

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph.

The following Association Members were present: Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC, Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada, Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Carole Craig, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County

Present from Staff were: Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program, Cheryl Van Ooteghem, Assistant to the Superintendent of Program, Trudy Counter, Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Services, Joan Arbuckle, Vice-Principal, Christine Kay, Principal, Special Education Consultants, Mark Howe, Jackie Speers, Jacqueline Weresch, Debbie Snow, Kyla Lightfoot

Trustees Present: Linda Busutil, Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy (teleconference)

Public: John Potocska, OSSTF, Michelle Watterson

Absent: Wendy McIntosh-Clodd, Vice-Principal, Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Dr. Mary Susan Crawford, Chief Psychologist, Audra Cook, Secondary Vice-Principal, Special Education Consultants, Ben McCabe, Kathy Green, Jacqueline Foster

Carrie Proudfoot, Chair, SEAC called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda February 10, 2016

Sharon Dills moved that the agenda of February 10, 2016 meeting be approved. Laurie Whyte seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2016

Laurie Whyte moved that the minutes be received. Linda Busutil seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

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Action Items

Tracey Lindsay updated the Action Items chart with the following:

- Annual Review of UGDSB Special Education Plan – review of SEAC, SEAC brochure and the draft Equity & Inclusion Policy 504 in today's meeting
- FASD Data – Mark Howe provided an update regarding the collection of the FASD data. A search in the IEP engine in the assessment area, using key words, brought up 34 students. Having this data is one way that the Special Education department can ensure that we are supporting students identified with FASD.
- Annual Review of Bully Prevention Plan – The draft will come to SEAC in May 2016.
- Climate survey – will be sent out March 1, 2016

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Equity & Inclusion Policy 504 – Draft

Bonnie Talbot, Superintendent of Education and Colinda Clyne, Equity and FNMI Curriculum Lead provided an overview of the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy 504. This draft document is available on the Upper Grand District School website to gather feedback from the public. Deadline for input is April 13, 2016.

The Upper Grand District School Board policy has referenced the Ministry of Education's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, PPM No. 119 and the Ontario Human Rights Code. There are eight areas of focus in this document and the most significant change is the role of the school equity representative, training and the requirement for the Board and the school to have equity goals.

The draft policy is broken down into four sections:

- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy 504
- Equity and Inclusive Education Procedures Manual 504-A
- 504-B Guidelines for Creed Accommodation (Religious/Faith)
- 504-C Guidelines for Accommodating Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students, Staff and Community Members

The definition of inclusion was requested and included in 3.1 Board Policies, Programs, Guidelines, and Practices section of Equity and Inclusive Education Procedures manual 504-A. This section specifies the responsibilities of: Trustees, Director of Education, Superintendents of Education, school principals, managers and supervisors, all Board employees, parents/guardians and students.

Linda Busuttil asked if there will be data to indicate that the policy is making a difference. Colinda Clyne replied that an annual report is included the procedures. Don Richardson

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responded that an accountability mechanism is important for this. Setting goals and objectives and regular reporting is required. He suggested that the definition of inclusive education needs to define the term. There are existing definitions of inclusive education the Board can draw from including the definition from Community Living Ontario. He also suggested that the policy and each of the individual sections ought to include framing language that references the Ontario Human Rights Code. Carrie Proudfoot responded that any additional requests for changes be emailed to Bonnie Talbot and Colinda Clyne. The revised policy will be brought back to SEAC in May.

Carrie Proudfoot thanked Bonnie Talbot and Colinda Clyne for their presentation.

Small Group Discussion re: Policy

Committee formed groups to discuss the presentation. Questions, responses or suggestions are to be forwarded to Tracey Lindsay.

Integration Action for Inclusion (IAI) Presentation

Don Richardson and Carole Craig began their presentation with an interactive activity for the committee.

Everyone paired up and described a school experience where they felt excluded and also when they were included. How did they feel? What in the teaching environment facilitated in the inclusion or exclusion? This was shared with the committee. Some of the responses from this exercise included the following: barrier attitudinal, ignorance, opening eyes to identifying, precedent (always done that way), and inclusion done for the betterment of the student to keep them safe.

Integration Action for Inclusion (IAI) is composed of volunteers and is an internal support for parents and friends. It has local chapters throughout Ontario. February is National Inclusive Education Month in Canada. Please visit the [IAI website](#) for more information regarding activities and resources. Poster to be added to UGDSB website.

The Supreme Court of Canada's Eaton decision is one of the cornerstones of IAI's work. The most critical part of the decision states "The Supreme Court of Canada has said that a child who is considered exceptional has right to reasonable accommodations within integrated settings".

Don Richardson referenced the Community Living Ontario definition of inclusive education as one that he encourages UGDSB to incorporate in their policy. He presented a video that he felt summarized the definition of inclusive education. This prompted a discussion about the difference between bullying and conflict.

Linda Busuttill questioned if there was a board that has an exemplary policy. Don Richardson responded that there is a book "Leadership for Inclusion" that describes the practices with good board examples.

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Carrie Proudfoot thanked Don Richardson and Carole Craig for their presentation.

Powerpoint presentation is available in the February 2016 SEAC meeting folder on UGCloud.

Special Education Plan and Review (small group discussion)

This agenda item was deferred to the March meeting in consideration of time.

Open Forum

Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada – Training on May 5 & 6, 2016 at the Hanlon Convention Centre in Guelph. Startling statistics from two reports on alcohol use show that women in the 25-40 years of age group are consistently increasing their alcohol consumption. This is worrisome as this group is of childbearing years.

Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC – No update.

Jason provided SEAC with an update on the PRO grant and the efforts to organize a parent education event. Jason reminded the Committee that the grant funds received were half the amount expected and received late; the speaker that was on hold had to be released as the original event was planned for October 2015. Jason will send out an email to gauge support for an April event. If there is enough support and resources, this will move forward. Linda Busuttill suggested that there might be a third option which would be to have the event deferred until Fall 2016. If this is the decision of the group then Tracey Lindsay and Carrie Proudfoot will draft a letter to Ministry to provide a rationale for an extension.

Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County – have received funding from United Way. Newsletter will be sent out monthly, not quarterly.

Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – ABA and IBI training in schools. As an update to existing services - The Ministry has committed to a review of 4 new Early Interventions to be piloted in different regions and by different service providers to determine best practices and improvements in service delivery.

Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children (by email) – Dress Loud on May 6, 2016. Poster will be on UGDSB website.

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

- Jackie Speers attended the Community Living Guelph Wellington meeting and shared the fact sheet regarding the sheltered workshops that are closing. New programs are being researched. SEAC members shared concerns from the community and families are panicking and have concerns about job opportunities. Tracey Lindsay requested that the contact information be given to Carrie Proudfoot

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and Linda Busuttill. Fact sheet is uploaded to the February 2016 SEAC meeting folder on UGCloud and also available on the [Community Living Guelph Wellington](#) website.

- Sharon Dills and John Potocska received flyers from Second Chance Employment Counselling agency that is working collaboratively with Torchlight Services and Community Living Guelph Wellington to provide the “Grow Summer Employment Program”. Tracey Lindsay responded that these programs are not offered through the schools, but schools have been asked to include this information with the report cards for parents of DD students. The information will be posted on the UGDSB website.
- Adopt an Athlete for Special Olympics – Special Olympics Ontario is partnering with local school boards to help send athletes to the Special Olympics this spring. Each school receives a plaque with the athlete’s photo, sport and hometown and asked to raise \$500 to ‘Adopt an Athlete’. Special Olympics Day is on April 12 and the Special Olympics Provincial Spring Games is May 26 – 28 2016. This will be the largest Spring Games in Special Olympics Ontario history.
- College Heights students participated in a variety of wellness workshops, presentations to promote mental wellness on February 5, 2016.
- UGDSB is holding a student logo contest for Education week in May 2 – 6.
- Two new Special Education Consultants have been hired; Jacqueline Weresch and Kimberly Cozzolino. Kimberly is replacing Lesley Anne Jordan who has moved to Centennial CVI as acting Vice-Principal until June 2016.
- Budget requests to be submitted in March. The Special Education staff breakdown on page 48 of the Special Education Plan 2015-2016 is not expecting much change. Contact Tracey Lindsay for any input regarding the special education budget.
- Trudy Counter will provide update to the Special Needs Strategy when it is completed. The ConnectHEAR event is scheduled for April 27, 2016 for parents and students of Grade 4-12. This event occurs every two years and workshops are planned throughout the day.

SEISSC Monthly Update

The minutes of SEISSC were shared with SEAC. The draft Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan is on the Upper Grand District School Board website for review.

Clarification- the Bully Prevention Plan draft is on the board website. SEAC members are free to give input now or can wait for the updated draft to come to SEAC in May.

Trustee Report

Linda Busuttill – At the Business Operations meeting, Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance provided an interim financial budget that included positive adjustments. Enrolment numbers have increased.

French Review information sessions have been scheduled at the following locations from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.:

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Centre Wellington – Centre Wellington District High School - Wednesday February 24, 2016

North Wellington – Wellington Heights Secondary School – Thursday, March 3, 2016

Dufferin/Orangeville – Westside Secondary School – Thursday, March 10, 2016

City of Guelph – Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute – Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Meeting Summary, Recommendation(s), Motions(s) and Action(s)

Action Items:

- “Leadership for Inclusion” resource to purchase
- A letter will be prepared for the Ministry of Education to request an extension for the Pro Grant if the feedback to Jason Offer’s email recommends this.
- SEAC brochure and SEAC review (next meeting)

Questions for March Meeting Topic

- No presentation scheduled
- Review SEAC Brochure and SEAC pages in Special Education Plan
- On google docs: SEISSC minutes, electronic resource material, government publications, Leadership of Inclusion book

Special Education Plan Topic for March

- SEAC (page 76-78) review prior to meeting
- SEAC Brochure – bring your suggestions for updates

Other

Adjournment

Carole Craig motioned for adjournment of meeting at 9:30 p.m. Jason Offer seconded the motion.