

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 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 - **Amanda Hennig**

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

35 Weber St. W., Unit A
Kitchener, ON, Canada N2H 3Z1
519-578-3660
info@wcsb.ca



SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

Date& Time:	March 6, 2024, 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:	April 3, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, Amanda Hennig, 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 N/A	
4. Approval of the February 6th minutes: Motion by: Seconded:	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Community ACTIVE Living Co-op & Project Search	Filomena Cruz E. Lemak
6. Ministry Updates (10 min)	
7. SEAC Committee Functions 7.1. PAAC on SEAC 7.2. April 23 rd Presentation by Dr. Parekh and Michal Jacques	
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:	February 7, 2024, 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:	March 6, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, Amanda Hennig, Cindy Benedetti, Erin Sutherland, Daina Colbourne, Laura Shoemaker, Jeanne Gravelle, Monica Wenzlaff, Bob Sikora, Conrad Stanley	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	
Regrets: Gerald Foran, Cindy Benedetti	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Jeanne Gravelle Seconded: Kim Murphy	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest N/A	
4. Approval of the January 10th minutes: Note to edit January minutes and replace Erin Sutherland with Karen Applebee Motion by: Erin Sutherland Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle	
5. School System Operational Business 5.1. WCDSB Reading Intervention Strategy ➤ The Right to Read Report Inquiry: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curriculum & Instruction 2. Early Screening 3. Reading Interventions 4. Accommodations 5. Professional Assessment <p>Reading Comprehension = Decoding (ability to apply sound) x Language Comprehension (ability to understand spoken language)</p> <p>Tiered Approach to Language and Literacy Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tier One (80% students) ➤ Tier Two (15% students) ➤ Tier Three (5%students) <p>Modification as a last resort</p> <p>Q&A</p>	Antonietta Leonardo Special Education Liaison & Laura Shoemaker



<p>6. Ministry Updates (10 min)</p> <p>6.1. MACSE – Feedback 6.2. New Project Search location – Cambridge Memorial Hospital – flyers went to secondary schools. 6.3. PVNC Catholic District School Board letter to the Minister of Education – funding issues</p>	<p>L Shoemaker E. Lemak</p>
<p>7. SEAC Committee Functions</p> <p>7.1. Pro Grant CIPC funds: April 23rd Presentation by Dr. Parekh and Michal Jacques To be virtual and books to be purchased for the participants</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>8. Policy Advice to the Board N/A</p>	
<p>9. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WCADDAC: The Cunning Little Vixen-Relaxed Opera Performance February 13th https://www.coc.ca/productions/24902 ➤ WWDSS: World Down Syndrome Day (WSDS) preparations are underway for March 21/24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This date was selected to signify the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. • We are encouraging everyone to wear colorful socks on March 21 to raise awareness for WSDS. Pairs of socks are shaped like chromosomes and people with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome. • WSDS 2023 Poster 2024 We continue to offer following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech & Music Social Groups for all ages. • Skills for Independent Living for teens and young adults in partnership with KW Habitation (Spring: Abuse Awareness) • Teen Hangouts • Mom's Night Out ➤ WRFN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaleidoscope Kids as that starts up again this month. FLYER • Virtual Camp Fairs which we have been running over the course of the winter and just finished: Thrive Together Tools ➤ Member at Large: Jeanne Gravelle: Sacramental Preparation for students with special needs: Kits/Dinner (more updates at the next meeting) ➤ Trustees: Chair Sicora shared Trustee updates 	
<p>10. Pending Items N/A</p>	
<p>11. Adjournment Motion by: Kim Murphy Seconded: Erin Sutherland</p>	
<p>12. Action Items Place Holder N/A</p>	



Date: March 6, 2024
To: SEAC
From: Director of Education, Superintendent of Learning: Special Education
Subject: Project Search and Community Transition Support

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)

Regulation 306 Special Education Programs and Services

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

Policy 1001 - Ends

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.

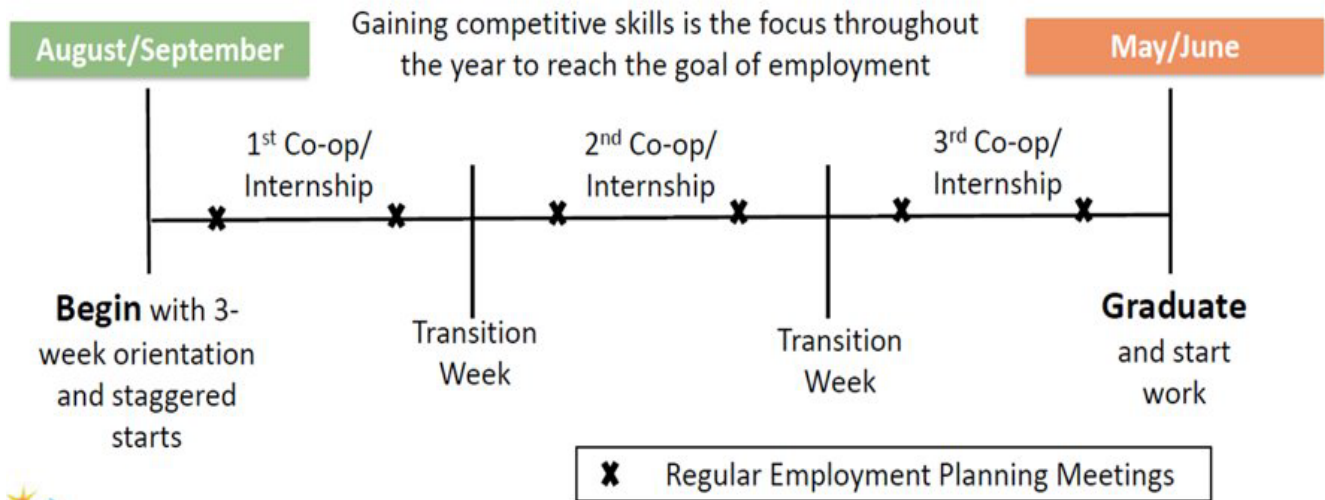
Strengthen to Become

- 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:

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.



RG-B3a 03/2019 @ProjectSEARCH 1

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 as well as employment planning and support. We are currently in our second year with 8 students in the program, and they have completed their first internship and transitioning into their second placement. WCDSB is looking forward to growing the enrolment at the Kitchener location and will begin the application process for next year’s program in late February.

Further to this, WCDSB has been successful in expanding the Project SEARCH program to another host site located in Cambridge. WCDSB will be partnering with KWHabilitation and Cambridge Memorial Hospital to offer hospital internships for WCDSB students. We are very excited to enter this partnership and look forward to this exciting opportunity for our students.





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."

