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The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at the Administration Office.

Connie Buckler, Trustee  
Kim McKinley, Trustee  
Lucie Lombardo, Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County  
Karen Wilson, Parents for Children's Mental Health  
JoAnn Percy, Windsor Council of Home and School Associations  
Kim Fralik, Brain Injury Association of Windsor & Essex County  
Trudy Richards, Autism Ontario (Windsor-Essex)

Lynn McLaughlin – Superintendent of Special Education  
Mike Wilcox – Principal, Special Education Programs and Services  
Tracey Rilett – OPC Elementary Representative

Meghan Johnson, Canadian Hearing Society  
Monica Gilles, Windsor Essex County Down Syndrome Association  
Susan Smith, Community Living (Windsor/Essex County)

Beth Cook, Indigenous Community

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5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising.

6. Special Education Presentation

Superintendent Clara Howitt and Tina De Castro, Program Consultant present on First Nations, Métis and Inuit programs and supports with the Board.

The Board uses data to support student achievement by:

- Communication with families regarding events and available supports is sent regularly through the mail
- School selection for FNMI Student Support Workers
- School selection for Special Initiatives
- Introduction of Secondary Native Language courses
- FNMI focused collaborative Inquiries
- Student profiles are analyzed
- Additional Literacy test support provided based on data

7. Special Education Presentation – Self Advocacy in Secondary Schools

Self Advocacy is students learning to speak up on their behalf and to ask for what they need. It is learning to take charge and to be more independent.

Kathryn Collins, Educational Coordinator presented a video with students discussing how they learned to advocate on their own behalf.

The goal is for students to know themselves as a learner, know what supports they need to be successful and to be able to communicate their needs appropriately to maximize success at school.

Research shows that highly successful adults with learning difficulties have identified the ability to self-advocate as an important factor contributing to success in both post-secondary education and in the workplace.

It becomes increasingly important for students to express their needs in a positive way. To develop self-advocacy, they will require support and guidance to develop these skills to increase their independence as learners.

8. Special Education Plan Review

L. McLaughlin reviewed the changes for this year.

9. Special Education Update

*Special Education BUdget*

L. McLaughlin informed the committee that Finance will bring forward the budget at the June meeting.

10. New Business

No new business was brought forward.

11. Association Reports

*Windsor Council of Home and School Associations*

The Association's 101<sup>st</sup> conference is in London at the end of the month. There are winners of the Citizenship Awards from Windsor.

*Trustees*

C. Buckler reported that the Western Regional Trustee meeting is reviewing priorities for the year. They have now called for a full review of how we are delivering special education programs across the province.

*Parents for Children's Mental Health*

May 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> is Mental Health week.

*LDAWE*

There are opportunities for a scholarship for students. Students can submit an application through the local LDAWE.