

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2023

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Roll Call:

<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Members:</b>
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	Present: H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston H. Clark, Autism Ontario E. Clow, Member-at-Large K. Hill, Member-at-Large A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) M. Covey, Community Living Kingston S. Patay, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children  Regrets: L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario
	<b>Staff:</b>
	Present: M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator 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
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Recorder:</b>
D. Cameron, Intervention Assistant	J. Senior, 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 October 11, 2023

*MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow that the October 11, 2023, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.*

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

**5.1 Samantha Patay** – Superintendent Scot Gillam shared a letter from Lennox and Addington Resources for Children (LARC) nominating Samantha Patay as LARC’s association representative to the committee, replacing Sandy Henderson Todd, who retired in September. Samantha was welcomed to SEAC.

## 6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

**6.1 Presentation: Assistive Technology Across the System** – Special Education Coordinator Jessi Lalonde and Intervention Assistant Dawn Cameron shared an in-depth presentation on Assistive Technology Across the System.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

## 8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

### 8.1 Haley Clark, Autism Ontario - Autism Ontario Updates

#### ENGLISH Updates:

##### Event: Webinar Miniseries: Mental Health Matters

Date: Part 1: For Young Children – November 16, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Part 2: For School Aged Children – November 23, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Part 3: For Teens – November 30, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Link: <https://bit.ly/4762mEb> (all registration)

- Join us for a 3-part mini-series about mental health and well-being in childhood and adolescence. This mini-series is intended to support parents and caregivers in understanding their child's mental health and provide general strategies and information on what can be done at home to promote coping and improvements in well-being.
- Each part is divided by age; however, some strategies may be helpful for your child regardless of their chronological age.

##### Event: Moderated Webinar: Autism, Sexuality, and the Law with Dr. Isabelle Hénault

Date: November 22, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Link: <https://bit.ly/3QbnKBI>

- In this webinar, strategies and tools adapted to the autistic profile in terms of education and prevention of illegal and inappropriate sexual behaviour will be presented, in addition to concrete cases. The notion of consent will be addressed using appropriate educational tools.

##### Event: Workshop: Home for the Holidays

Date: December 20, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Link: <https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=9018>

- Join Bethany Brewin (Occupational Therapist, M.Sc. O.T.) and Danielle Nolan (Social Worker, MSW RSW) for a winter-themed workshop that aims to support caregivers in continuing to build skills across a variety of areas while having fun as a family and enjoying all the season has to offer. Bethany and Danielle will provide information on 5 different activities you can do at home during the holidays with minimal supplies or preparation. The activities will highlight 5 skill areas: fine motor skills, gross motor skills, sensory skills, calming/mindfulness skills, and socio-emotional skills.
- This workshop is appropriate for children of all ages.

**FRENCH Updates:****Event: Qu'est-ce que l'autisme**

Date: November 13, 2023 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Link: <https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=8957>

- Ce webinaire a pour but d'expliquer ce qu'est l'autisme et la neurodiversité. Nous parlerons de la neurodiversité, de l'autisme et des caractéristiques de l'autisme, et nous indiquerons comment les personnes autistes peuvent percevoir ce qui les entoure et interagir avec leur environnement. Vous apprendrez également comment être un.e allié.e de la cause autiste, avec nos conseils pratiques et nos stratégies sur la façon de créer un environnement inclusif et de soutenir les personnes autistes à la maison, à l'école ou dans la communauté.
- Ce webinaire peut être utile à toute personne appelée à interagir avec des personnes autistes, y compris les aidant.e.s, les partenaires communautaires, le personnel scolaire et les autres professionnel.le.s.
- À l'issue du webinaire, les participant.e.s auront l'occasion de poser des questions et de participer à une séance en direct de questions-réponses avec un membre de l'équipe d'Autisme Ontario.

**Event: Autisme, sexualité et loi: Aspects juridiques et interventions éducatives adaptées avec Dre Isabelle Hénault, sexologue et psychologue**

Date: November 22, 2023, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Link: <https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=8999>

- Dans les dernières années, l'accessibilité à l'internet accroît la consommation d'images et de sites à caractère pornographique. Les réseaux sociaux sont également présents dans la vie d'une majorité d'adolescents et d'adultes autistes. Les règles entourant l'aspect légal des contenus demeurent floues. Ainsi, le piège est grand pour les personnes autistes qui naviguent sans connaître les risques et les conséquences associées aux échanges (chat), au visionnement et/ou à la distribution du matériel illégal.
- Des stratégies et des outils adaptés au profil autiste en termes d'éducation et de prévention des comportements sexuels illégaux et inappropriés seront exposés, en plus de cas concrets. De plus, la notion de consentement sera abordée à l'aide d'outils d'éducation adaptés.

**8.2 Helen Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston (LDAK) – Limestone District School Board Mental Health Lead, Laura Conboy, will be presenting a webinar on Promoting Positive Mental Health for Students through LDAK on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, from 7 to 8:30 pm. This is a free webinar and Helen will send more information regarding registration to be sent out to all SEAC Members.**

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

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

### A. Ministry Updates:

#### **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services**

#### **Leading Innovation for Transformation (LIFT): Preschool Speech and Language and Children's Rehabilitation Guidelines and Implementation**

Leading Innovation for Transformation (LIFT) is a new strategy for the children's rehabilitation service sector which includes providing new guidelines, implementation supports, and monitoring processes to promote efficient, effective, and equitable service delivery for children with rehabilitation needs. LIFT is supported by the recent investment in pediatric health services. Using innovative service delivery, data-driven decision making, and collaboration between service providers, we can reduce wait times and improve experiences and outcomes for children, youth, and their families.

Service providers are expected to collaborate with school boards to warmly transition children to school-based services at school start, and/or to ensure delivery of children's rehabilitation services:

- Where a school board has providers on staff (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist or Occupational Therapist), Children Treatment Centres (CTCs) can collaborate on how best to provide tiered services within the board. (e.g., a mix of tiered approaches can be considered).
- Where a school board does not have providers, CTCs can work with the board to provide tiered services in the classroom and to collaborate with educators and support staff.

In areas where more than one organization is providing services (e.g., Preschool Speech and Language (PSL) and district school board), students should receive a single intervention from a single therapist, where possible (e.g., one speech-language pathologist would support speech and language services). This would support service continuity, achievement of student goals, and coordination of their clinical service and Individual Education Plans (IEPs). School boards and principals maintain decision-making for provider's access to students in schools and classrooms.

## **B. Educational Services Update:**

### **Skills Based Treatment (SBT) Kick-Off - November 6, 2023**

Limestone District School Board (LDSB) has partnered with FTF Consulting and Dr. Greg Hanley to implement the Practical Functional Assessment (PFA) and Skills Based Treatment (SBT) in three schools this winter. Dr. Hanley has introduced a contemporary and compassionate version of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) when working with persons with autism or those with intellectual disabilities who routinely engage in severe problem behaviour. The treatment process was reviewed, emphasizing the process for teaching contextually appropriate behaviour following the shaping of a communication and toleration repertoire. We will be working with Dr. Hanley and his team over the next 15 weeks to learn and implement these strategies to inform future system supports, services, and capacity building.

### **Professional Development (PD)**

- **Student Support Teacher (SST) PD**
  - December 5, 2023 - Executive Functioning
  - February 27, 2024 - Neurodiverse Affirming Practices in Schools
  - April 23, 2024 - Social Emotional Supports
  
- **Learning Program Support (LPS) PD**
  - November 22, 2023
  - March 5, 2024
  - April 24, 2024
  
- **School To Community Teachers (SCS) PD**
  - Secondary - November 22, 2023
  - Elementary - December 6, 2023
  
- **District Autism Classroom (DAC) PD**
  - December 14, 2023 - Professional Learning/Neurodiversity Affirming Education Presentation

### **Celebrating Accessibility Awards**

Congratulations to Eva Carlin, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher and Accessibility Lead, on being awarded the Celebrating Accessibility Award from the City of Kingston. Eva has been a champion for accessibility for many years in her role on Educational Services.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

**9.2 Special Education Mission Statement Review** – Principal Michael Blackburn and Vice Principal Nicola Dillard shared information on the Special Education Mission Statement.

Our current Special Education Mission Statement states:

Our mission is to provide a safe, positive, and caring learning environment, which enables all students to acquire useful knowledge and skills, a positive attitude, and a well-founded self-confidence. Our purpose is to build a foundation for all students to develop to their full potential and have fulfilling and meaningful lives as well-balanced, productive citizens.

Michael Blackburn will send an email out to SEAC Members asking for feedback and changes they would like made to the current Mission Statement. This feedback will be brought back to the SEAC Meeting on December 13, 2023.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

## 10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

*MOVED BY: Haley Clark, Autism Ontario, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.*