

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6:00pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In-Person: St. Francis Room (2nd 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 – **Conrad Stanley**

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**

Autism Ontario - **Monica Wenzlaff**

Member at Large - **Jeanne Gravelle**



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

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info@wcdsb.ca



SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

Date& Time:	November 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Location (Hybrid):	In-Person: St. Francis Room (2 nd Floor), Catholic Education Centre Online: Via Teams Click here to join the meeting
Next Meeting:	December 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Cindy Benedetti, Erin Sutherland, Daina Colbourne, Laura Shoemaker, Jeanne Gravelle, Monica Wenzlaff, Bob Sikora, Conrad Stanley	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Seconded:	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest	
4. Approval of the October 4th minutes: Motion by: Seconded:	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP) 2023-24 and Student Achievement Plan (SAP) 5.2. PAAC on SEAC	J. Ritsma Superintendent of Learning G. Foran
6. Ministry Updates (10 min)	
7. SEAC Committee Functions 7.1. CIPC Funds (\$2500)	All
8. Policy Advice to the Board	
9. Updates	
10. Pending Items	
11. Adjournment Motion by: Seconded:	



12. Action Items Place Holder	



SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes

Date& Time:	October 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Location (Hybrid):	Online: Via Teams Click here to join the meeting
Next Meeting:	November 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Cindy Benedetti, Erin Sutherland, Daina Colbourne, Laura Shoemaker, Jeanne Gravelle, Monica Wenzlaff, Bob Sikora, Conrad Stanley	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak Additional Attendees: Steve Mac Arthur (potential new WRPS representative for January), Tracy Weiler	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Jeanne Gravelle Seconded: Monica Wenzlaff	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest N/A	
4. Approval of the September 6th minutes: Motion by: Jeanne Gravelle Seconded: Monica Wenzlaff	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Special Education Plan review 5.2. Spec Ed PD Plan for the Year 5.3. Student Services Focus Areas 5.4. SEAC Topic Discussion – monthly schedule for topics	E. Lemak E. Lemak G. Foran Group
6. Ministry Updates (10 min) N/A	
7. SEAC Committee Functions 7.1. CIPC Funds (\$2500) - need to generate ideas for future discussion.	All
8. Policy Advice to the Board none	
9. Updates 9.1. Trustee Update: ➤ WCDSB Board of Trustees Meeting 9.2. WWDSS Update: ➤ It's the 9th year of the WWDSS and One for The Wall Photography collaboration for our calendar and advocacy series.	



<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Just Ask Me is a series of portraits featuring our members with Down Syndrome, focusing on communication, and the challenges that someone with Down syndrome may face.➤ Even in this "Just Ask Me" series, caregivers often speak for their loved ones with Down syndrome to help them articulate how they feel.➤ We welcome you to like, share and comment throughout the series. We love to hear from our community.➤ Twitter: @WWDSS_WWDSS➤ Website: wwdss.ca <p>9.3. WRFN Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ IEP Workshop: A big thank you to both WCDSB and WRDSB for their work in facilitating our IEP workshop last week. The event was well attended, and we've received positive feedback from parents. Looking to move forward with more education related workshops in the future.➤ Celebrate the Holidays Early with WRFN: Celebrate the Holidays Early with WRFN! (mailchi.mp)➤ Camp Day: Saturday October 14, 2023. CAMP DAY FLYER➤ The Family Pulse Newsletter: Please find our October edition here: https://mailchi.mp/664f38f39316/oiljhx2xid-15098993?e=368d6e3b57 <p>9.4. Autism Ontario Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ October 2023 Updates Flyer <p>9.5. CADDAC – ADHD Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ October is ADHD Awareness Month Flyer	
<p>10. Pending Items N/A</p>	
<p>11. Adjournment</p> <p>Motion by: John Gilbert Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle</p>	
<p>12. Action Items Place Holder</p>	



Date: November 1, 2023
To: SEAC
From: Jennifer Ritsma
Subject: Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP) 2023-24 and Student Achievement Plan (SAP)

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)

Education Act Section 169. (1)

Every Board shall:, (a) promote student achievement and well-being; (b) ensure effective stewardship of the board's resources; (c) deliver effective and appropriate education programs to its pupils; f) develop a multi-year plan aimed at achieving the goals of student achievement and well-being, positive school climate, inclusive and accepting schools, stewardship of resources, and effective and appropriate education programs to its pupils

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

Bill 98, Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023

PPM 159 Collaborative Professionalism (2016) School Effectiveness Framework (2013)

PPM 119 Equity & Inclusion (2013)

Alignment to the MYSP and KPIs:

☒ **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 Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP) establishes educational priorities, goals and performance indicators to support continuous quality improvement as to achievement, equity and well-being for all students. The BIEP is intended to be a demographic data-driven tool designed to capture the experiences and outcomes of our Kindergarten to Grade 12 learners.

The BIEP continues to build on previous successes and provides direction and resource support in the context of the Board's strategic commitments in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The Board's strategic commitments are intended to foster Catholic well-being and equity, inspire academic excellence, and nurture a culture of collaboration and innovation by maximizing resources and leveraging technologies.

The Board Improvement and Equity Plan provides the framework for each school's School Improvement and Equity Plan (SIEP). The SIEP allows for a goal driven and data led plan that is developed to identify the learning needs of students and the plan for improvement.

The WCDSB BIEP sets out goals and performance indicators in three priority areas that we are aiming to achieve through our daily work:

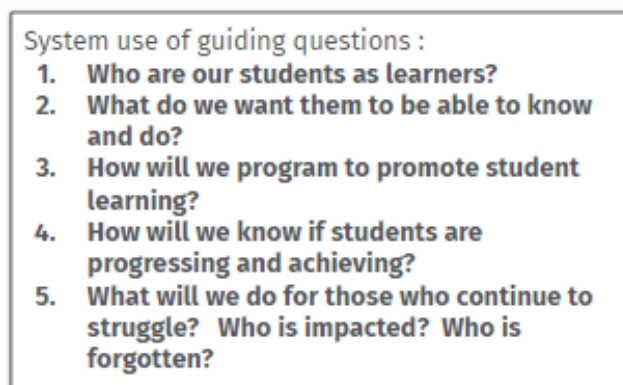
- Faith and Well Being
- Curriculum and Achievement
- Engagement, Pathways and Renewal

Link to full and interactive BIEP document: <https://bit.ly/WCDSBBIEP2023-24>

Review, Revise and Refine

In collaboration and with input from a wide range of WCDSB staff, the BIEP underwent an extensive review and revision process. The feedback from stakeholders included a need to refine the BIEP to align with the MYSP more closely, to condense the document to encourage increased public and staff participation and to clearly focus on the goals and strategies of board improvement. This feedback resulted in the BIEP being separated into two separate documents within the three priority areas: 1. the Operational plan that documents the day-to-day actions and practices and 2. the Improvement Plan that outlines the critical goals and strategies for improvement.

The system use of **Guiding Questions** and the **Equity principles** from the 2022-23 BIEP provided the main organizational change of this plan.



The **new design and template** for the 2023-24 BIEP features the Equity Principles that correlate with the guiding questions being addressed within the three priority areas: [BIEP Priorities 2023-24](#)



Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act

As you are aware, the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 received Royal Assent on June 8, 2023. The Ministry of Education (MOE) has moved forward with regulatory and policy reforms for the start of the 2023-24 school year. These reforms support student achievement and well-being, and increase transparency for parents and families.

The regulatory and policy reforms will:

- Promote student achievement and transparency for parents through prescribing provincial education priorities on student achievement and ensure consistency with how these priorities are included and measured in transparent school board multi-year plans;
- Advance improved learning outcomes and student engagement and well-being through Policy/Program Memoranda (PPM) on early reading screening and student mental health;
- Increase transparency for families and local communities, through expectations for publicly posted information on board performance and Professional Activity (PA) days;
- Support students to graduate through modernized policies, including updates to the Community Involvement PPM and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students PPM;
- Support the next generation of teachers and provide flexibility for school boards to address teacher supply challenges through faster certification and by enabling teacher candidates in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programs to teach while completing their studies; and
- Help teachers to foster an inclusive learning environment through formalizing an Additional Qualification (AQ) on Holocaust Education and Countering Antisemitism for teachers.

Transition from the Board Improvement Equity Plan (BIEP) to the Student Achievement Plan (SAP)

Below are the requirements from the MOE which direct our transition from the BIEP to the SAP. The regulation on provincial priorities for education in the area of student achievement prescribes three priorities:

1. Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
2. Preparation of Students for Future Success
3. Student Engagement & Well-Being

School boards are required to adopt these provincial priorities into their multi- year plans. To support boards in their planning, the ministry released the Student Achievement Plan which replaces the Board Improvement Equity Plan (BIEP), that contains measurable system-wide performance indicators under each priority. School boards have the flexibility to consider local needs and perspectives including Francophone and/or Catholic needs, when developing plans to address provincial priorities. Student achievement indicators alongside census data provide the pathway to do the necessary work. Equity is embedded within the priorities and will be reflected in the indicators.

We look forward to more direction and conversation on the sharing of our Catholic lens within our achievement plan.

School boards will also be required to publicly post their multi- year plan, including the Student Achievement Plan using the reporting template. This is not a new process for boards as we are required to post our BIEPs on our websites. However, we have previously worked using a framework developed at the board level, based on the needs, prioritized indicators, goals and monitoring plans for the board. The MOE has made the SAP a regulated policy for all boards and given the eleven indicators we will be reporting on.

School boards will share their completed Student Achievement Plan annually to the ministry by June 30. This will support school boards to advance provincial priorities and allow the Minister to discern where additional supports may be needed. The tool for submission, as well as fillable reporting templates for public posting which include the individual board and provincial indicator results will be arriving at a later date from the MOE.

For the 2023-24 school year we will follow through on the work using the BIEP that was developed with our stakeholders throughout the 2022-23 school year. The 3 pillars noted above in our BIEP align very closely with the 3 priorities identified within the SAP. We are well aligned in all priority areas.

Comparison BIEP Pillars to MOE SAP Priorities	
<u>BIEP</u>	<u>SAP</u>
● Curriculum and Achievement	● Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
● Engagement, Pathways & Renewal	● Preparation of Students for Future Success
● Faith & Well Being	● Student Engagement & Well Being

Below you will see the SAP that we will be adopting and reporting on for June 30, 2024. There are 3 priorities and eleven indicators identified on the plan.

We have already been working closely with our Research team -we are very well situated and prepared to collect the data and report on the eleven indicators.

Student Achievement Plan

PURPOSE:

Levelling up achievement outcomes and experiences for every student.

For each priority and indicator, school boards will use board-level data on their student populations to further refine actions.



PRIORITY:
Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills



PRIORITY:
Preparation of Students for Future Success



PRIORITY:
Student Engagement & Well-being

Goal: Improve students' literacy learning and achievement.

Indicators:

1. % of students who meet or exceed the provincial standard on:
 - Grade 3 EQAO Reading
 - Grade 3 EQAO Writing
 - Grade 6 EQAO Reading
 - Grade 6 EQAO Writing
2. % of fully participating, first-time eligible students who are successful on the OSSLT/TPCL

Goal: Improve students' math learning and achievement.

Indicators:

3. % of students who meet or exceed the provincial standard on:
 - Grade 3 EQAO Math
 - Grade 6 EQAO Math
 - Grade 9 EQAO Math

Goal: Improve students' graduation rates and preparedness for future success.

Indicators:

4. % of students who earn 16 or more credits by the end of Grade 10
5. % of students participating in at least one job skills program (Specialist High Skills Major, Dual Credits or Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program)
6. % of students graduating with an OSSD within five years of starting Grade 9
7. % of students enrolled in at least one Grade 12 math or Grade 11 or 12 science courses
8. % of students who believe their learning has prepared them for the next step in their learning experience (i.e. next grade, post secondary, etc)

Goal: Improve students' participation in class time and learning.

Indicators:

9. % of students in Grades 1-8 whose individual attendance rate is equal to or greater than 90 percent
10. % of students in Grades 4-12 who were suspended at least once

Goal: Improve student well-being.

Indicators:

11. % of Grade 6, 9 and 10 students who report being aware of mental health supports and services in order to seek supports for mental health

