



## GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 13, 2024 at the John McGivney Children's Centre, 3945 Matchett Road, Windsor, ON.

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association  
Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario  
Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise  
Chelsey Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association  
Lucy Coppola, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

### BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Special Education Services  
Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education  
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services  
Shawn Maheux, Financial Services Manager  
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative  
Lana Brode, Education Coordinator

### REGRETS

Martha Vukov, Community Living Essex County  
Tina Szymczak, Inclusion Action in Ontario  
Teresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

### ABSENT

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Representative

### RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

#### 2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-e-naa-bay), Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-oh-show-nee), Lenni (Len-eh) Lenape (Le-naw-pay) and allied

Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy, Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-dah-wah), Potawatomi (Paw-taw-watt-ohme) and Huron/Wendat (Wen-dat) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: J. Conrad

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC approve the Agenda of February 13, 2024

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: J. Conrad

Seconded by: N. Armstrong

That SEAC approve the Minutes of January 9, 2024

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no new business arising as a result of the Minutes.

6. Special Education Presentation

C. Mills met with T. McCarthy and K. McKinley to brainstorm topics for upcoming meeting. He thanked M. Wilcox for hosting us today.

Budget Survey presented by S. Maheux. The Ministry requires SEAC be involved in the budget, we are starting a lot earlier this year. We currently have a \$9 million deficit. The pressures relate to special education, transportation, occasional cost, inflation. It is important to get feedback from committees, as well as the public. We will be releasing 2 different surveys this year. I really encourage SEAC to provide feedback to the survey as a committee. We are looking for suggestions for potential savings. The Board will submit a deficit recovery plan to the Ministry, everything is being looked at. 80% of the Board's budget is wages and benefits. There are still a lot of unknowns. Over the next month we need to think about what is important as a group for Special Education.

Brain Computer Interface, K. Smith, from the John McGivney Children's Centre School Authority and L. Brode, Education Coordinator, presented and demonstrated the brain computer interface. JMCC has been trialing and using this technology successfully for a few of their students and the GECDSB is partnering with Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab to trial it with a select elementary and secondary students.

Tours of John McGivney Children's Centre were given by M. Wilcox.

7. Special Education Updates

PD Updates

K. Sweet gave an update on the upcoming PD for February. We are offering a series of workshops for secondary administrators, on February 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be hosting workshop #2 to discuss what they saw and what they learned from visiting GAINS programs to meet students who will be transitioning into Grade 9.

8. New Business

SEAC Letter to Minister

Budget concerns