

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Wednesday, April 13, 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, Sue Shaw, Autism Ontario-Wellington County, Don Richardson, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario)

Present from Staff were: Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program, Cheryl Van Ooteghem, Assistant to the Superintendent of Program, Christine Kay, Principal, Audra Cook, Secondary Vice-Principal, Special Education Consultants, Mark Howe, Kyla Lightfoot, Ben McCabe, John Potocska, OSSTF

Trustees Present: Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy

Regrets: Trudy Counter, Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Services, Special Education Consultants Jacqueline Weresch, Debbie Snow

Absent: Linda Busuttil, Trustee, Wendy McIntosh-Clodd, Secondary Vice-Principal, Dr. Mary Susan Crawford, Chief Psychologist, Special Education Consultants, Jackie Speers, Kathy Green, Jacqueline Foster

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

Approval of Agenda April 13, 2016

Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy moved that the agenda of April 13, 2016 meeting be approved. Carole Craig seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2016

Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy moved that the minutes of March 9, 2016 be received. Laurie Whyte seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Upper Grand District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

Action Items

Tracey Lindsay provided updates to the following action items:

- Annual Review of UGDSB Special Education Plan – tonight's review: IEP
- Climate Survey- Results will be brought back to SEAC meeting in June. Input will be reviewed and feedback will be shared with principals. Don Richardson requested details of outreach of survey. Tracey Lindsay will contact Bonnie Talbot, Superintendent of Education for this information and bring back to SEAC
- PIC/SEAC event is this Saturday, April 16, 2016 in Toronto
- PRO-Grant – to be discussed in agenda item

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Consultation Draft Policies 305, 319 & 320

Heather Imm, Upper Grand District School Board Planning Department, thanked the committee for the opportunity to present at the meeting. Her power point presentation provided an overview of the revised Ministry guidelines and the required changes to the draft policies.

Policy 305 –**Pupil Accommodation Reviews**, Policy 319 – **Community Planning and Partnerships** and Policy 320 – **School Boundary Review** are posted on the UGDSB website for public consultation. Policies 305 and 319 have been modified to comply with revised guidelines from the Ministry of Education released in March 2015, and Policy 320 has been amended to ensure consistency with the proposed revisions to Policy 305.

The Board Policy review web page includes links to resources such as the Ministry's Guide to Pupil Accommodation Reviews which provides additional information for parents and guardians to better understand the review process. The web page also includes a feedback survey with the deadline for public input due on May 11, 2016.

Sue Shaw thanked Heather Imm for her presentation. She commented that special needs children have a very difficult time with transitions. She asked where the particular piece for accommodating special needs children was in the policy. Tracey Lindsay responded that Heather Imm will take the input back for the policy revisions.

Additional feedback from Committee may be brought to the May 11, 2016 SEAC meeting.

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

Upper Grand District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

PRO Grant

Sarah McVanel, presenter for April 30, 2016 SEAC event at Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute, joined the meeting through video conference. She asked the committee what was the one thing that they hoped people would get from the conference. Responses included: seeing the good in each party to the benefit of your child; parents to feel comfortable and able to take the first step and communicate with schools effectively; empowerment for advocate; parents come away with a good understanding of both sides, building relationships and a message of hope. Sarah asked that if anyone had additional thoughts, to email her prior to the conference.

After a brief discussion, the committee agreed on the title of the event: "Advocacy and Collaboration: Meeting your Child's Needs at School". Tracey Lindsay will ensure that the information provided by Sue Shaw is forwarded to our communication department to post on the UGDSB website.

Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy offered to provide a breakout session for the PRO Grant event on April 30, 2016.

DD Classes and Exam Schedule

Tracey Lindsay provided an update from the March SEAC meeting. In previous years, the students from DD classes attended two of the five days of exams. Superintendents have met with Principals and changes will be starting in June 2016. Students are welcome to attend school for the five days. This is optional as their peers may not be attending classes on those days. Letter has been drafted and will be sent out to parents.

Feedback was gathered from parents of potential and current students in the Gifted Program in Dufferin. Although numbers are low, two Gifted classes will be open at Spencer Avenue Public School for the next school year. Program Department will review the Gifted Program and details will come to SEAC.

Special Education Plan and Review (small group discussion)

Committee formed small groups to review and discuss changes to the Individual Education Plan section of the Special Education Plan. Groups shared their revisions which will be reviewed and incorporated in the Plan.

Open Forum

Don Richardson, Integrated Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario) (IAI) – IAI was previously a volunteer-only organization but now have a paid CEO staff member. This will enable IAI to provide more regional workshops and develop a stronger base of Provincial chapters. The Annual Conference and General Meeting will be held on June 4, 2016 in Kingston. "Natural Peer Support" is the topic for the conference. Tips, tools, approaches and experiences on inclusive engagement of student peers supporting

Upper Grand District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

students with IEPs will be presented. More information provided at the next SEAC meeting.

Jason Offer, Association for Bright Children-ABC – ABC Ontario Annual Conference will be held on May 7, 2016 in Toronto. It is an all-day event with educational sessions and breakout sessions. Jason will circulate poster to SEAC.

Stacey Stevens, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children - Annual Conference that was scheduled for May 7 is now postponed to Fall 2016. May is Speech and Hearing Awareness month. Cheryl Van Ooteghem and Trudy Counter's team will be putting on a student day for students with hearing impairment and their parents on April 27, 2016.

Sharon Dills, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County – Workshop “Building Positive Relationships with Your School” being held on April 27, 2016 at Community Living on Royal Road in Guelph. “Transitioning from Elementary to Secondary Schools” workshop on May 25, 2016 will address the changes in the IEP process. More information can be found on the [website](#). LDAWC is expanding their services and applying for a grant for “Reading Rocks”. This program was initiated in the Niagara region and LDAWC has applied for funding to bring it to Guelph. If the funding is approved, the program will hopefully be available in the fall.

Carrie Proudfoot, Autism Ontario-Wellington County – Ministry of Education [website](#) provides information about upcoming changes to Autism services. Families are welcome to attend any of the online sessions.

Laurie Whyte, FASworld Canada – presented a YouTube video "JOE Jobs Opportunities Enterprise" showing special needs adults working at the Planet Bean coffee shop in the Guelph Public Library.

Committee asked if Jen Meeker could attend a future SEAC meeting to present “Kids in Care”.

Updates from the Superintendent of Program

- Structured Teaching Workshop - a three day structured professional development workshop was provided for teachers and SERTS of DD classrooms. Teachers will have the opportunity to return to the classroom, implement strategies and provide feedback when they return the second day.
- Elementary SERT Workshop – includes transitions throughout the year. Information about ESL, structured teaching, addressing students with special needs, work of the Special Education department with curriculum and IT, to enable special needs students to use the same resources as the rest of the students.
- Skills Competition held on April 8, 2016 was the largest skills competition in Ontario with over 1,000 students participating.

Upper Grand District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

- Special Olympics pep rally was held at University of Guelph on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 to raise awareness and funds for the Spring Games which will be held on May 26 to 28, 2016, in venues across Guelph.
- Education Week takes place May 2 to 6. Official opening will be held on May 2 at Centre Dufferin District High School in Shelburne.
- Learning for All Workshops – focused on IEP writing for Secondary Special Education Heads

SEISSC Monthly Update

No updates. Next meeting is May 10, 2016.

Trustee Report

Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy – All French Review sessions have been completed.

Barbara attended the Mental Health Conference in Toronto. Topic workshops included gaming and addictions.

Student EmpoWerment Day will be held on Friday, April 15, 2016 at Centre Wellington Sportsplex in Fergus.

ESSP (ea/spa) Gala will be held on April 20, 2016 to celebrate exceptional students and their talents at the Centre Wellington Sportsplex in Fergus.

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

Action Items:

- Climate Survey – what was the outreach for the survey? Tracey Lindsay will inquire.
- Gifted Review – come back to SEAC with the plan for the review
- Feedback on Planning Policies – discussion regarding feedback at May meeting
- Kids in Care – Tracey Lindsay to invite Jennifer Meeker to present at SEAC meeting next school year

Questions for May Topic

- ASD presentation questions

Special Education Plan Topic for May

- none

Adjournment

Laurie Whyte motioned for adjournment of meeting at 9:35 p.m. Jason Offer seconded the motion.