

Meeting Summary
Meeting of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
June 6 & 7, 2012

The Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) held its most recent meeting on June 6 & 7, 2012 in Toronto. Below are highlights of the meeting:

June 6, 2012

- John Wilhelm, Chair of MACSE, expressed regrets on behalf of the Minister who would not be able to attend the Council meeting. He also provided an overview of the *Conflict of Interest* rules to members of the Council. Council members were reminded of the requirement to declare any potential conflict at each meeting.
- The Chair reminded members that June marks the first meeting for the upcoming fiscal year and also introduced the two new working groups and their respective leads. Robert Savage will chair the working group on the impact of the Accepting Schools legislation on students with special education needs and Tracy Grant will chair the working group on Accountability and Student Achievement. Tracy and Robert will now join the Executive for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Chair thanked Marlene Pike for her work on the previous working group and the Executive.
- Barry Finlay, Director of the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch (SEPPB), provided an update of activities in SEPPB including an overview of the number of students receiving special education programs and services and a breakdown per exceptionality based on the most recent available data which is 2009-10. Barry Finlay reminded Council of the Drummond Report's recommendations around accountability and special education and section 23. MACSE's advice will be welcome as the Ministry moves forward.
- SEPPB provided an update on the following:
 - Sandy Palinski and her team provided a brief overview of the work being done by Kathy Short and the ASSIST team along with the mental health leaders.
 - Council received an update on the resource guide being developed for educators around mental health and addiction issues and potential amendments to the curriculum. Members were asked to provide their input on the priorities for any possible curriculum changes.
 - The Learning Disabilities Working Group (LDWG) has met on several occasions. A draft PPM was shared with members. Staff from SEPPB provided an update on the Learning Disabilities Working Group (LDWG). This group has met on several occasions to provide input into the development of Guidelines for Programs and Services for Students with Learning Disabilities and assist with the review of PPM 8 on Learning Disabilities. The PPM and guidelines were shared with members.
 - Additional working groups may be formed for the following exceptionalities: Giftedness, Developmental Disability and Mild Intellectual Disability.
 - EDU and the MOHLTC will be working closely with Dr. Doug Willms and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) to support the sharing of health data to improve student learning and how the data may be used in the continuing evolution of the special education funding formula.
 - Members were advised of the Individual Education Plan review being conducted by school boards. Results from the review will be shared at the Fall meeting.

- Tracy Grant and Robert Savage provided an overview of a consultation they attended on MACSE's behalf on the Ontario Student Record. Documents will be forwarded to members for their feedback.
- MACSE members discussed the use of survey monkey as a tool to collect information from their respective associations as part of community collaboration. It was decided that the previous practice of MACSE members liaising with their constituency groups and sending the forms to these groups would continue. Once feedback is received from the constituency groups, each MACSE member will summarize the feedback and input the summary into survey monkey.
- Each member of MACSE shared the successes and challenges experienced by the exceptionality, the group or the community they represent. The information gathered helps to inform MACSE's priorities and various initiatives of EDU.
- MACSE members heard presentations on a variety of initiatives underway within the Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Training Colleges and Universities and Community Social Services. A written update of each ministry is now part of the Special Education Update. One item of importance was the work being done across the Ministries of Children and Youth Services and Community and Social Services to develop an integrated transition plan. The Ministries thanked MACSE for their resolution asking the Ministries to develop one plan.

June 7, 2012

- Ministry staff and members of the Minister's ASD Reference Group provided an update on school boards' implementation of PPM 140.
- Julie Williams from SEPPB and representatives from the Field Services Branch and Student Achievement Division provided an update on Board Improvement Planning for Student Achievement. There was some specific discussion of how school boards are incorporating students with special education needs in their plans.
- Representatives from the Student Achievement Division provided an overview of the changes for 2013-14 regarding the four year secondary program and the focus on supporting students to achieve their required credits within this four year timeframe.
- The Chair asked members to volunteer to participate in a Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) focus group being led by Julie Williams.
- Representatives from Learning Environment, Equity and Inclusive Education and SEPPB jointly presented on the Accepting Schools Legislation.
- Council broke into two working groups for the remainder of the afternoon to discuss the working group topic for the coming year, the scope of work, MACSE's role, and how the Community Collaboration process can support information gathering.
- Once finalized, MACSE's minutes will be posted on the MACSE repository and will be shared with members. Minutes from previous meetings, as well as MACSE's annual reports can be reviewed at www.macse-on.ca.
- MACSE's next meeting is scheduled for October 10 & 11, 2012 in Toronto.

- Members are reminded that all meeting material from the June 2012 meeting is confidential unless otherwise stated.