

# BLUEWATER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)



*What SEAC is All  
About?*

# The What, When, Why and Who of SEAC

- Every School Board in Ontario is required to set up a Special Education Advisory Committee. (SEAC)
- This is in accordance with Section 57.1(1) of the Education Act and Ontario Regulation 464/97 which outlines the role of the Committee.

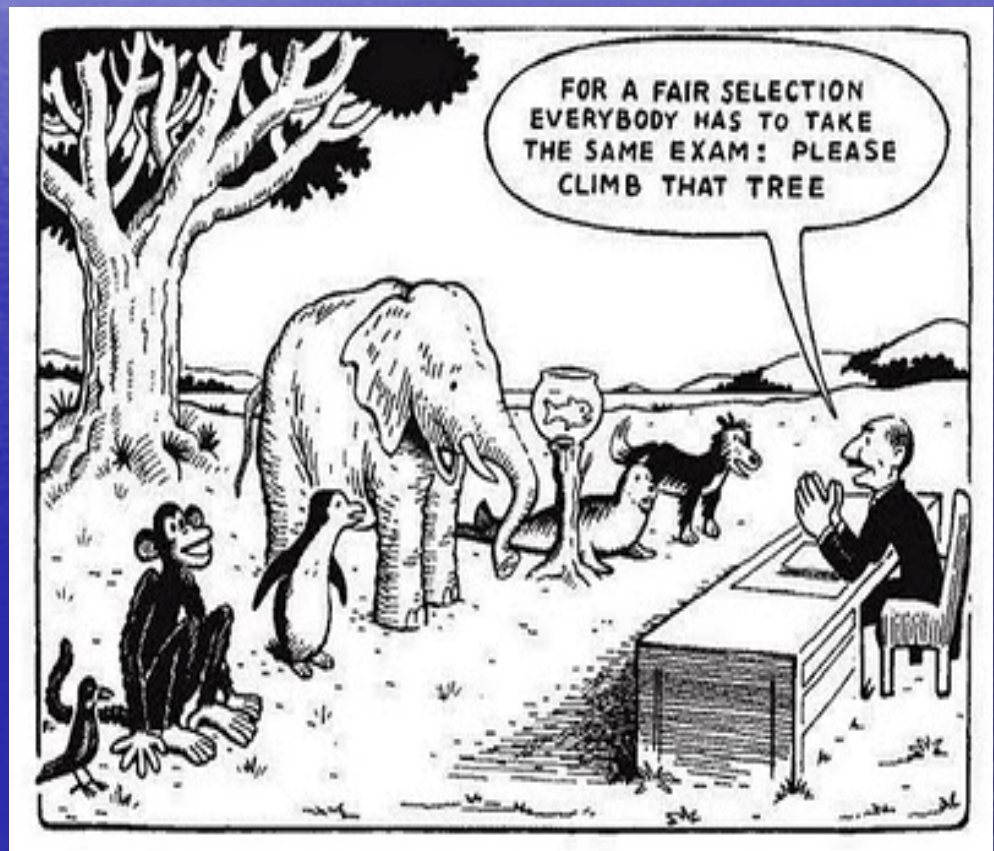


Student Schedules



Special Education Advisory Committees were established by the Ontario Ministry of Education in 1980.

Before 1980, students with special education needs were not accommodated in their local schools. Many did not receive any formal education or they struggled until eventually leaving school early. Many students with special needs were institutionalized.



Not all children learn in the same way or in the same amount of time .

# According to the Ontario Ministry of Education, Special Education Branch...

In the 2012-2013 school year school boards reported that 16.32% (↑ of 0.76% from 2010-11) the total student population or 331,532 (↑ of 12,318 students from 2010-11) students were receiving special education programs and/or services.

At least 22,000 (↓ 7000 students or 24% from 2010-11) students reported to be receiving special education programs and/or services do not have an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

These figures do not include students that attend *Educational Programs for Pupils in Government Approved Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional Facilities*. In 2012-13 the Ministry funded a total of 564 education programs where there are approximately 7,000 full time equivalent student spaces.



Not all children learn the same way....

The ministry sets out definitions of exceptionalities that must be used by school boards

They include behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical, and multiple exceptionalities.



# Special Education Advisory Committee - SEAC

- makes recommendations to the board with respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board;
- participates in the board's annual review of its special education plan;
- participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to special education;



- reviews the financial statements of the board as they relate to special education;
- participates on committees dealing with special education - program development, review of existing programs, attending workshops and symposiums put on by the Ministry
- provides information and assistance to parents and teachers as requested.
- members represent their agencies and associations

# SEAC Working Together

- SEAC members share information regarding their programs and delivery models. This allows us to work together for the benefit of students with special education needs.





# Members

- Our committee is made up of concerned parents and members of Associations such as Autism Ontario Grey-Bruce
- Representatives from community agencies - Community Living; Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services; Grey Bruce Child and Family Services
- We are required to meet 10 times - that is monthly during the school year.

# SEAC members - 2014-2018

## SEAC Members:

- Cathy Clarke, Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services;
- Paul Eichhorn (Vice-Chair) Autism Ontario Grey Bruce;
- Victoria Lemoine, Bruce Grey Child and Family Services
- Marlene Webb, Community Living, Walkerton & District

## Trustee Members:

- Jim Dawson,
- Jane Thomson (Chair),
- Stacey John

## Students Senate Members:

- Morgan Liverance, Student Trustee, Bruce Peninsula District School;
- Branden Wheeler, Student Senator, John Diefenbaker Senior School





- We are expected to develop a working knowledge of Special Education programs and services provided by Bluewater District School Board

- On request, we will support parents in *Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC)* and *Individual Education Plan (IEP)* meetings.

- We are a resource to help parents navigate through the proper channels with their concerns.

# Administration's Role

- liaison with Learning Services
- resource and organizational support
- records minutes



# SEAC Goals and Priorities

- To **ADVOCATE** for students with special education needs;
- To **COMMUNICATE** with Trustees and BWDSB stakeholders about the roles and responsibilities of SEAC;
- To **MONITOR** the use of Special Education funding and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

# Join Us

- The SEAC meetings are open to the public and especially to our elected Trustees. We invite you to attend at least one meeting to better understand our role and purpose.
- We normally meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. here at the Board Office



# Want to learn more about SEAC?

- Just follow these links:

[http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/stserv/seac\\_brochure](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/stserv/seac_brochure)

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/>