learning.
- ☐ Staff experiences a positive, healthy, and inclusive workplace.
- ☒ Are aware of and/or use the available resources to assist in navigation of the school system.

☐ **Ignite to Believe**

- ☐ Every student experiences the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGEs) and the WCDSB pastoral plan within their learning environments.



- ☐ Staff are welcomed and invited to continue to be a partner in their adult faith formation journey.
- ☐ The relationship between home, parish and school is strengthened.

☒ Strengthen to Become

- ☒ Every student reaches their full potential.
- ☒ Staff see their impact on student achievement.
- ☐ Are engaged as active partners in our students' Catholic education journey.

Background/Comments:

The Senior Manager of Equity Services will present to SEAC on June 7th, 2023. The purpose of this presentation is to provide information to SEAC with what equity currently looks like at our board. The committee will have an opportunity to explore the WCDSB equity website at <https://www.wcdsb.ca/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-webpage/> and also learn about the D2L websites available to staff at the board, the JEDI Professional Development Resources for WCDSB Staff site and the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Equity Representatives site.

As part of the presentation, we will explore the difference between equity and equality and why equity should ground the work that educators and administrators do. The foundation of equity and inclusive education is excellence. We will discuss the guiding principles of maintaining excellence in our schools: meeting individual needs, identifying and eliminating social and academic barriers, promoting a sense of belonging, involving the broad community, and building on and enhancing previous and existing initiatives that are grounded in research. All these grounding principles are throughout the board, not just in schools or in a particular classroom.

While we cannot go into all the guiding principles in detail for a 2-hour presentation, we will identify some of the barriers. Specifically, we will explore the “isms” and “phobias” that exist in Canadian society and play out in our schools. We will look at “isms” and “phobias” at the internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and structural levels. We will briefly discuss the recent research from [EGALE](#) (EGALE is Canada’s leading organization for 2SLGBTQI people and issues), and the research from [UBC and Angus Reid Institute](#) about racial bullying in Canadian schools.

For the second half of the presentation, we will discuss culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy. The culturally relevant pedagogy focuses on multiple aspects of student achievement and supports students to uphold their cultural, social, and academic identities. There are three main components: (1) a focus on student learning and academic success, (2) developing students’ cultural humility to assist students in developing positive ethnic and social identities, and (3) supporting students’ critical consciousness or their ability to recognize and critique societal inequalities. All three components need to be utilized if an educator is engaging in culturally relevant pedagogy. Culturally responsive pedagogy is student-centred. Educators help students identify their unique cultural, social, and academic strengths and then help nurture those strengths to promote student achievement and a sense of well-being. The presentation ends with a concrete example of culturally relevant and responsive teaching where we explore growth mind set using music, language, history, geography, and dance. The participants will learn about the Xhosa language and culture and how it is related to the growth mindset, a way of viewing challenges and setbacks positively. Individuals who hold a growth mindset believe that even if they struggle with certain skills, their abilities are not set in stone. They believe that with effort, their skills can improve over time.

The presentation will end by linking culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy to high academic expectations and equity. With equity we know that every child receives what one needs to develop to one’s full academic and social potential.

Recommendation:

Presented for your information.



Prepared/Reviewed By: Tyrone Dowling
Director of Education
Gerald Foran
Superintendent of Learning: Special Education

*4.2 DIRECTOR Monitoring Reports: Where the Board receives from the CEO a monitoring report that flows from a responsibility delegated to the Director under Board Policy – except where approval is required by the Board 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 CEO, subject in all instances to what otherwise actually occurred.

