



**Minutes of the
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING**



PRESENT:	Pat O'Grady	Chair, Trustee
	Cory Lee McMunn	Member at Large
	France Guillemette	Member at Large
	Jackie England	Member at Large
	Jennifer Debenham	Community Living
	Jodi Cotnam	Learning Disabilities of Ontario
	Kayla Bouret	Member at Large - Virtual
	Sandra Dee Lapierre	Member at Large
RESOURCE:	Clint Young	Superintendent of Education
REGRETS:	Gen Leonard	Member at Large
	Joanne Lesk	Member at Large
	Kristianna Guzman	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: 13 APR 2022

Moved By: Jodi Cotnam
Seconded By: Jackie England

That the agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of 9 March 2022 be approved.

Carried/...

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

4. Presentation 1: Special Education Financial Position by Mary Lynn Schauer, Superintendent of Business Services

Mary Lynn Schauer, Superintendent of Business Services was welcomed to the meeting to present the Revised Budget for Special Education. Mary Lynn presented an overall executive

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summary of revenue and expenses projected for the school year 2021-2022, with prior year comparisons based on audited financial statements.

The initial Board budget for the following school year is set in June based on projected enrolment for October and March 31st.

A Revised Budget is prepared approximately halfway through the school year. This Revised Budget is based on actual enrolment for October 31st and projected enrolment for March 31st. The Ministry of Education uses an average of two enrolment count dates in October and March of the current school year to determine funding for the year.

Current Special Education Surplus/Deficit amounts are as follows:

- Audited Financial Statement 2020-2021 - Deficit (\$598,919).
- Original Budget 2021-2022 – Deficit (\$1,563,481)
- Revised Budget 2021-2022 - Deficit (\$1,346,725)

A chart was presented showing numbers of students with exceptionalities, by diagnosis and by school as at October 31/2021. There are currently 688 students identified, which is 14.21% of the total student body, a figure comparable to previous years.

The chart also showed data on the total number of students with an IEP, which this year is 1,015 approximately 20.97% of the 4,841 students enrolled with the board. It was noted that the provincial average is 17.8%.

Revenues for special education funding are comprised of 6 provincial grants:

1. Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA), based on total overall enrolment for all students.
2. Special Education Allocation (SEA) made up of two components, the per pupil amount and the claims-based amount which funds the bulk of special education equipment purchases.
3. Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) is another funding source, which is based on a statistical calculation and generates significant revenue.
4. Special Incidents Portion (SIP) to support students with extraordinary high needs requiring more than 2 FT staff.
5. Behavioural Expertise Amount (BEA) which provides funding to hire professional staff who have ABA expertise.
6. Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP). This is our Valleycrest Program which is care and treatment program.

Overall, special expenditures total \$11.4M. Costs were broken down as follows:

Educational Assistants make up (52%)

Special education teachers (27%)

Supply staff (6%)

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Other expenses (15%) include professional and paraprofessional student support, social workers, ABA specialists, coordinators, and consultants, supplies and equipment. The Board traditionally runs a deficit in special education. This deficit is covered from other areas of the board budget.

The Chair thanked Mary Lynn for her informative presentation and expressed appreciation to the financial team for their diligence in preparing the special education budget.

5. Presentation 2: Students Census by Clint Young

Clint Young, Superintendent of Education and Pam Dickerson, Principal Representative, have been tasked with the development of a student census. As background, Clint explained that all public sector organizations in Ontario must collect demographic data about their clients. For school boards, the process was mandated under the Provincial Anti-Racist Act to collect and submit student census demographics data, developed within the guidance provided by the Ministry of Education, the Anti-Racism Directorate, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and the Municipal Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy Act, for submission by 2023.

An RCCDSB steering committee made up of stakeholders from the diocese, Indigenous groups (IEAC), school councils, and board administration have been working within the guidelines since November 2021. They are in the process of developing a confidential, voluntary survey to be given to all parents/guardians of students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6, and for all students in Grades 7 to 12. The Committee has studied surveys put out by other boards and has identified areas to concentrate on in the survey development process to ensure a stronger delivery and in turn, higher completion rates and meaningful results.

Results of the survey will help boards develop a better understanding of the diversity and cultural needs of their student populations, which will allow for better programming and social strategies to identify and support regional barriers to student success. To obtain the best results, however, questions posed on the survey must be carefully crafted. The Ministry has provided a template of ten mandatory questions on basics such as ethnic identity, race, religion, gender, socio-economic indicators, and disabilities. Boards have the flexibility to ask additional questions, on belonging or bullying.

A pilot RCCDSB survey is called the “RCCDSB Believes in Me,” and will be given to staff in the spring, not for data collection, but to ensure the smooth roll out. If all goes well, the census will then be rolled out to the general student/parent population in the fall of 2022.

6. Approval of Minutes from 09 March 2022

MOTION 2: 13 APR 2022

Moved By: Jennifer Debenham
Seconded By: Jackie England

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That the minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of 09 March 2022 be approved.

Carried/...

7. Board Reports

a. Special Education Report – Review of Section C7 and C8

The Committee reviewed Section C7 – Professional Development in Special Education, which listed opportunities for staff during the last school year. Global meetings were not held due to COVID protocols, and training took place at the school level through SESH (Special Education Support Hour). The 2021-2022 report will follow the same format and will detail support and staff development that took place over the year.

Section C8 outlines Accessibility (AODA) and contains updated links to the Board Plan presented by Katherine McLaughlin at the last meeting.

Wording was changed to update the title of speech program and to modernize documents to be available to digital format.

Next month, the Committee will review section C-9, then will be given the entire Special Education Plan prior to the approval process in June 2022.

8. Association Reports

There are no association reports this month.

9. Next Meeting

The next hybrid SEAC meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 11 May 2022** and will feature a plan for special needs programming during the summer and a review of the EA allocation process for 2022-2023.

10. Adjournment

The SEAC meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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