

# **GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

## **REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022** at the Administration Office, 451 Park St., West, Windsor, ON.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Aimee Omstead, Trustee

Joanna Conrad, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

Monica Gilles, Windsor-Essex County Down Syndrome Association

Sheila Ruggaber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

Robyn Hodges, Brain Injury Association of Windsor-Essex

Bette Turner, Home and School Association

### **BOARD PERSONNEL**

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

### **REGRETS**

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

### **ABSENT**

Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative

Cathy Cooke, Trustee

### **RECORDER**

Peggy Russette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm.

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-oh-me](#)) 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 the Agenda

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: B. Turner

That SEAC approve the agenda for the SEAC meeting of November 8, 2022

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: T. McCarthy

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the minutes of the SEAC meeting of October 11, 2022

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

6. Special Education Presentation

**STRIVE Conference, Mat Burkhart, Principal, J.A. McWilliam Public School**

The STRIVE conference is an annual student symposium for grade 8 students who are formally identified with a learning disability. Students and families were invited to spend the day learning about learning disabilities as well as learning about self-advocacy. The goal for students is to learn more about themselves and hear from other students about their experiences in school and to hear about their challenges and successes. Parents will have the opportunity to participate in sessions geared to their learning about learning disabilities and how to support their child as they transition to secondary school.

**Special Education Plan 2022 – Community Feedback**

Feedback from the first four standards were discussed showing feedback received from the survey. It was noted that some of the comments were very general and very brief. M. Wilcox noted that we would use the input for possible changes to the Plan for 2023-24 when it was reviewed over the winter and into the spring of 2023. It was noted that parent concerns/feedback would normally be followed-up with the child's school through the normal communication protocol. External psychological assessments were brought up and it was shared by Dr. Crundwell that they were provided to schools and once parent consent was received. The Board's psychologist/psychological associate reviews the assessment and provides

Each assessment is designed for a specific grade level ranging from K-6 and measures critical skills for early readers.

