

# **GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, April 11 2023 at the Administration Office, 451 Park St. West, Windsor, Ontario. This meeting was held in-person and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

Kim McKinley, Trustee

Bette Turner, Home and School Association

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

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

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative

### **BOARD PERSONNEL**

Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Special Education Services

Kristie Sweet, Supervising Principal of Special Education Services

Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological Services

### **ABSENT**

### **REGRETS**

Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise

Martha Vukov, Community Living Windsor-Essex County

Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association

Theresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 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](#)), Leni ([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*



#### Decodable Readers

- English: Dandelion Readers (x6), SyllaSense (x6) & Catchup Readers for RISE & ESL
- French: Facile à lire, Sami et Julie

BEE for Reading (tier 1 K, tiers 2 and 3)

Graphique tout-en-un

Son-au-graphe

University of Florida Literacy Institute, UFLI (Gr. 1-3)

Brightspace Course – Growing Literacy

Lakeshore Learning Kits and literacy kits for FI

Sound Walls (posters available at the Media Centre)

Big Books – Oral language resource (Piloted in 5 schools – Kindergarten)

Discussion took place following T. Wilcox's presentation where the following questions were answered:

1. How is this different from DRA?

DRA is not a research-based tool, and Quick Phonics Screener gives a more detailed report.

2. How are Lexia and Empower being used?

Lexia is a Tier 2 reading intervention based on needs and Empower is for Tier 3 students. These interventions are provided in all of our schools.

3. Are ESL students taught differently?

ESL students may learn easier if they know the meaning of the words by attaching visuals.

4. How were the schools selected?

Schools were selected based on the EQAO scores and the schools with lower scores were selected.

7. Review of the Special Education Plan (Standards 9 to 16)

The following standards were reviewed with the SEAC committee:

Standard 9: Special Education Placements Provided by the Board

Standard 10: Individual Education Plans (IEP's) and Transition Planning

Standard 11: Provincial Demonstration Schools in Ontario

Standard 12: Special Education Staff

Standard 13: Staff Development

Standard 14: Equipment

Standard 15: Accessibility of School Buildings

Standard 16: Transportation

Feedback/revisions were collected to apply to the 2023-2024 plan.

8. Special Education Update – PD Update

Empower Day 4 training for new LSTs

Reading Language Intervention Pilot Project Workshop #5 for selected GAINS teachers.

Subject Specific PD Day, April 28<sup>th</sup> which includes PD for secondary LSTs, STEPS teachers and support staff.  
Gifted Fieldtrip to St. Clair College, for students with a gifted exceptionality from grades 5 to 8.

9. New Business

M. Wilcox shared that he will be stepping down as Superintendent of Special Education and that Chris Mills will be in the role effective May 1<sup>st</sup>.

10. Association Reports

T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – World Autism Day was celebrated this past Sunday (April 2, 2023). The theme is ‘Celebrate the Spectrum’, for the month of April.

Autism Ontario has recently shared with all of its SEAC members, the following resources related to special education funding, as Boards and SEAC members



- x PAAC 23 Education Funding TJ(an)10 (d S)(at)2 oar6 (o)10 R56 Tmte.36 Tm(r)7 Tw1  
A Guide to the Special Education Grant  
PAAC on SEAC Tip Sheet (PAAC – Provincial Advisory Committee)

