

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, March 9, 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, Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC, Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada, Carole Craig, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children,

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, Special Education Consultants, Mark Howe, Kathy Green, Kyla Lightfoot, John Potocska, OSSTF

Trustees Present: Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy

Regrets: Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Christine Kay, Principal, Special Consultants Jacqueline Weresch, Jacqueline Foster, Debbie Snow

Absent: Linda Busuttil, Trustee, Wendy McIntosh-Clodd, Secondary Vice-Principal, Dr. Mary Susan Crawford, Chief Psychologist, Audra Cook, Secondary Vice-Principal, Special Education Consultants, Ben McCabe, Jackie Speers

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

Approval of Agenda March 9, 2016

Sharon Dills moved that the agenda of March 9, 2016 meeting be approved. Carole Craig seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2016

Laurie Whyte moved that the minutes be received. Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

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Action Items

Tracey Lindsay welcomed the guests in the room. Committee and staff members introduced themselves and Tracey Lindsay provided an overview of SEAC. The action items were updated with the following:

- Annual Review of UGDSB Special Education Plan – review of SEAC, SEAC brochure in the meeting today
- Climate Survey started March 1, 2016. Results will be collated by the University of Guelph and included in the Bully Prevention Plan. Parents, students and staff will complete the survey by March 11, 2016.
- PRO-Grant - Jason Offer will provide update
- Leadership for Inclusion book has been purchased but no online version was available from the publisher. The book will be put into the Terry James Resource Centre for SEAC as part of the library resources. Tracey Lindsay will request a listing of materials that are available to parents to reference.

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

VTRA Statistics Presentation

Tracey Lindsay introduced Dr. Lynn Woodford and welcomed her to the meeting. Dr. Woodford provided an overview of the Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA). She detailed the process of VTRA and protocols that have been developed. VTRA Community Protocol was first developed in 2013 and revised in 2015.

There are five trainers that are now able to provide VTRA Level 1 training. In September 2015, all Social Workers, Psychological Consultants and Secondary Child Youth Counsellors were trained. In February 2016, community partners (11 organizations) were trained. More community partner training will occur in April and all elementary Child Youth Counsellors will be trained in June 2016.

In 2015-2016, there have been 12 VTAs completed. The total number is consistent with the previous years.

The Committee thanked Dr. Woodford for her presentation.

Power Point presentation is available on UGCloud in SEAC folder for March 2016 meeting.

Specialized Class Placements

Tracey Lindsay distributed the specialized class placements chart which outlines where the classes are and how many students will in the classes in 2016-2017 to the Committee.

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She explained the process of eligibility and how the placements are determined. There has been an increased need for placements for students with DD especially in Dufferin.

Special Education Plan and Review (small group discussion)

Committee formed small groups to review and discuss changes to the Special Education Advisory Committee section of the Special Education Plan and the SEAC brochure.

Open Forum

Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada – Training on May 5 & 6, 2016 at the Hanlon Convention Centre in Guelph and throughout the area.

Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC – PRO-Grant update. Initial amount of grant was cut in half and received later than anticipated. The speaker that was tentatively booked for the event was no longer feasible because of costs. The date of April 16 selected for the SEAC event in Guelph is conflicting with the PIC/SEAC conference in Toronto. Jason Offer asked if the funds could be utilized to provide transportation for 200? parents to attend the conference. He will investigate if funding can be applied for this purpose. The symposium information on UGCloud in the SEAC meeting folder provides a link to this conference. This conference would allow more choices for our parents.

The information regarding the Conference was distributed to SEAC after the meeting. The Board has fifteen (15) spots available to send parent participants to the conference. Parent participants would include appropriate members from PIC, SEAC or any additional advisory group within our district school board.

Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County – organization continues its' work with the research shop of University of Guelph to put a list of resources out to the community. Newsletter is being sent out monthly. Planning for upcoming events is ongoing.

Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2016.

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

- Digital Saturday at Westminster Public School was a success. Children were showing off their digital skills. Kyla Lightfoot, Special Education Consultant, and Cheryl Van Ooteghem, Assistant to the Superintendent of Program, and Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program manned a Special Education booth where Kyla and Cheryl answered parent questions around the IEP and Special Education.
- February 23, 2016, Orangeville District Secondary School spent the morning focusing on mental wellness. It was the school's fifth annual mental health conference. Students participated in workshops on healthy relationships, how to help a friend with mental health challenges, yoga, drumming and Zumba. Keynote

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was a presentation by a local youth group Shed the Light. Great day for students to think about their wellness.

- This is budget time and departments submit their draft budgets to Finance. This is also the time that any budget requests are submitted. Tracey Lindsay has made two requests for Special Education and presented to Executive. These requests have been approved by Executive and included in the Program budget for review.

SEISSC Monthly Update

No updates.

Trustee Report

Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy – Thursday, March 10, 2016 is the second information night for French Review. Last Thursday March 3, 2016 the first session was held in Mount Forest at Wellington Heights. Tracey Lindsay did a great job! Third session will be held at Centennial CVI on March 30, 2016 and Centre Wellington District High School on March 31, 2016.

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

Action Items:

- In Google Drive, change the naming convention to have all the meetings in a single folder and have them labelled chronologically. This would enable many years of review.

Questions for April Topic

- ASD presentation questions

Special Education Plan Topic for April

- IEP (page 49-52)

Other

Carrie Proudfoot conveyed Linda Busuttill's concern regarding SEAC's exclusion from policy reviews. At the Board meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, Policy 305 (Accommodation Review), Policy 319 (Facility Partnerships) and Policy 320 (School Boundary Review) were presented for review. Policies did not reference SEAC as stakeholders. Linda Busuttill asked for a motion requesting that a letter be written from SEAC to the Board Chair and Trustees expressing our concern at the exclusion of SEAC as a stakeholder to be consulted within the recent staff reports and recommendations for Policy 305, 319 and 320. A vote was taken and all agreed.

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Tracey Lindsay informed the Committee that the Planning Department is scheduled to present at the April SEAC meeting to gather feedback on the Draft Policies 305, 319 and 320.

A new Action Item: SEAC Chair and Co-Chair to write letter to UGDSB Board Chair and Trustees to be consulted and considered as a stakeholder in policy reviews.

Adjournment

Laurie Whyte motioned for adjournment of meeting at 9:20 p.m. Jason Offer seconded the motion.