



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 17, 2022

6:00 PM

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Chair W. Rose, P. Bagchee, L. Boswell, C. Brady, T. Buchanan, R. Collver, L. DeJong, A. Detmar, M. Gatopoulos, J. Gemmill, K. Jones, L. Nydam, T. Sault, L. Thompson, J. Trovato, T. Waldschmidt, J. White, T. Wilson. R. Wyszynski.

Regrets: A, Csoff, F. Lainson, L. Scott, L. Sheppard

Recorder: P. Curran

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome**

W. Rose called the meeting to order and read the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

(b) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Add D-1 (c) Resignation of P. Boutis.

Moved by: C. Brady

Seconded by: A. Detmar

THAT the SEAC 21-06 Agenda for Thursday, February 17, 2022 be approved as amended.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Financial Update 2021-22**

Special Education funding, grants, expenditures and reserves for the current school year were reviewed.

(b) **2022-23 Budget Process**

A review of the 2022-23 budget process occurred, with the presentation of a balanced budget to trustees being the main objective.

Senior staff members are exploring areas of investment where new initiatives may be available.

SEAC members were encouraged to attend budget meetings and/or to provide suggestions to the Superintendent of Business in advance of the scheduled meetings.

1. Tuesday April 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Monday May 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
3. Thursday May 26, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
4. Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

(a) **Ratification of Minutes from Thursday, January 20, 2022**

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the SEAC 21-05 minutes for Thursday, January 20, 2022 be approved as circulated.

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(b) **Expulsions and Exclusions for Students with Special Education Needs**

Expulsion is considered a punitive action which occurs for substantial issues at a school. Expulsion can be from just the school or can be from all schools within a board.

Exclusion is a different process and is not considered punitive. It is enacted when a student's presence poses a significant safety risk. There must be a re-entry plan which includes remediating measures be put in place.

The number of students with special needs that were expelled and excluded in 2020-21 was shared.

(c) **Wait Lists for Psychological Services**

Many Ontario school boards are experiencing significant wait lists as the need for services is greater than the qualified personnel available. There is also a waitlist for local private practitioners.

Grand Erie is taking several steps to address waitlists. These steps include ongoing consultation on tiered interventions; developing the Academic Readiness Screener to assess and remediate baseline skills; and conducting additional psychoeducational assessments during March Break and the summer months. There is also strategic planning and monitoring related to the waitlists for Psychoeducational Assessments.

SEAC will send a letter of advocacy to the appropriate body regarding the concerns with wait lists for psychoeducational assessments.

(d) **Self-Contained Classroom Planning Update**

The process for determining location and types of self-contained classrooms was explained. A discussion ensued with input from SEAC members.

D - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) Updates**

One of the guest presenters spoke about human rights cases and recommendations that have come from them, and further connected recommendations with concerns and challenges that could arise with respect to the draft PPM 81 provided by the Ministry of Education currently out for consultation.

The second guest presenter spoke about the Toronto DSB's movement toward de-streaming using a Kindergarten to G12 approach.

(b) **PPM81 (Policy/Program Memorandum) Consultation Update**

Members received an overview of the draft PPM 81 which was received by Grand Erie in mid-January.

The PPM covers school health support services, school-based rehabilitation services and/or community based clinical services. Responsibilities of these services are shared across education, health and community sectors.



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The general consensus is to slow down the review process to ensure the new PPM is completed with attention to detail. February 25 is the new deadline for submission for comments on PPM81.

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=KRLczSgsl0u3ig5crLWGXCvev_jkIERDlpv9KNwwwy5hUMENXQINWRjJIRFIFTzQzTUdSWIdaNzdOTC4u

(c) **Resignation of SEAC Member**

Members were informed that P. Boutis resigned from the committee. P. Curran will create a letter of thanks for the Chair's signature.

E - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Appendix H - Special Education Plan**

This document is not a required standard or appendix but has been included in the Special Education Plan to help SEAC members and the public.

Updating the document is onerous and as all acronyms are spelled out in the minutes, this appendix will be removed from the current Special Education Plan Review.

Members asked for hyperlink definitions for any acronyms.

F - 1 **Standing Items**

(a) **Policies/Procedures Out for Comment**

Comments on currently reviewed policies or procedures may be submitted to policiesandprocedures@granderie.ca according to the timeline listed.

(b) **Trustee Updates**

i. T. Waldschmidt

- Wished P. Boutis well in her future endeavours and thanked her for all her work on the Committee.

ii. R. Collver

- Extracurricular activities are able to resume, and we are appreciative to the staff and volunteers who give up their time to supervise these students.
- Reviewing the mandate for masks at the Junior and Senior Kindergarten level, at the March 7, 2022 meeting.
- Presentation from Superintendent of Business included information that the GSN (Grants for Student Needs) was received early which facilitates planning.
- February is Black History Month and Grand Erie students have focused on identifying and recognizing the many accomplishments of successful black persons.

G - 1 **Information Items**

Nil

H - 1 **Community Updates**

Nil



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I - 1 Correspondence

- (a) LDAO SEAC Circular: February 2022
 - i. Included information on PPM 81
 - ii. Article on Access to Individual Education Plans and how some schools may discourage.
 - iii. MACSE (Minister's Advisory Counsel on Special Education) Update
- (b) Lakehead DB re: Support Service Personnel Jan 17, 2022
 - Shortage of Personal Support Workers (PSW); this is not a concern to Grand Erie as we do not employ PSWs
- (c) Algoma DSB re: Bill 172 Jan 11 2021
 - Grand Erie has already acted on this issue.
- (d) Renfrew County CDSB Re: Online Learning/Universal Design Jan 13, 2022
- (e) Durham DSB re: SIP Funding Feb 3, 2022
 - The Ministry funds are based on previous enrollment and as we have fewer students, so Grand Erie's salaries were covered with current funding.

J - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

- (a) PPM167 (Policy/Program Memorandum) Online Learning Graduation Requirement
- (b) Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Funding

K - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022 | 6:00 PM | MS Teams Virtual Meeting.

L - 1 Adjournment

W. Rose called for adjournment.

Moved by: M. Gatopoulos

Seconded by: L. Boswell

THAT the SEAC 21-06 meeting held February 17, 2022 be adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Carried