

Meeting Summary
Meeting of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
June 8 & 9, 2016

The Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) held its most recent meeting on June 8 & 9, 2016 in Toronto. Below are highlights of the meeting.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Joe Trovato, Chair, MACSE

- Joe Trovato, Chair of MACSE welcomed members to Council and reminded them of the *Conflict of Interest* rules and the requirement to declare any potential conflict to John Wilhelm, Joe Trovato or Lynn Ziraldo.
- Joe reminded the group that all documents distributed are confidential unless otherwise stated.
- The next meeting will be October 5, 2016.

Special Education Update

Louise Sirisko, Director, SEPPB

Louise Sirisko provided an update on the following items:

- PPM 159 – *Collaborative Professionalism* released May 31, 2016. The PPM honours commitments made in recent collective bargaining agreements. It also provides opportunities for collaboration at the provincial and local levels. It will provide equal opportunity to share knowledge for not only students but staff from district school boards.
- MACSE members reviewed the memo and PPM and provided feedback.
- Follow up will be provided to MACSE members on the coordinated implementation strategy for the 2016-17 school year.
- Louise referred to research from Andy Hargraves about “*Leading from the Middle*” where the goal is to develop greater overall system coherence by strengthening collaboration within the system.
- An invitation will be sent to the Leadership and Learning Environment Branch to present at the next meeting in October. The focus will be on the following:
 - How is the ministry supporting professional learning in district school boards?
 - How is the ministry supporting the transformation?
- Louise suggested that members read the recently released book written by Dr. Lynn Sharratt and Beate Planche– *Leading Collaborative Learning: Empowering Excellence*. The authors examine what it actually means to work together for a common purpose.
- The Renewed Math Strategy is one example where divisions within the Ministry of Education worked collaboratively.

Special Education Guide

Linda Yan, Joanne Viger & Kim Spence, SEPPB

- SEPPB staff provided an update on the Special Education Guide – Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Feedback questions were provided to MACSE members re: snapshots of the Special Education Guide
- The release date for the Special Education Guide is scheduled for Fall 2016.

MACSE members provided further comments:

- An executive summary for each chapter would align and integrate the information
- Ensure that the guide is accessible to all users by providing a list of acronyms and their meaning
- It was suggested that a section be created about Student Voice and self-advocacy
- A section should also be created for the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Members wanted to know who the guide is intended for – educators and/or parents

Community Collaboration

All

- Community collaboration reports were shared with ministry staff and council members.
- The Executive reminded members of the importance of these reports and connecting with their organizations/associations. The information provided is reviewed and analysed for any possible trends. The information gathered also assists MACSE with setting direction for working groups.
- It was suggested that the ministry review the “Trends Analysis” from previous years as it provides a provincial perspective.

Working Groups

All

MACSE members broke into the following groups to discuss their current priorities:

Aboriginal Education	Well Being and Student Achievement
Marion (Chair)	Sue (Chair)
John (Executive Member)	Lynn (Executive Member)
Shelly	Joanne
Katie	Daphne
Brian	Laura
Peggy	Denise
Sharon	Stacey
Cheryl	Janette
Lucille	Marcia

June 9, 2016

Renewed Math Strategy

**Cathy Montreuil, Richard Franz & Connie Quadrini,
Student Achievement Division**

- The Renewed Mathematics Strategy is an Early Years to Grade 12 roadmap that leverages the collective knowledge and skills from our shared successes of the past, to focus on improving student achievement in mathematics.
- Support also focuses on the strengths and needs of students with learning disabilities and students taking compulsory courses in Applied Mathematics.
- The strategy provides new forms of support to all schools, increased support to some schools and intensive support to a select group of schools with the greatest needs in mathematics.
- Key Components of intensive support will be effective mathematics learning for students with LD. This consists of working collaboratively with a team of teachers, including special education teacher(s) and the principal along with board resources, e.g., the special education lead, math lead, psychologist.
- Educators will be working together as a team to deeply understand the student profile and its implications for instruction and assessment, and updating the student’s IEP based on that understanding.
- Extending educators’ knowledge of mathematics content aligned to students’ learning needs.
- At this time the ministry is looking at software and apps that kids are enjoying.
- Homework Help will be available during the school day for the first two weeks so that teachers can show their students how to use it on their own.

MACSE members provided further comments

- The Math curriculum needs to be accessible.
- The Renewed Math Strategy isn't just for students with special education needs, it is "Learning for All".
- The Chair of MACSE requested an update on Mathematics at the next meeting.

Mental Health and Addictions Strategy

**Lisa Lumley, SEPPB
Christopher Kotz, Healthy Schools Unit**

An update was provided on Promoting Well-Being in Ontario's Education System including:

- The Well-Being Strategy for Education discussion paper was released in Spring 2016 and is available on the ministry website.
- Starting in the Fall 2016, the ministry will be asking education partners for feedback on a Provincial Student Well-Being Strategy.

Mental Health & Addictions Strategy

- The Ministry of Education continues to work with ministries and community partners to support the Syrian Newcomer Settlement in Ontario.
- Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention were discussed at length due to the recent student suicides this school year.

School Mental Health Assist

- School Mental Health ASSIST formed the School Mental Health Newcomer Resource Group to support school boards in their efforts to promote mental health and respond to any social emotional needs of newcomer students and their families.
- One of the resources developed by the SMH Newcomer Resource Group is an information sheet welcoming Syrian newcomer students and families to school, including information on mental health and well-being.

Community Collaboration

While MACSE Members were presenting Community Collaborations, it was noted that many were asking about the Exceptionality Definitions and Guidelines and very concerned that for some, review and updates have been over eight years in coming. As a result, a resolution was passed. (see Appendix A)

Minister Update

The Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education

Minister Sandals thanked Council members for their dedication on serving on MACSE and for the great advice members give on behalf of our students. Minister Sandals also provided the following update:

Provincial and demonstration schools

- The ministry recently completed a consultation with education and community partners.
- Staff has heard from parents, students and educators.
- Minister Sandals met with families of students attending these schools to hear their perspectives. She also met with the Child Advocate regarding demonstration schools.
- The admissions process has resumed for the 2016-17 school year for the demonstration schools as well as Robarts and Centre Jules-Léger Schools for the Deaf.
- The value of these consultations was to hear the students talk about their experience not just their experience at the demonstration school but their experience in school boards and what was challenging and what the students felt was successful at the demonstration schools.

Renewed Math Strategy

- The government recently announced a renewed \$60M math strategy to better support students, parents, teachers and schools.
- Students will now have 60 minutes of math a day in both elementary and secondary.
- The goal is to have every elementary school who has one person with expertise in math.
- Educators will have additional training in math.
- At this time, the ministry is looking at the tiered approach where there will be more support for those who are struggling.

Well-being

- Starting in the fall of 2016, we will be asking education partners to consider how their work connects to well-being. We also need to be thinking more consciously on well-being for both learners and educators.
- The focus is to establish a common understanding of what promoting well-being means and what strategies are most effective.
- We would like feedback from MACSE members on students with special education needs and those you are representing.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- The Ministry of Education has set up a First Nation, Métis and Inuit working group to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.
- At this time there is a fair amount of information in the curriculum re: Indigenous communities in Canada. We are reviewing the curriculum to ensure that residential schools are included.
- We have committed \$5M in the budget explicitly to develop resources.

Autism Update

Louise Sirisko, SEPPB
Jane Cleve, Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)
Sarah Hardy, Manager, Autism (MCYS)

- On March 29, 2016, MCYS announced the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) which will provide children and youth with critical interventions faster, and provide services that are better matched to their needs.
 - As part of the MCYS announcement to redesign autism services, MCYS and EDU will introduce new measures to better align community-based ABA services and school-based instructional ABA.

Updates from other ministries

- MACSE members heard presentations on a variety of initiatives underway within MCYS, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) and the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). A written update from each ministry is now part of the Special Education Update.

Meeting Summary and Wrap-Up

Joe Trovato, Chair

Joe reminded the group of the following:

- Once finalized, the MACSE summary will be posted on the MACSE repository and will be available to members. Minutes from previous meetings, as well as MACSE's Annual Reports can be accessed from the [MACSE repository](#).
- Members are reminded that all meeting materials from the June 2016 meeting are confidential unless otherwise stated.

Appendix A

MACSE RESOLUTION – EXCEPTIONALITY DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES

JUNE 2016

While MACSE Members were presenting Community Collaborations during the June 2016 Meeting, it was noted that many were asking about the Exceptionality Definitions and Guidelines and very concerned that for some, review and updates have been over eight years in coming.

Whereas, the mandate of MACSE as set out in the Order-in-Council is to advise the minister on any matter related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and special education services for exceptional students;

Whereas, the Exceptionality Definitions and Guidelines are of paramount importance to all school boards in establishing and delivering special education programs and services;

Whereas, the well-being and mental health of all students is of paramount importance to all school boards;

Be it resolved that the work on Definitions and Guidelines already completed in 2014 be included as part of the new Special Education Guide coming this fall 2016 and

Be it resolved that the Minister would consider moving ahead with work on all other definitions.

Moved by Laura LaChance

Seconded by Denisse Maisonneuve

Carried

Appendix B

Members of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education

Updated June 2016

Exceptionalities/Sectors Represented	Name	Expiry Date
Council Chair	Joe Trovato	March 31, 2017
Exceptionalities		
Learning Disabilities	Suzanne Bonneville	May 8, 2016
Pervasive Developmental Disorders / Autism	Vacant	
Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing	Denise Maisonneuve	November 5, 2017
Gifted	Stacey Manzerolle	May 27, 2018
Developmental Disability	Laura LaChance	October 1, 2016
Blind and Low-Vision	Dawn Clelland	March 31, 2017
Physical Disability	Katie Muirhead	May 27, 2018
Multiple Exceptionalities	Lucille Norman	October 1, 2016
Emotional / Behavioural Disorder	Daphne Korczak	May 27, 2018
Educators		
Supervisory Officers	Peggy Blair	May 27, 2018
Trustees	Cheryl Lovell	December 2, 2017
Principals	Vacant	
Teachers	Shelly Durance	October 1, 2016
Educational Assistants	Marcia Brown	March 31, 2017
Professionals		
Medical	Vacant	February 12, 2017
Psychologists	Dr. Sue Ball	November 5, 2017
Social Workers	Jim Van Buskirk	October 1, 2016
Speech and Language Pathologists	Sharon McWhirter	October 1, 2016
Students / Youth		
Students / Youth	Braxton Hartman	October 1, 2016
Aboriginal Community		
Vice Chair /Aboriginal Community	Marion Macdonald	May 8, 2016