



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-03

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, November 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

SEAC Members

Present: Chair T. Waldschmidt, L. Boswell, P. Boutis, C. Brady, B. Caers-Bruce, R. Collver, L. DeJong, A. Detmar, M. Gatopoulos, K. Jones, W. Rose, L. Scott, CA Sloat, J. Trovato, T. Wilson.

Regrets: T. Buchanan, M. Carpenter, A. Csoff, R. Winter.

Resource Staff

Present: P. Bagchee, L. Boudreault, K. Mertins, S. Slaman, L. Thompson, J. White.

Recorder: P. Curran.

Guests: W. Backus-Kelly, Teacher Consultant – Gifted, J. Gemmill – ITS Staff, S. Gibson – Alternate Trustee, L. Sheppard.

A-1 Opening **T. Waldschmidt**

(a) Welcome T. Waldschmidt

Chair Waldschmidt welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) Agenda Additions / Deletions / Approvals T. Waldschmidt

i. Add H-1 (b) Community Information Brant, Haldimand & Norfolk record views during Covid – L. Boswell

ii. Add H-1 (c) Woodview Clinic Appointment Process - Amanda Detmar

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: L. DeJong

THAT the SEAC 20-03 Agenda for Thursday, November 19, 2020 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

B-1 Timed Items **T. Waldschmidt**

(a) None



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-03

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, November 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

C-1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings T. Waldschmidt

(a) Ratification of Minutes October 15, 2020 Meeting T. Waldschmidt

- i. Add A. Detmar to the attendance.
- ii. J-1 (b) Correct CCAT from CCAP.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: C. Brady

THAT the Minutes of SEAC 20-02 held October 15, 2020 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(b) Standard 4 Early Identification Procedures and Interventions Strategies J. White /
L. Boudreault

This standard was brought to SEAC last year when members queried if the information could be made more family friendly.

The major changes were highlighted including clarification of the term “early identification” which refers to the recognition of particular strengths, abilities, and needs rather than a formal identification process through an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

The draft also explains that supports can be provided for students who are not formally identified as exceptional students. Schools can move toward an IPRC after sufficient time at school to track attempted interventions.

A chart was constructed showing the role of the educator team and the parent that clearly outlines the connections between home and school.

It was determined that this Standard should list only the community umbrella organizations who could be contacted for up to date information about specific community programs. The Early ON list was also removed as it is not a requirement of the standard.

Members questioned if the consent form could be more detailed and if an indication parents can request an IPRC could be included. They would also like to see a space indicated for the private assessment information.

All suggestions will be considered, and the revised Standard will be included in the spring presentation of the 2020-21 Special Education Plan.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-03

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, November 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

- (c) Individual Education Plan (IEP) Goal Setting S. Slaman

Learning Expectations; Policy and Resource Guide 2017 is the foundation for Grand Erie's an Alternative Program Guide which includes Communication Functional Academic Independent living and Social skills.

At 6:31 Chair T. Waldschmidt was called away and Vice-Chair W. Rose assumed role of Chair.

Questions –

Q-1 How committed is the student to the goals of the IEP?

A-1 This topic has been discussed at the board level and with families. It must be a collaborative process with input from all stakeholders and guidance as to what goals need to be.

Q-2 When is the student voice considered in developing the goals of the IEP?

A-2 Conversations are helpful, and the student voice is important. It is also important to know at what point the student voice becomes more predominant.

Professionals and parents have more input on the development of goals for children at younger ages. It can take a long way to help students understand what their goal is and help them understand a vision for what their life will look like when they're finished with school; they need help to think about the short and long term goals that will shape their life.

- (d) Grand Erie's Roadmap L. Thompson

The Roadmap was discussed at a virtual meeting with school administrators and is available under Special Education Resources on our website.

- D-1 New Business W. Rose**

- (a) C-CAT Data 2019-20 K. Mertins / W. Backus-Kelly

C-CAT is the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test of which Grand Erie is in the 2nd year of administering the 7th edition. The test is administered to groups of children using the same materials and providing the same instructions. Questions are multiple choice and answers are recorded using paper and pencil. The C-CAT is designed to measure cognitive ability in different domains

The results show how Grand Erie students performed relative to a large group of Canadian children of the same age.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-03

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, November 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

These tests show little variance between the scores of boys versus that of girls. Overall scores were well within the average range.

Accommodations may be provided to students who require the test read to them or who require a scribe. In both instances, this would occur in a separate room from the other students being tested and would only be possible if space and staffing is available. Testing in this manner must be reported with the child's test results. To date, Grand Erie has not offered these accommodations.

The board's System Research Lead will transfer data to a format for principal access. A plan for delivery in both physical and virtual learning environments is being developed in January 2021.

Section 23 students are not tested by Grand Erie as they are not technically students of the board. Special Education staff will discuss C-CAT testing with these agencies.

Results will be reviewed with the school Learning Resource Teacher and reports will be sent home with the student. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the school with any concerns. They may also go to CogAT.com and enter student information to get a profile.

<https://www.riversideinsights.com/apps/cogat>

E-1

Other Business

W. Rose

(a)

2019-20 Grand Erie's Student Achievement Plan: Success for Every Student – Outcomes Report for Students with Special Education Needs

L. Thompson

Superintendent Thompson reviewed the highlights contained in the updated document and explained the renewed model brings supports closer to the classroom rather than removing children.

Professional learning was provided to develop team teaching and to develop the capacity of teachers to meet the learning needs of students in their class.

The report includes anecdotes of success and challenges using the new model.

Plans for the 2020-21 school year will be included in the next report.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-03

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, November 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

- (b) 2020-21 Grand Erie's Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being:
Success for Every Student

Superintendent Thompson explained the areas in red indicate anything new for this year and told members that Special Education and Program teams have collaborated on this plan.

Student wellbeing is now being measured and monitored and the plan also includes some Mental Health Literacy for staff.

Staff continue to focus on the social/emotional needs of students which is highly correlated to student achievement.

- (c) Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) Updates

L. Thompson

A virtual meeting on October 30 included a presentation by Claudine Munroe, Director Special Education and Success for All who provided a review of updates to the supports and initiatives the Ministry has provided in the areas of special education and mental health since the inception of the pandemic.

She also provided participants with an update on the K-12 Education Standards Development Committee. This Committee's work is focused on the Grade K-12 sector, and a key goal of their work is the development of proposed recommendations that focus on preventing and removing barriers that are not already covered under existing accessibility standards under the AODA or other legislation. There are 8 Sub-Committees in the K-12 group with areas of focus ranging from attitudes, behaviours, perceptions and assumptions, to curriculum, instruction and assessment, to physical and architectural barriers to names just three.

The meeting minutes are publicly posted and can be found at this website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/standards-development-committee-meeting-minutes#section-0>

The participants were also provided with Trends in Special Education Data from a provincial lens. The most interesting piece of data shared was that currently 48% of students with special education needs are identified through the IPRC process and 52% of students with special education needs are not identified through the IPRC process. Also 17.6% of all students in the province have special education needs (both identified through the IPRC and non-identified).



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-03

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, November 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

- F-1 Standing Items** **W. Rose**
- (a) Policy/Procedures Out for Comment L. Thompson
- Members are advised to check the board's website <https://www.granderie.ca/board/about/bylaws-policies-procedures-protocols> to determine how to provide input, the timeframe, and to know which documents are currently available for comment.
- G-1 Information Items** **W. Rose**
- (a) Member Resignation and new Agency Representative
- Committee members were informed that N. Schuur had submitted her resignation and that A. Csoff had been appointed by H-N REACH as her replacement.
- H-1 Community Updates** **W. Rose**
- i. Integration Action for Inclusion (IAI) P. Boutis
- Ms. Boutis explained she was recently elected President of the IAI and reviewed the two letters prepared last year that were included in this month's package.
- This organization focuses on inclusive practices, especially for students with disabilities and is considering forming a local chapter.
- ii. Community Information BHN L. Boswell
- Ms. Boswell explained the Community Information Brant Haldimand and Norfolk database is managed by Contact Brant.
- She recently completed a project for the City of Brantford determining which type of services were most viewed both pre- and during COVID.
- Records indicate 1.2 M views for 2020 with 122K unique viewers. During COVID, there was a growth of 227% in the number of people seeking information on SEAC (180 up to 589 views) and a 307% increase of people seeking Grand Erie trustee information (963 to 3,919 views).
- iii. Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services Amanda Detmar
- (a) Clinic Access
- Dr. office can call to set up appointments to make access easier for families.
- Appointments are available Monday to Saturday.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-03

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, November 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

- (b) Downtown Hub in Harmony Square

Drop in programming has reconvened on Friday nights with flexible programming outdoor when weather permits and with all relevant COVID 19 restrictions.

I-1 Correspondence

W. Rose

- (a) LDAO SEAC Circular – November 2020
Received as information.

- (b) MOE Memorandum on School Board Supports for 2020-21
Received as information.

- (c) Changes to Suspensions and Expulsions April 2020
Received as information.

- (d) Ltr – TVDSB SEAC re Masks and Hearing-Impaired 28 Sept 2020

L. Thompson

Superintendent Thompson explained the Ministry released clear masks / shields for students with specific exceptionalities.

This was announced November 19/2020 to Grand Erie school administrators who received an allocation in collaboration with Health and Safety staff.

School staff reported many requests that fell outside the Ministry criteria and that the masks muffle sound and fog easily.

More information will be reported at the next meeting.

J-1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

W. Rose

- (a) Suspensions and Expulsions – C A Sloat
Reminder this will be on the December agenda.

K-1 Next Meeting

W. Rose

- (a) Thursday, December 17, 2020 | MS Teams | 6:00 p.m.

L-1 Adjournment

W. Rose

Moved by: K. Jones
Seconded By: L. DeJong

“THAT the SEAC 20-03 meeting of November 19, 2020 meeting be adjourned at 8:03 p.m.”

CARRIED