

Minutes of the WQSB [Special Education Advisory Committee](#) meeting held on Tuesday January, 10, 2023 held via virtual platform (Teams), at 6:30 pm.

[Google Drive – January 2023 Folder](#)

PRESENT:

Jennifer Brownrigg (SECRETARY), Paul Dostaler, Megan Feltham, Jessica Fortier (Vice-Chair, EDHAA), Carolyn Hayes, Kim Kourtsidis (Parent Com Alt), Karenne Lachapelle, Roman Laroche (Chair), Trina Lasch, Sarah McGough, Stephanie Michaud, Michaela Montour (Parent Com Rep), Sharon Pinkston, Dana Scott, Kathy Needham, Cindy Smith, Jennifer Jones-Girard, Kathlene Vibert

Observers: Lisa Falasconi (DG Rep)

Guest: Martine Lupien, Director of Finance for WQSB

Regrets: Jennifer Idone, Andrea Gage and Jenna Jenkins

The Chair welcomed new support staff representative Jennifer Jones-Girard

1. Reading of Land Acknowledgement – Read by Roman Laroche

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the lands upon which we live, learn, and work are the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples. We thank them for sharing these lands and commit, as an organization, as educators and as individuals, to an ongoing relationship that recognizes and respects the lands, traditions, and culture of the Anishinaabe people.

2. Approval of Agenda

22/23-11 Adoption of the Agenda

IT WAS MOVED BY Megan Feltham seconded by Stephanie Michaud that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

22/23-12 IT WAS MOVED BY Sharon Pinkston seconded by Stephanie Michaud the minutes of the November 14th 2022 meeting be approved with the following amendments by Lisa Falasconi.

- Item 5. SEAC's Mandate -The Commitment to Success Plan is up at the end of 2023 (not 2022). Consultations will begin in the spring of 2023.
- Item 13 SEAC activities – Remove 13.1 – remove text pertaining to the revision of the Special Education policy.

4. Reports

4.1. **SEAC Chair Report** – no report to share

4.2. **SEAC Vice-Chair and EHDAA Parent Commissioner Report**

- no meeting held in December
- Jessica reviewed her [November EHDAA report](#) (shared at the December meeting). The Committee thanked Jessica F. for her efforts to obtain a data on the instances of bullying and violence.

4.3. **SEAC Parents' Committee Representative Report** – no report to share

4.4. **Sub-Committee Reports**

- 4.4.1. **Motion: SEAC to create a Facebook page under a SEAC email account, responsibility of the Communications sub-committee.** The FB page will not go live until new policies and procedures will need to be developed.

22/23-13 **IT WAS MOVED BY** Jessica Fortier that SEAC create a Facebook page under a SEAC email account to be the responsibility of the Communications sub-committee.

DISCUSSION

- Can the WQSB app be used to share events? Can Twitter be used as well?
 - (Roman) SEAC is separate from the school board, not certain WQSB tools can be used by SEAC. Lisa F to inquire if the WQSB app can be used to share SEAC events.
 - (Jessica F.) Jessica Twitter was not discussed. Will be considered to increase reach while keeping limited human resources in mind.
 - (Trina L) individual members could share thru their own community group network.
 - (Roman) each SEAC representative can assist in disseminating information thru their own school network
 - (Megan) Expressed caution in the sharing of information on Facebook, particularly if students can be identified, be aware of the possibility of negative/hurtful commentary.
 - (Kathlene) at the request of the Chair shared her negative experience with social media trolls. Facebook can go somewhere we don't want it too. Reticent to create FB page, can lead to a great deal of moderation work.
 - (Sarah) Perhaps best to simply share posts on our own pages

- (Jessica) All SEACs and SNACs have FB pages, the Committee is losing out by not making these connections. The Facebook group will help in bridge building with other organizations. The Commentary function can be turned off.
- (Trina) has found many SEACs with social media pages, trolling is usually shutdown quickly by the moderators/admins
- (Roman) proposed the Motion be amended to state – the SEAC Facebook page will be launched pending creation of social media policies and procedures.

22/23-13

IT WAS MOVED BY Jessica Fortier that SEAC and seconded by Stephanie Michaud to create a Facebook page under a SEAC email account to be the responsibility of the Communications sub-committee, pending the creation of social media policies and procedures.

16 – voting 1 - Opposed 0 – Abstentions

Carried

5. Mesures (Grants) Allocations

Lisa F. welcomed and introduced Martine Lupien, Director of Finance for WQSB.

Lisa F reviewed the WQSB Grants 2022-2023 ([MEQ GRANTS - MAD - 22-23 - Mesures D'Adaptation...](#))

Questions & Answers:

- Dedicated grant has a specific use,
- Protected grant cannot be used for anything else
- MAD15370 – working conditions, related to collective agreement
- M30810 P2 – investments for adapted equipment - \$63,456
- The funds available for Adapted furniture is \$15,537
- (Roman) historically SEAC makes recommendations, should be consulted on everything that affects children with IEPs and disabilities. Example Chelsea school’s inclusive playground. Wholistic view of budget, where can adjustments be made to ensure inclusivity.
- (Trina) view budget thru disability lens, invisible disabilities, need to think differently. Where does the money come from for assessments?
 - (Lisa F) assessments for students – WQSB assessments are related to service delivery, ex. Psychologists provides the psychological assessments. Challenge finding the professional and someone who can provide services in English.

Currently working on recruitment at the Ministry and thru the recruitment officer.

- (Trina) – Interim solutions are needed.
- (Lisa F) – internal tools and assessments are available in the interim
- (Roman) – worth noting obstacles - provincial, funding, resource and accessibility issue, WQSB would provide services if resources were available.
- (Jessica) where does the funding for building modifications
 - (Lisa) budget line for changes to building accessibility. Analysis would be done at a building if modifications were needed for a particular student.
 - (Martine) amount is received from the Ministry for accessibility adaptations to buildings, accessibility \$366,000 for accessibility modifications to buildings
 - Lisa – Mesures School Allocations folder on Google Drive for reference, indicates amount given to each school for that Mesures
- (Jessica) where can SEAC IEPs per school be found?
 - (Lisa) can be found in MAD15374: IEP Teacher release (See Mesures School Allocation folder on Google Drive)
 - (Roman) elaborate on what Teacher release means
 - (Lisa) teacher release means, a teacher is released from teaching duties for a period of time to complete IEPs or meet with parents to discuss IEP. In the past 3 years, difficult to release teachers to lack of supply teachers.
 - (Megan) are teachers completing IEPs outside the classroom?. Are teachers completing IEPs at their desk?
 - (Lisa) teachers do not receive enough funding to complete IEP, report cards, etc.
 - (Kathlene) takes 1 full day per month for meetings, assessments, IEP modifications, communications.
 - (Roman) teachers are not getting what they need either, IEP form is atrocious, restrictive, insufficient

6. Finance Presentation Slides

Lisa F. reviewed slides see January 2023 folder of Google drive

Questions, Answers & Discussion

- (Trina) does MEQ allocate the WQSB more money if the number of IEPs increase?
 - (Lisa F) There is recognition, Ministry uses the population numbers in the system
 - (Martine) complex calculation, enrollment number part of funding calculation

- (Lisa) coded student funding is capped based on portrait of past 3 years. Look at historical patterns raise by a % each year. Socio-economic data is considered as well – Staffing accountability – parameters
- CSPC = complimentary services parity committee

22/23-14 It was MOVED by Jessica Fortier seconded by Roman Laroche to extend the meeting 15 minutes longer.

Carried

Questions, Answers & Discussion continued

- (Roman) need look at whole budget for example universal access or technology funding
- (Lisa F) significant building modifications for access are taken from the main Buildings budget line.
- RAC questionnaire can be found on the Google drive
- ISN = Inclusive Schools Network

22/23-15 It was MOVED by Roman Laroche and seconded by Jessica Fortier to extend the meeting to 9pm.

Carried

Questions, Answers & Discussion continued

- (Trina) are there any agreements with schools/CEGEPS ie for social work, resource/support work? similar to when teachers do a "stage"? or psychology?
 - Lisa – speech and language pathologists complete work experience aka “stages” in the WQSB schools, psychologists, and social workers as well.
 - School level complementary services slide – Heritage College special care counsellors do placements in WQSB schools, opportunity to apply for position after

22/23-16 It was MOVED by Roman Laroche and seconded by Jessica Fortier to extend the meeting to 9:15pm

Carried

7. Budget 2022-2023

Martine presented initial budget, 1st version.

Notes:

- Not enough funding now to run the board, will need to take from the accumulated surplus

22/23-17 It was **MOVED** by Roman Laroche and seconded by Jessica Fortier to extend the meeting to 9:30pm

Carried

Questions, Answers & Discussion

- (Roman) inclusion is only considered in the smaller portions this is not enough. Inclusion needs to be considered at the macro level
- (Martine) Complimentary Services are in good hands, Lisa understands the needs.
- (Lisa) Jessica has a voice at the table of the Council of Commissioners. Jessica will be more informed about upcoming and underway projects and the decision-making process.

The Chair thanked Martine and Lisa for their presentations.

8. Questionnaire Questions

Tabled.

9. Staffing Plan 2022-2023

The item was reviewed during Agenda item 5, please refer to slides provided on Google Drive.

10. Incidents of Bullying and Violence – Students with IEPs

22/23-18 **IT WAS MOVED BY** Roman Laroche and seconded by Trina Lasch that SEAC to obtain an annual report from the WQSB including the number of incidents of bullying and violence either from or towards a student with an Individualized Education Plan. All information captured in the annual report including the number of incidents of bullying and violence either from or towards a student with an Individualized Education Plan will be used by SEAC for the sole purpose of providing the WQSB advice and recommendations as it relates to fulfilling SEAC's mandate (e.g., Special Education Policy, Resource Allocation Committee (RAC), Commitment to Success, and the Implementation of Individual Education Plans).

Carried

22/23-19 **IT WAS MOVED BY** Roman Laroche and seconded by Sharon adjourn at 9:30pm and table item 8 *Questionnaire Questions* to the next meeting in February 2023.

Carried

11. **Good News Piece – Varia**

Suggestion from Lisa – discussions of hurdles and roadblocks, focus - standing item open the floor to share good news piece, without identifying schools, individuals

12. **Varia**

(Lisa) One Parent session to be shared by email – Jan. 19th Trauma transformed schools, get more information find the information

(Jessica) – Autism and Screentime presentation to be shared by email– might be French only.