

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 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, Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada, Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario)(by teleconference), Carole Craig, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Present from Staff were: Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program, Cheryl Van Ooteghem, Principal of Program, Christine Kay, Principal, Audra Cook, Secondary Vice-Principal, Special Education Consultants, Mark Howe, Ben McCabe, Kyla Lightfoot, Jackie Speers, Kathy Green

Trustees Present: Linda Busuttil

Regrets: Trudy Counter, Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Services, Jacqueline Foster, Special Education Consultant

Absent: Dr. Mary Susan Crawford, Chief Psychologist, Bruce Schieck, Trustee, Wendy McIntosh-Clodd, Vice-Principal, Bruce Schieck, Trustee, Special Education Consultants, Lesley Anne Jordan, Debbie Snow

Carrie Proudfoot, Special Education Advisory Committee Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda November 11, 2015

The Transportation agenda item was deferred to the December SEAC meeting. Laurie Whyte moved that the agenda of November 11, 2015 meeting be approved as amended. Carole Craig seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2015

Jason Offer moved that the minutes be received. Laurie Whyte seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

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Action Items

Tracey Lindsay updated the Action Items chart with the following:

- Special Education Survey – Bonnie Talbot, Superintendent of Education, Lynn Woodford, Mental Health and Addiction Lead and Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program met with the University of Guelph researcher. Will look at an existing school board survey to help formulate questions for the UGDSB survey. Committee will meet with the researcher by the end of November. At the end of this meeting, we will take five minutes to decide what questions we may add to the Climate survey. Wellness, safe and inclusive schools, bullying will be included in the Climate survey. Surveys will be tailored for elementary students, secondary students, staff and parents. One of the questions in the survey will ask if the student/son/daughter has an IEP.
- SEAC Members Association Listing – names have been added to the listing in Google Docs
- Special Education Plan Review – Tracey Lindsay, Carrie Proudfoot and Linda Busuttill met and will provide updates later in the meeting.
- Board Bully Plan – Linda Busuttill will bring information to Don Richardson for discussion

Correspondence

Letter from Lynne Smart, Chair, Special Advisory Committee, Durham Catholic District School Board, addressed to the Honourable Liz Sandals, expressing their concern about the unintended consequences of Reg. 274 as it has great impact on the students who have special needs. Carrie Proudfoot asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the correspondence. No action is required at this time.

Review of SEA

Carrie Proudfoot introduced Sandra Ellis, Community Connections and Collaborative Projects Lead. Sandra Ellis thanked the committee for the opportunity to present. Her power point presentation included the process of how SEA claims are initiated; what's new regarding claims-based equipment; what's new in per pupil claim for technology; the training process when a SEA claim is made at the school level with Special Education Consultants; a year to year comparison for the number of claims received with the number of students from 2011-2012 to 2014-2015; most common applications for students; and the training focus areas of LearnStyle (writing, organization, research, comprehension, idea generation and study and test skills). Cloud Gear by LearnStyle is available on UGCloud for students, parents, teachers and principals to view video clips based on SEA training content.

Sharon Dills questioned whether specific wording was required to be included in the report for students to access the equipment. Sandra Ellis responded that it can be very general. Sue Shaw thanked Sandra Ellis for her presentation and commented that in

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three years there have been many changes. She suggested that due to the shortfall of SEA funding for training, co-op opportunities for high school students to train students could be proposed.

Carole Craig asked if there was a bottleneck due to the increase of SEA claims for equipment. Sandra Ellis replied that it takes about a week to two when previously it took about a month. Equipment is ordered earlier and there is stock available. If there is a specific software or equipment, this may take longer.

Sharon Dills asked if there was any information for parents for the transition of the equipment from school to school for the student. Sandra Ellis responded that students are taking their equipment home with them through the summer. An electronic inventory system tracks all of our equipment making the transitions smoother.

Special Education Resource Teachers will be in-serviced tomorrow on the available resources regarding SEA equipment.

Power Point presentation is on UGCloud, SEAC folder, November 2015 SEAC meeting folder.

Tracey Lindsay advised SEAC members that this is Sandra Ellis's last SEAC meeting as she is retiring from the Upper Grand District School Board. Linda Busuttill thanked Sandra Ellis for her dedication, creativity, passion and time with Upper Grand District School. She will be missed at SEAC. Sandra Ellis responded that it was a privilege to have worked for the Upper Grand District School Board in this role.

Special Education Plan and Review (small group discussion)

Tracey Lindsay explained that the information will be collated on google docs where Committee members can view all of the suggestions. All reviewed sections will be taken into consideration when staff review the plan for 2016-2017. The draft plan will be brought to SEAC in April and recommendations that were incorporated will be highlighted in the plan.

Committee formed groups to discuss SEA equipment section of the Plan. Results of each group discussion will be inputted on the Special Education Review form on the google docs.

Open Forum

Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC – Pro Grant – no updates. Funding is reduced and committee will meet after SEAC meeting.

Carole Craig, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) – Workshop “Yes, My Child Belongs” sponsored by IAI in Toronto on December 1, 2015. Email YesMyChildBelongs@gmail.com to register by November 25, 2015.

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Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada – Support group meets every fourth Wednesday of the month. All parents are welcome. Two day training sessions for “Demystifying FASD and other Neurobehavioural Conditions” scheduled for December 7 & 8, 2015 in Woodstock and February 29 & March 1, 2016 in Hamilton. These sessions are being presented by Nancy Hall, lead facilitator and co-founder of FASCETS Canada: East. For more information: info@fascetscanada.com or www.fascetscanada.com

Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County – Family conference on October 24 was well attended with several SEAC members participating. Suggestions will be forwarded to the next meeting. LDAWC are utilizing the services from University of Guelph’s research group to assess needs and also to gather resources. Newsletter is available. Follow LDAWC on Facebook!

Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children – no updates.

Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – New on Autism website – “Future planning resource for people with a disability, their families and caregivers”. Please share with anyone that may be interested.

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

- Sanctions have been lifted and Elementary Consultants are now at the table
- SERT in-service scheduled for November 12, 2015
- Communication in the newspaper and on the Board website – Progress reports and IEPs will be sent home in December
- Held Education Assistants Allocations in October. Have gone into the classroom to observe students and determine if there are any changes. There are not many changes to school allocations.

Tracey Lindsay thanked the special Education Consultants for attending the meeting. Any information for the newsletter is to be sent to Ben McCabe. Deadline is November 19, 2015.

Trustee Report – Linda Busuttil attended the Canadian Parents for French, Ontario provincial conference and the French As a Second Language Special Education document was released.

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

Carrie Proudfoot asked Don Richardson for clarification regarding the Board Bullying Plan. Was the understanding that the Plan was to come to SEAC? Don Richardson replied that the Act specifies that the Board confers with SEAC regarding this Plan.

Linda Busuttil responded that steps have already been made to move this forward. After a brief discussion, a decision was made that Carrie Proudfoot email Don Richardson with the Committee’s consensus of this issue.

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Some committee members commented that it was their understanding that the plan would come to SEAC. Linda Busuttill will meet with Don Richardson for further clarification.

Carrie Proudfoot introduced Michelle Watterson who was an observer at the meeting. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Tracey Lindsay welcomed Audra Cook, Secondary Vice-Principal to the meeting. Wendy McIntosh-Clodd, also a Secondary Vice-Principal will share attendance at SEAC meetings with Audra Cook.

Questions for December Meeting Topics

- Technology – Cheryl Van Ooteghem will invite her Elementary Inclusion Technology Coaches to the December meeting to provide an overview of how they support students and teachers with SEA and other equipment in the LD classroom. Questions asked: how is it equitable; how will it be distributed; how are you evaluating the effectiveness of the program?
- VOICE Presentation – basic questions – how often do you meet; annual events; conferences; key dates for organization (annual meeting); examples of best practices; good news stories; parent documents

Special Education Plan Topic for December

Transportation section (deferred from November meeting) will be reviewed.

Tracey Lindsay asked the committee for specific information they would like to include in the survey. There will be three surveys: junior, intermediate and senior

Several suggestions included:

- Does your daughter/son feel safe at school
- How is the communication between home and school
- Does the student feel that anything will change when they talk to teacher
- Does student feel they have a safe adult to access
- Questions regarding stigma
- Student feeling left out or bullied and is it because of a particular reason
- Communication regarding IEPS

Other

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.