

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
REPORT OF THE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday , November 9, 2021 via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Louise Cervini, Indigenous Community Representative  
Cathy Cooke, Trustee

ber, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

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Superintendent of Special Education Services  
Supervising Principal of Special Education Services  
ams, OPC Secondary Representative

ach, Parents for Children's Mental Health

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples

[Ah-nish-e-naa-bay](#)), Haudenosaunee ([Hoe-den-oh-show-nee](#)), Leni ([Len-eh](#)) Lenape ([Le-naw-pay](#)) and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy, Ojibwe ([Oh-jib-way](#)), Odawa ([Oh-dah-wah](#)), Potawatomi ([Paw-taw-watt-oh-me](#)) and Huron/Wendat ([Wen-dat](#)) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: B. Turner

Seconded by: L. Cervini

That SEAC approve the agenda for November 9, 2021.

The motion was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: K. Stack

Seconded by: A. Omstead

That SEAC approve the minutes for October 12, 2021.

The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

5. Robotics and Coding in GAINS and STEPS Classrooms, Jennifer Newton, Special Education Coordinator

Started in the fall of 2019 with a joint project by OZAD, GECSB and JMCCSA

- Summer prior several workshops were offered as a joint initiative between JMCCSA and GECDSB
- Several classes were picked at the Secondary and Elementary Level, research was conducted on the use of robots and engagement in self-contained classrooms with very positive results
- GECDSB established a Lending library at both the Elementary and Secondary Level
- Weekly after school training sessions were completed
- All Robots were consistently booked out
- Last school year shared materials were not allowed, and the robotics program was placed on hold.
- Two important things to note-many classrooms asked for the return of the robots, many schools purchased their own devices
- GAINS and STEPS monthly newsletters were created to keep staff up to date on new programs and technology

Why Technology and Coding?

- 21stCentury Learning
- Part of the Ontario Mathematics Curriculum
- Exciting, students receive visual and auditory feedback
- Normalizes instruction, age appropriate
- Allows students to demonstrate learning
- Peers/siblings are using them in classrooms, at home
- Creates integration opportunities
- Assists with developing communication skills
- Keeps pace with Coding to Learn Project
- K Course as part of STEPS curriculum ( KTT)

Teaching Coding also Improves...

- Sequencing skills
- Problem-solving
- Logical thinking
- Cause and effect skills
- Computational thinking

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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- Counting

### Next Steps

- Application being submitted to present at ASET (Association for Special Education Technology) May 12/13
- Lunch and Learns and after school workshops starting in November
- Presentations at RSEC and SERCC Spring 2021
- SLP assistance to develop core boards with fringe vocabulary, video taping sessions and core boards being added to kits
- Continue to add to both the lending library and the apps as they are updated. Osmo and Marbotics both just released 2 new apps
- Robot and Resources highlighted on each GAINS monthly

## 6. Special Education Update

K. Sweet started off by showing the committee a video titled “How to Talk About Indigenous People”, which included the many people that make up the First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

### Special Education PD Update

- Boardmaker Webinar Series for Developmental Service Workers - DSWs will learn Boardmaker software and how to develop tasks to support programming through after school sessions in November.
- New Teacher to Lexia After School Sessions - In this session, teachers will develop an understanding on how they can support students. The activities in Core5 support and build on curriculum while developing reading skills.
- Experienced Teacher Lexia After School Sessions - In this session, teachers will analyze data reports in MyLexia. Through this data, they will be able to have a deeper understanding of student progress, create small groups, and identify key skill areas to target with instruction.
- Keynote Speaker Dr. Muhammad Khalifa – Presentation on the topic of culturally responsive learning, teaching and leading.
- Roads to Freedom documents has been released to our educators – During the November 12<sup>th</sup> PD, staff will view an informative video sharing the rich history of Windsor and Essex County in connection to the Underground Railroad.
- Jordan’s Principle EA Information Session – Staff will have the opportunity to learn greater details about Jordan’s Principle and why it is so important to ensure equitable access to resources for Indigenous students and families. This is a requirement for Education Support Staff.
- Virtual Gifted Fieldtrip October 2021 – Our partnership with the University of Windsor has continued this year. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, we had 54 students identified as Gifted from across the system participate in our Virtual Gifted Field Trip. T ( o)10.6 (f)-6.5.7 (s)8.8 ( o)1.9 ( has)8642.1 (

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- ESS Staffing – the Director has approved an additional 29 support staff this year. This is a large increase in years. We will continue to recruit support staff throughout the year.

7. New Business