

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

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on June 11, 2024, at the Administration Building, 451 Park Street W., Windsor, ON.

## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario

Chelsea Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association

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

Kim McKinley, Trustee

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: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: C. Lackovic

That SEAC approve the Agenda for June 11, 2024.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: T. McCarthy

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the Minutes of May 14, 2024.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

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

6. Special Education Presentation

Special Education Budget

S. Armstrong and S. Maheux presented on the Special Education Budget. Each year we present the draft budget as it relates to Special Education. SEAC has an opportunity to participate in the budget. They shared that the budget as it is today, is under review. 97.8% of Special Education budget relates to staffing. The Board presented a preliminary budget to the Trustees on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We are projecting a deficit of \$6.4 million. All efforts for cost reduction have been looked at, for example professional development, meal, contingency without touching staffing. 80% of the overall budget represents salary and benefits. The deficit must be addressed over the next 2 years. They shared the 3 options with the Committee. First option is

Per Pupil Allocation, is base funding to support all students with special education needs. Funding is primarily intended for staffing costs, as well as professional development and learning materials. This allocation is based on total enrollment (not just students with special education needs).

Differentiated Needs Allocation, addresses the variation among school boards with meet those needs due to geographic, linguistic, and sociodemographic factors.

Complex Supports Allocation, is for specialized supports for students with complex special education needs, including students who require support from more than two full-time board-paid staff at a time due to health and safety needs, children and youth who cannot attend regular school due to their primary need for care, treatment or because of a court order to serve a custody or detention sentence; and students with autism and other special education needs.

Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) is to assist with costs of specialized equipment essentials to support students with special education needs. This component is made up of the SEA Formula component and the SEA Claims-Based component.

The reported Special Education deficit is \$10.1 million, to help reduce this deficit we look to other areas.

We compared support staff from year to year, no reduction in support staff, with the exception of 5.5 FTE positions. We are combining the Education Assistant (EA) and Developmental Service Worker (DSW) to a single job classification of Student Support Worker (SSW), at a higher grid amount. This exception is to maintain the same level of

Ø Are other boards facing the same situation? If we look at Thames Valley DSB, they are more than double our size, their Special Education deficit is three times less, with over 80,000 students.

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Discussion

- Ø Traditionally SEAC meetings have been held on Tuesdays, change with DC we are looking for another date, A vote of 20009 to 21002684.7 BT 5/12n BT 0 0 1 339.9

A vote was called to move the meetings to Wednesday, and it was carried.

- Ø MACSE: Collaborating with the Community May 2024  
C. Mills would welcome input.

8. New Business

A motion was made that SEAC support Option 1 for the budget to bring to the Trustees.

Moved by: T. McCarthy

Seconded by: J. Conrad

Discussion

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T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario The David Conforti - Reach for the Stars Award. This award is given to volunteers in the community who have made a direct impact on the lives of children and/or adults with autism. Applications can be found on the Autism Ontario website.

Building Brighter Futures Fund (BBFF) - Financial assistance provided to adults with autism, to better access participation in their communities. These reimbursements could include fees paid for recreation, skill development, respite, professional supports, tuition, etc. Information available on the Autism Ontario website.

Journey to Adulthood - An Overview - June 12th (6:30 - 8:30) pm online via ZOOM. A session for caregivers to assist with the transition from youth to adult. A broad overview will be provided regarding adult services, funding, and supports with key dates for applying. Information available on the Autism Ontario website to participate.

Additional Sessions Available:

June 17th: National Indigenous Peoples Day - Woodland Arts

June 20th: Awesome Moms

June 24th: Rad Dads

June 27th: How to Submit Your OAP Expenses Information Sessions

All above sessions are in the evening. Additionally, the above sessions will also be available for participation in July 2024 as well.

June 29th or June 30th: Autism Ontario Weekend at the Zoo

#### 10. Distribution

There was no distribution.

#### 11. Adjournment at 3:08pm



NEXT MEETING, Wednesday September 11, 2024

Board Meeting Minutes available on [GECD SB website](#).

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)