

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	Present: E. Clow, Member-at-Large K. Hill, Member-at-Large L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston K. Wood, Community Living Kingston A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) S. Patay, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children Regrets: H. Clark, Autism Ontario
	Staff:
	Present: M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services S. Gillam, Superintendent, Learning for All N. Dillard, Vice-Principal of Educational Services C. Snider, Special Education Program Coordinator T. Vail, Special Education Program Coordinator A. Ward, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead W. Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	J. Dooley, Administrative Assistant

1. WELCOME

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair McGregor read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

“The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow that the agenda be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 SEAC Minutes March 20, 2024

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the March 20, 2024, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Presentation: Student and Family Friendly IEP and IPRC Support Materials – Jessi Lalonde, Special Education Coordinator shared an in-depth report on both elementary and secondary IEP and IPRC resources.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board – Follow-up letter to Director Charmaine Pereira regarding the recruitment and retention of Educational Assistants, dated February 21, 2024. Provided for information.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

None at this time.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Scot Gillam shared the following:

A. Ministry Updates:

None currently other than announcement of funding doubling to support new builds and capital improvements. We anticipate the imminent release of Grants for Student Needs or GSNs to school boards.

B. Educational Services Update:

April 8, 2024, PA Day

Supporting Inclusive Spaces in LDSB classrooms – Dr Lee Airton. Other work included staff identifying Tiered Interventions/Levels of Support across the system and their impact/role in these tiers.

Educational Assistant (EA) Allocation Process

The EA Allocation process has begun for the 2024-25 school year. Last week all schools submitted their school profile which provides valuable data and information to inform allocations across our District. Information in the profile includes current school supports, students requiring intensive/shared support, transition information, and special education data (IEP/IPRC). This data is thoroughly reviewed by the team at Educational Services as we equitably distribute resources to all schools. We are pleased that this year we will have an additional 17 school-based EA positions to allocate to schools.

School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) System Leadership Course

The Senior Team, Communications Team, Managers, and Assistant Managers of LDSB are all taking part in the SMHO System Leadership course. This course consists of five modules that will be facilitated by the Mental Health Lead, Laura Conboy over the course of the Spring.

Student Support Teacher (SST) and Learning Program Support (LPS) Teacher PD

The next SST meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, and the next LPS meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Mental Health Week – May 6-10, 2024

Every year Limestone recognizes [Mental Health Week](#), supported by the Canadian Mental Health Association. This year's Mental Health Week is centered on the healing power of compassion. Join us from May 6 to 12, 2024, to explore how compassion connects us all.

During the week of April 15, 2024, Mental Health Lead, Laura Conboy, will be sending schools a variety of optional resources that they may use to recognize the week. These will include:

- Daily social media posts
- Daily announcements
- Resource handouts for educators and mental health support staff
- 2021-2024 Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy summary infographic

This year we are very excited to be encouraging all schools and staff to participate in a district-wide art project to express how compassion connects us all. We will be selecting four winners for a school-wide pizza party!

During May 6-10, 2024, each day will focus on a theme:

- Monday – Compassion for self
- Tuesday – Compassion through allyship
- Wednesday – Compassion for others (social media focus)
- Thursday – Compassion for the land
- Friday – Compassion through action

KFL&A Public Health is also available to support secondary schools with their foyer engagement sessions. These include topics such as “EveryBODY is Welcome” and “Be Kind Online.” Schools will be encouraged to reach out to their Public Health Nurse to book these.

For Mental Health Week at Tim Horton's in Kingston, all Smile Cookie proceeds go directly to Kingston Health Sciences Child and Youth Mental Health Programs.

National Accessibility Week takes place May 26 to June 1, 2024, with Red Shirt Accessibility and Inclusivity Day on May 29, 2024. We are working alongside Easter Seals as well as the Inclusive Play Project to ensure that there are resources that will be shared throughout our District.

There is an Inclusive Fun Fair, which is a fundraiser for the Inclusive Play Project, on June 8, 2024. A flyer will be sent out with the May 17, 2024, SEAC Meeting Agenda Package.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, May 13, 2024 – At Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.