



**Minutes of the  
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting  
Held on Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 6:00 p.m.  
VIRTUAL MEETING**



<b>PRESENT:</b>	Pat O'Grady	Chair, Trustee
	Cory Lee McMunn	Member at Large - Virtual
	Jacki England	Member at Large - Virtual
	Joanne Lesk	Member at Large - Virtual
	Jodi Cotnam	Learning Disabilities of Ontario - Virtual
	Sandra Dee Lapierre	Member at Large - Virtual
<b>RESOURCE:</b>	Clint Young	Superintendent of Education
<b>REGRETS:</b>	France Guillemette	Member at Large
	Jennifer Debenham	Community Living
	Kayla Bouret	Member at Large
	Gen Leonard	Member at Large
	Mike Ellis	Member at Large

**1. Prayer and Land Acknowledgement**

The SEAC Chair opened the meeting with a prayer and land acknowledgement at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION 1: 11 MAY 2022**

**Moved By: Sandra Dee Lapierre**

**Seconded By: Jodi Cotnam**

**That the agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of 11 May 2022 be approved.**

**Carried/...**

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared.

**4. Presentation 1: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Resources by Angela Bergeron**

Angela Bergeron, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Resources was welcomed back to the meeting, almost one year to the day following her last visit to SEAC. It was explained that Angela is assigned two unique roles with the RCCDSB. Angela is a teacher in the day treatment classroom, Valleycrest, in partnership with Phoenix Centre, and following certification as a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing, she is released two days a month to work with

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students across the board who have been identified with a deaf and hard of hearing exceptionality.

Angela outlined successes this year as she supports twenty-three students identified with deaf and hard of hearing challenges, twenty-one of whom require support. Angela works with students, classroom teachers and parents, providing Tier 1 and 2 supports with listening, spoken language (non-sign language), and most importantly, provides expertise and guidance on the use of assistive technologies and devices.

Student Support – Elementary and high school students are provided with an increased understanding of their assistive equipment and are taught to make the most out of their classroom experience. Students are taught a sense of belonging, self-advocacy to better understand their hearing loss, and encouraged to develop and grow their strengths and recognize needs. In addition, students in the general population at the school are made aware to be inclusive and understanding.

Families - Parent/guardians need help understanding and accepting their child's hearing loss and are encouraged to become engaged and supportive. Angela provides in -person one on one assistance and can follow up through email or telephone support to increase communication between the classroom and home and the audiologist.

Teachers and support teams – Teachers and school support staff are provided support and guidance on the equipment being used in their classrooms, to enable teams to feel comfortable and confident using assistive equipment. If required, in person or virtual workshops sessions can be provided to school teams in collaboration with speech and language program teams, or with ABA consultants for students with multiple needs.

Angela was thanked for her presentation and congratulated on her significant role in support of students with deaf and hard of hearing exceptionalities.

## **5. Presentation 2: Entry to School Program by Josh Nokes**

Josh Nokes, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Specialist was welcomed to the meeting. He told the Committee about a new program available in Renfrew County for students who are about to start school and have autism. The Entry to School (ETS) program is a one-year service, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services through the Ontario Autism Program. The ACT Learning Program was the successful provider of the ETS program, and the board has signed a contract to provide services and administer the program, which teaches six readiness skills communication, play, social interaction, functional routines, self behaviour-management and pre-academic learning and attention.

For the first six months of the program, children attend intensive group-based learning for three hours a day, five days a week at the ETS Centre located in Perth Ottawa or Pembroke. Currently class size is capped at 12 students, with three of those students enrolled at RCCDSB schools attending the Pembroke location. It was noted that the Ontario Autism Program may expand programs and services such as transportation should enrollment increase.

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The next six months of the program involves students entering their designated board, where they are monitored and provided with transition support and consultation with board behaviour analysts and other school support teams in collaboration with ETS Program personnel to develop an individual program specific to student need. It was noted that delayed implementation of the program this year, due to COVID, however RCCDSB staff will be visiting the program in the coming weeks to liaison and facilitate initial communication and observation in preparation for student entry to school in September.

Josh then outlined a CHEO support program for children of all ages that is designed to help students transition at school from year to year, class to class as they move out of the entry to school program. Innovative programs under development that are available to children in need include:

1. Summer programming – Allocated by priority of need, a summer camp is offered where students learn readiness and social skills in a fun environment.
2. Partnership with Youth Net and the school autism team that educates high school, students with autism about issues such as mental health or peer relationships.
3. In home supports can be provided to work with children and families around anxiety at attending school.

Josh was thanked for presentation and his dedication to students with complex needs served by the ABA special education team.

## **6. Approval of Minutes from 13 April 2022**

### **MOTION 2: 11 MAY 2022**

**Moved By: Corrie Lee McMunn**  
**Seconded By: Jacki England**

**That the minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of 13 April 2022 be approved.**

**Carried/...**

## **7. Board Reports**

### **a. Special Education Report**

#### **Review of Section C9**

The Committee reviewed Section C9 Parent Guide to Special Education, and suggestions will be reviewed by the superintendent.

At the next meeting, the draft 2021-2022 Special Education Report will be presented to the Committee for approval to be taken to the Board of Trustees, then submitted to

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the Ministry of Education. For next year, formatting changes will be incorporated to make the report for 2022-2023 user friendly.

b. **Summer Programming**

Advertisements have been placed for teachers and EA staff for summer school programming which will take place for the month of July. Primary literacy and numeracy programs will be virtual, and Grade 7 and 8 students will be offered face to face sessions. Once staff interest has been determined, parents will be able to register their students for available sessions.

At the end of August, the annual welcome program for kindergarten students will be offered to specific students with complex needs.

c. **EA Support Allocation Process for 2022-2023**

EA support planning has begun for the next school year 2022-2023. The two coordinators for special education, the special education principal and the superintendent are currently working to determine levels of student need. It was noted that many students require increased support post pandemic.

8. **Association Reports**

Learning Disabilities – The third annual LDA Virtual Conference will take place on the evening of May 25<sup>th</sup>. The event is free to attend, and will feature Anthony Savonarota, as keynote speaker from the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next hybrid SEAC meeting will take place on **Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

10. **Adjournment**

**The SEAC meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.**