

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Monday, February 22, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.

Online via Microsoft Teams

SEAC Members: Lorie Hill, FASworld Canada; Jackie Ralph, Canadian Mental Health Association, Grey Bruce Branch Mental Health and Addiction Services; Alicia Rosenberg, Bruce Grey Child & Family Services; Michelle Shevalier, Member-at-Large (Vice-Chair); Marlene Webb, Community Living Walkerton and District

Trustee Members: Tracy Lynn Atkinson (Chair), Marilyn McComb

Student Senator: Alexis Hollister, Student Senator - John Diefenbaker Senior School

Resource Staff: Sheryl Elliott, Superintendent of Education; Melissa McEwen, Learning Services Administrator; Amanda Sims, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Guests: Jane Thomson, Chair of the Board

Absent: Liz Thomas, Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION / ACTION	FOLLOW UP
1. Welcome & Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracy Lynn Atkinson, Chair, welcomed everyone. Regrets were received from Liz Thomas. 	
2. Approval of Agenda	<p>Moved by: Marilyn McComb That the agenda for February 22, 2021 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be approved. Carried</p>	
3. Approval of Minutes	<p>Moved by: Marilyn McComb That the Minutes for January 25, 2021 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be approved. Carried</p>	
4. Business Arising from the Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No business arising. 	
5. Chair of the Board Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracy Lynn Atkinson introduced Jane Thomson, Chair of the Board. Jane provided her comments to the committee. Forward any SEAC and COVID-19 related questions to Jane Thomson to be discussed with the Minister of Education. 	
6. Voices from the Field – Overview of Mental Health Services in BWDSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melissa McEwen, Learning Services Administrator presented a PowerPoint highlighting an overview of the Mental Health Services available in Bluewater District School Board. The overview is being presented to the board March 2, 2021. There was a discussion to have SMHO posters shared on the board's social media pages once per week. Three new mental health workers have been hired to support Grade 7 and 8 students in Bluewater District School Board. 	<p>- A. Sims - share PowerPoint</p> <p>- M. McEwen work with J. Pettit to have SMHO posters available on social media</p>
7. Student Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexis Hollister, Student Senator provided an update on her interactions with public health. John Diefenbaker Senior School is currently holding a mental health week. 	
8. Superintendent Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheryl Elliott, Superintendent of Education provided an update on the ongoing work being done by members of the Learning Services – Student Support department. There was a discussion on human trafficking and the training/information sessions. 	<p>- A. Sims - share PowerPoint</p> <p>- S. Elliott – bring Superintendent Update as board</p>

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		report
9. Trustee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marilyn McComb, Trustee provided an update of the February 16, 2021 Board Meeting. 	
10. Member(s) Update and Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie Ralph, Canadian Mental Health Association, Grey Bruce Branch Mental Health and Addiction Services introduced two new cooperative education students. Jackie also shared the many initiatives and events they are supporting including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual puppet shows and presentations leading up to pink shirt day. ○ Let's Talk presentations shared with Grade 5's and up, and presentations at parent and school council meetings. ○ This month's "challenges" were to write a "resolution" to "coping with bullying" script and seek out Kids Help Phone at home. Jackie shared that 71% of those calling Kids Help Phone found it useful after one visit, while 45% advised if they didn't use it, they would hope they would simply get better. ○ Working on take-a-ways for spring break. ○ ASK workshops taking place. ○ Promoting SMHO website as it has valuable resources. ○ Blake Fly event. ○ Attending Special Education classroom at JDS ○ Olympians and Paralympians are connecting virtually with student in Bluewater to share their experience with teamwork, successes, and learning from failures. ○ Trillium funds have been received bringing levels of funding to 2017. Two new members have been hired. ○ Living Light to the Full offered for youth. ○ Empowering Youth through Song. • Marlene Webb, Community Living Walkerton and District advised they have not resumed in person meetings. Budget planning is taking place and the fiscal year end is March 31. As one example, Hanover Heights is doing great transition planning with the Community Living to support students • Tracy-Lynn Atkinson will make sure Shannon Logie is acknowledged. • Alicia Rosenberg, Bruce Grey Child & Family Services shared the many initiatives and events they are supporting including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth and Care Event planned for April 14. ○ Academic celebration event for those graduating from Grades 8 and 12 and obtaining Certificates, GED, postsecondary and trades. ○ Youth advocacy group making sure youth have voice at table. ○ Financial literacy group virtually, youth mentorship program to match older with younger 	

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	<p>and help with academic goals, emotional support and encouragement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With quadmasters and if youth are struggling, they need to be worked with quickly, even prior to mid-term report cards. Lorie Hill, FASworld Canada brought forward a letter prepared by several groups on FASD Bill 172. <p>Moved by: Michelle Shevalier That the Special Education Advisory Committee prepare a letter in support of the letter presented.</p>	
11. Meeting Dates (1) Upcoming (2) 2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meetings for March and April will be held online. The meetings for May and June may need to be held online but this can be reviewed at the April meeting. The meeting dates for 2021-2022 were reviewed. <p>Moved by: Jackie Ralph That the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting dates for 2021-2022 be approved as presented.</p>	
12. SEAC Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
13. Notice of Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Notices of Motion. 	
14. Agenda Building 2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher of the Blind Update to be held in fall of 2021 or early spring 2022 March – FASD presentation, Special Education Plan Subcommittee April - ASD supports May - Partnerships in Ed June – Summer enhancements for special education 	
15. Communications Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAC letter from Durham District School Board was reviewed. The group discussed the process for sending letters to the Ministry on behalf of SEAC. <p>Motion by: Lorie Hill That the Special Education Advisory Committee incorporate feedback in the ministry survey regarding supports for remote school.</p>	
16. Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
17. Adjournment	<p>Moved by: Lorie Hill That the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting adjourn at 11:35 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	