

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on

at the Administration Office.

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1. Call to Order
M. Fuduric called t

6. Special Education Presentations

GECDsB will host Strive 2019 on Tuesday April 30 at the WFCU Centre. This day is for students with Learning Disabilities in grades 7, 8, and 9 from every elementary and secondary school. We are looking forward to welcoming approximately 500 attendees this year, including 300 or more students, parents, teachers, and presenters. Our focus will be on Technology, Well-being, Pathways in High School, and Self-Advocacy. Students prepare for the day, by working with their teachers on understanding their learning strengths and needs as well as knowing the “tools for success” in their learning. Students will have the opportunity to hear our keynote speaker Blake Fly who will target themes of transitions, shared experiences, and empowering yourself.

M. Wilcox explained how students were happy to see that there were many other students just like them – identified with LD. This made them realize that they are not alone. The feedback from last year was very positive. C. Mills handed out the STRIVE invitations for this year to the committee members. J. Matte-Gasparovic asked how the student selection process for STRIVE went. M. Wilcox answered that the schools select their students and are asked to send different students each year.

The 9th Annual GECDsB Mindforce Competition will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Tecumseh Vista Academy, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Mindforce is GECDsB's creative problem-solving competition. It consists of teams of seven students who compete in one of three problems - vehicle, technical, classic. All solutions are presented in an 8 minute skit – everything is done by the students (build-6(h)-0.7(i)-3.3(n)-0.e.6(lu)2.2(Tc 0.006r)3.8.321

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responded that it was not because of this, that the review/update of the Special Education Plan is a yearly requirement. K. Wilson asked if we could co-develop changes and ask for parental input. M. Wilcox replied that the timeline may not permit it this year, but we would certainly like input in the future reviews of the Plan. We may look at a sub-committee for this next year.

8. New Business

M. Fuduric handed out a letter from PAAC on SEAC to Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education, requesting an update on key education issues and to assist in sharing the PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook for SEAC Members with Chairs of SEACs across the province.

Some of the issues outlined were:

- SEAC Training
- Ministry of Education Website
- Parents Reaching Out Grants
- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
- Definitions of Exceptionalities
- Ministry Consultations with Labour Partners
- Inter-Ministry Collaboration
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) Education Accessibility Standard
- Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities

M. Fuduric also presented a letter from the Durham District School Board to Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education, regarding the Ministry of Education's decision to take back the funds offered to increase the Special Incidence Portion that was previously announced for the 2018/2019 school year. M. Fuduric proposed that the Greater Essex County District School Board send a letter to the Minister of Education outlining our concerns for this issue. M. Wilcox explained what the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) is. These funds are used for students who require 2:1 support. There is an application process in consultation with the Educational Coordinator.

Motion to write a letter to the Ministry:

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded: M. Gilles

That SEAC write a letter to the Ministry regarding Special Incidence Portion (SIP)

J. Matte-Gasparovic – received a memo from the provincial office which she handed out to the committee. J. Matte-Gasparovic went over what Autism Ontario is saying about recent government changes. The government is saying that the waitlist will be gone by 2020, but we are skeptical. We will have to continue to wait for more clarification. M. Wilcox added that we as a board have been proactive in hiring our teams and will continue to provide this support.

M. Fuduric –