



**TRILLIUM LAKELANDS DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Time: 5pm
Location: Video Conference

Members Present: A. Brown, J. Balfour, L. Burgess, S. Burke, D. Morrison, J. Read,
R. Vernescu
Regrets: D. Callan, A. Gordon, J. Hermer, L. Morin, K. Round
Staff Present: J. Andreasen, K. Cutler, K. MacIver, T. McAlpine

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by A. Brown, seconded by S. Burke
That the agenda be approved as presented
Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2015

Moved by S. Burke, seconded by A. Brown
That the minutes from the April 7, 2015 SEAC meeting be approved as presented
Carried.

3. Updates

Superintendent Kevin Cutler provided the following updates to SEAC regarding Board, staff and department initiatives:

- The fifth annual Power to Change Camp will occur from Thursday, May 7, 2015 until Saturday, May 9, 2015 in partnership with Me to We. 10 TLDSB staff and 23 students are attending; the premise of the camp is leadership development and action planning for students who may be involved with relational aggression.
- Friday, May 8, 2015 is the Fourth Annual GSA Conference called *It's A Great Day to Be Out* at Bark Lake; approximately 80 students are attending from across the Board.
- The Principal's Advisory Group (PAG) will be meeting on May 13, 2015 to discuss fair and equitable allocation of educational assistants in schools across the system for September 2015.

District Principal of Specialized Services Katherine MacIver provided the following updates to SEAC regarding department professional development and system initiatives:

- SERTs across the board met last week; the professional development for SERTS this year has been focused around the *Be Our Guest* book and customer service in schools (with parents, community organizations, students etc.)
- A new Autism Consultant was hired to join the department 2 weeks ago; Linda Hachmer will be working out of MEC on the Autism Portfolio, to replace a consultant leave of absence.
- The Ministry of Education hosted a Barrie Regional Special Education Meeting in mid-April; the regional meetings are an opportunity for Superintendents, Consultants, District Principals and others from across the region to brainstorm, share successes, develop common messaging and provide feedback on special education programs and initiatives in Barrie Region Boards.

SEAC Members J. Balfour, L. Burgess, Trustee Representative D. Morrison and Superintendent K. Cutler updated SEAC on the SEAC MACSE conference which occurred on May 2, 2015. The following feedback on the conference was provided:

- Conference was informative and a good opportunity to connect with other Boards and other SEACs;
- Sessions included: Engaging Parents, PRO grants, Advice and Influences, Basic Intro to SEAC, IEP Session, Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee;
- Trustee Morrison sat on a panel; did an excellent, eloquent job sharing TLDSB experiences and discussing challenges Boards face in relation to Special Education.

4. *Presentation: Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CaPS) (TLDSB Psychoeducational Consultant Tara McAlpine)*

Psychoeducational Consultant Tara McAlpine shared an update on Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CaPS)

Background:

- Based on premise of: *Kids do well if they can*- Dr. Ross Greene
- Community Partners who are currently involved:
 - CHIMO
 - Lindsay Boys and Girls Club
 - CAS
 - Community Living
 - Point in Time

- Pilot Schools for 2014-2015:
 - Queen Victoria
 - King Albert
 - Dr. George Hall
 - Scott Young
 - Bobcaygeon
 - Langton
 - JD Hodgson
 - Cardiff/ Wilberforce
 - Bracebridge PS
 - Riverside
- Implementation Plan has been developed
- Weekly meetings have been occurring since November via teleconference with Dr. Ross Greene and Board/ Community Partner Proficiency Trainers
- Proficiency Trainers working with in-school CaPS team in the Pilot Schools; working on training those teams on CaPS process

Summary of CaPS:

- Challenging behaviours = demands placed on students exceed their skills

Conventional Knowledge	CaPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attention seeking ▪ Non-compliant and defiant ▪ Manipulative and sneaky ▪ Limit testing ▪ unmotivated 	Lagging skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emotional regulation ▪ Executive function ▪ Social skills ▪ Language processing ▪ Communication ▪ Cognitive Flexibility

- Identify lagging skill and working collaboratively on working on the skills
- CaPS will:
 - Reduce challenging behavior
 - Improve communication
 - Repair and nurture relationships
 - Facilitate the development of problem solving
- Bill of Rights for Behaviourally Challenged Kids
- What about reinforcement?
 - Teaches basic information and rules
 - Provides extrinsic motivation
 - Works in some situations only
- CaPS works when kids lack skill...not will

- Adult role in CaPS
 - Identify lagging skills
 - Identify where skills are lagging
 - Work collaboratively on solutions
- ALSUP- Assessment of Lagging Skills and Unsolved Problems
- Identify lagging skills AND identifies the situations when kids are challenging
- ALSUP NOT a rating skill/ focused on behavior. It is a discussion tool and means of identifying lagging skills and problems to be solved
- An Unsolved Problem (per the ALSUP)...wording essential
 - Not the behavior
 - Free of adult theories
 - Should be split not clumped
 - Should be as specific as possible
 - Who, what, where and when...NOT why
- Handling Unsolved Problems...three options:
 - Plan A
Adult solves the problem
 - Plan B
Solve the problem collaboratively
 - Plan C
Set problem aside for now
- Plan B conversations
 - Most ideal
 - Three steps:
 - 1) Empathy Step (kid's concern...I noticed that/ you have difficulty with/what's up with that + use 8 drilling strategies)
 - 2) Define the problem (adult concern...how the problem affects the kid and how it affects others...the thing is/ I need you to be/ and when...)
 - 3) Invitation (invite student to brainstorm solutions that are realistic and meet both concerns...I wonder if there is a way that you can feel good/ so I would know that...etc.)
 - Reevaluate the situation- effective?
- Next steps: bring more schools/ agency partners on Board
- www.livesinthebalance.org
- Good alignment potential with Feed All Four

5. Discussion: Special Education Plan Review- Section 10 (District Principal K. Maclver)

- Section 10 Special Education Plan (Categories of Exceptionalities and Student Placements) was reviewed by Special Education Advisory Team, who provided a number of recommendations;
- Based on the input thus far, District Principal Maclver has put a new draft copy of Section 10 together for SEAC to review;
- Will share with SEAC members to review and provide opportunity for response/ feedback at the June SEAC Meeting.

6. SEAC Initiative Updates:

- SEAC Brochures Update (District Principal K. Maclver)
 - Brochures presented by Director Hope as a SEAC initiative in the fall of 2014
 - SEAC agreed that the brochures/ informational pieces would be a useful resources and chose 5 topics to start with:
 - Learning Disabilities;
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder;
 - MID;
 - Behaviour;
 - Developmental Disability.
 - Informational pieces will be in parent friendly language and have consistent headings/ standardized format and appearance:
 - Definition
 - Criteria for Identification
 - Student Supports and Advocacy
 - Program/Placement Options
 - Community Partners and Resources
 - Steps in the process
 - TLDSB Contact Information
 - Will expand topics/ exceptionalities after the first ones are developed

Moved by R. Vernescu

That FASD be considered as a brochure to be developed in the first round of brochure development (to take the total to 6 areas of focus)

Carried by majority.

- Anyone interested in supporting brochure development contact Jen Andraesen to advise.
- Future initiative - to also develop information pages about System Classes.

- SEAC Website Update (District Principal K. MacIver)
 - Communications Department has developed a SEAC page on the website
 - Purpose is to ensure that we have information available to community
 - Included in the SEAC website:
 - Definition of SEAC;
 - What are parent associations;
 - Links to policy, procedure, regulations, ministry information;
 - Meeting times;
 - Steps for concern resolution;
 - Links to associations, past minutes and highlights.
 - Suggestions and input provided by Committee:
 - Anything with dates need to go under highlights immediately after meeting
 - Embed a counter
 - Look into having it in more than one location (under community, parents, trustees headings?)
 - Next steps:
 - Work with communications department to go live
 - SEAC can suggest additions/changes at any time

- Special Needs Data Update (Superintendent K. Cutler)
 - Superintendent Cutler provided a 3 year comparison of data for students with Special Needs including information on:
 - Board enrolment (FTE);
 - Number of IEPs;
 - Number of Identified Students;
 - Number of students by exceptionalities;
 - Students with special needs- regional distribution.
 - Seeing increase in student needs (identification of exceptionalities, IEPs), even though total FTE or overall student population is declining
 - SEAC determined that the data would be reviewed again at the next SEAC meeting to assist in determining if a letter should be written to the Minister

7. SEAC Schedule for 2015-2016

- Draft for the 2015-2016 SEAC schedule was shared for consideration
- SEAC input was as follows:
 - Maintaining the first Tuesday of the month as the SEAC meeting date was agreed upon by Committee
 - Change September meeting to a teleconference
- The final schedule will be brought forward for approval in June

8. June SEAC Dinner Location

- The Committee consensus was that the June meeting will be catered at the conference centre in Minden

9. Association and Community News

- Leslie Burgess from Tourette Canada- Muskoka Chapter provided the following updates to SEAC:
 - The annual Trek for Tourette occurred in March; in Muskoka over \$5000 was raised and there were 65 participants involved
 - On March 26th there was an in-service at Bracebridge Public School to a grade 7 class via Skype regarding Tourette Syndrome; overall the presentation was a success- the students were engaged and the teacher felt it was a great learning opportunity
- Roxana Vernescu from FASD One provided the following update to SEAC:
 - A Provincial Strategy on FASD is in the process of being developed; a number of members from FASD One are providing input
- Jamie Read from Autism Ontario shared the following with SEAC:
 - Autism Ontario is continuing to run regular events; an update will be shared with SEAC via email
 - Autism awareness day occurred on April 2, 2015 and went very well; there were schools from TLDSB involved
- Janice Balfour from LDAP provided the following update to SEAC
 - LDAP is currently focused on fundraising initiatives; visit the LDAP website for online auction information

10. Items for Discussion/ Consideration for Action

- SEAC Member ACTION ITEMS:
 - Consider applying for PRO grant in 2016
 - Develop a SEAC orientation program in the future for incoming/ new SEAC members
 - SEAC members interested in supporting brochure development to advise J. Andreasen
- Department ACTION ITEMS:
 - Provide all SEAC members with copies of *Lost at School*
 - Share CaPS PowerPoint with SEAC
 - Share section 10 of Special Education Plan with SEAC
 - Share Special Education Data with SEAC
 - Continue to work on brochures/ informational flyers
 - Arrange for SEAC website to go live

11. Correspondence

- cc letter from LDSB to MOE re: FASD
 - SEAC received the letter for information; no response required.
- cc letter from LDSB to OPSBA re: FASD
 - SEAC received the letter for information; no response required.
- letter from MCYS (FYI only from SEAC member) re: FASD strategy
 - SEAC received the letter for information.

12. Future Business

- Section 10 of Special Education Plan – input on new draft (June)
- Re-visit Students with Special Needs Data (June)
- Budget Input & Presentation by Superintendent Kaye (June)
- SEAC schedule for 2015-2016 Approval (June)
- SEAC Expenses (June)
- Community Hub Tables Verbal Update (June)
- Special Needs Strategy Verbal Update (June)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Programs/ Initiatives (Fall)
- Department Vision and Mission Updates/ Input (Fall)
- Presentation on FASD (Fall- SEAC Member R. Vernescu)
- Adult Education Review (Fall)

13. Next Meeting – New SEAC

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

5pm – Dinner Meeting @ HCEC

14. Adjournment

Moved by A. Brown

That the meeting be adjourned

Carried.