

## **HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

### **Special Education Advisory Committee - (Virtual Meeting)**

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Rebecca Hurren (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Yalin Gorica (Association for Bright Children); Diane Miller (Member at Large); Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Kathy Turner (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Jenn Heidstra (Association for Bright Children); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton)

**Staff:** Colette Ruddock (Superintendent Special Education); Sean Marks (Principal); Lorna Goodrow (Administrator)

**Regrets:** Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Candice Keem (Community Living Burlington)

#### **1.0 Opening**

##### **1.1 Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

##### **1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory**

Chair Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

##### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

#198-23

Moved by: E. Sproule

Seconded by: K. Turner

Be it resolved that the October 11, 2022 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

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#### 1.4 Minutes of September 13, 2022

#199-23

Moved by: D. Miller

Seconded by: Y. Gorin

Be it resolved that the minutes of the September 13, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### **2.0 Action**

2.1 A presentation was made by Instructional Program Leaders, Rob Garcia and Angela Sauve on Project Search. There was an opportunity for a Q&A after the presentation.

2.2 A. Brindle, Chair of SEAC, presented on behalf of the Learning Disabilities of Halton/Hamilton Association. There was an opportunity for questions after this presentation.

#### **3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period**

E. Sproule asked if the previous month's minutes can be sent out earlier than just a week before our SEAC meetings. Superintendent Ruddock said that we can take that suggestion back to our next Agenda setting meeting.

Trustee Oliver asked Superintendent Ruddock around the recent labour discussions in the media. Is there anything that can be shared with SEAC at this point? Superintendent Ruddock commented that CUPE represents our caretakers and maintenance staff in our Board. These labour discussions do not impact our EAs and early childhood educators. Negotiations are at a provincial level not a board level. Discussions are ongoing and we are remaining optimistic. Our Board will have a plan with a commitment to continuity of learning should there be a CUPE strike.

#### **4.0 Communication to SEAC**

##### **4.1 Superintendent's Report**

1. **CCAT7 Administration:** The process for the administration of the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test begins in October. Families of Gr. 4 students attending in-person schools have been notified of the process and students will participate in the assessment in the coming weeks. Families of Gr. 4 students attending virtually have been provided the opportunity to write the test from home and proctored by staff through Google Meet. More information can be found on the board's website: <https://www.hdsb.ca/learning-and-resources/Pages/Special-Education-Programs-and-Placements.aspx>

**2. October 2022 Self-Contained Classes** - Each year, we examine our complement of needs and self-contained classes / locations to determine whether we need to open, close or consolidate classes. Below is a summary of changes for October 2022.

*M - Move    O - Open    C - Close*

CLASS / LOCATION	M	O	C	RATIONALE
Life Skills		X		2 Life Skills classes were opened at Rattlesnake PS 1 Life Skills class was opened at each of Tiger Jeet Singh PS, Palermo PS
Learning Disabilities		X		1 LD class was added to Orchard Park, Addition of one class at McKenzie-Smith Bennett and movement of some students in West Area due to class sizes
Gifted				J/I Gifted class added to Morden PS
Behaviour Resource Class (BRC)			x	Two BRC classes were closed: Abbey Lane and Robert Little PS due to lower needs across the system
Kindergarten Expressive Language and Literacy Program (KELLP) and Expressive Language and Literacy (ELPHA)	X			Track B KELLP class moved from Palermo PS to Rattlesnake PS due to application numbers
Communication				No changes
Community Pathways Program (CPP)		x		A new CPP was opened at Elsie McGill Secondary School

**3. SEAC Update** - Our last SEAC meeting for this term is November 1, 2022. Letters have been provided to inform SEAC members/associations of the process to select representatives for local associations for the next term, as well as to apply for membership at large. The Communications

Department has also posted publicly for new SEAC members through a variety of forums. There is no SEAC meeting in December. The new SEAC membership will be confirmed by trustees at the January 11th Board Meeting, and training for the new SEAC will occur virtually on January 17 at 7pm.

## **4.2 Association Reports**

October is LD and ADHD Awareness Month and LDAHH is proud to be celebrating this with a variety of informational social media posts, programs, and events. On 29<sup>th</sup> October, we have a free in-person workshop with Dean Bragonier, TEDtalk speaker and founder of Noticeability, a charity celebrating the strength of the dyslexic mind. On November 7<sup>th</sup> we start our ADHD Behavioural Management Workshop Series with Dr. Robert Sylvestri, providing parents with hands-on strategies to manage emotional dysregulation and build executive functioning skills in students. Where possible, we are also continuing to launch additional cohorts of programming for Reading Rocks, Mastering Mathematics, Social Skills, Next Steps and Executive Functioning to meet the huge demand we have seen over the last few weeks.

For more information, please reach out to us through our website at [www.Ldahh.ca](http://www.Ldahh.ca), with full accessibility and translation supports.

## **4.3 Trustee Reports**

### **October 12, 2022 Board meeting**

The Board meets next on October 12, 2022. The agenda can be found [here](#). There are a number of items that may be of interest to SEAC members, as follows:

1. Ombudsman Annual [Report](#). (information report)
2. Suspension Expulsion Bi-Annual [Report](#). (information report)
3. School Naming and Renaming Policy and Governance Procedure [Report](#). (for action October 12)
4. Delegation Policy and Governance Procedure [Report](#). (for action October 26)

## **LTAP**

Parents/guardians, staff members, students and the broader community are invited to review and provide feedback on the Halton District School Board's 2021-2022 Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP). This plan addresses the existing and projected accommodation needs of students in elementary and secondary schools and identifies new capital project initiatives such as the need for new schools. The LTAP, along with documents and resources outlining key points for Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville are available on the Long Term Accommodation Plan [webpage](#) on the Halton District School Board website ([www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca)).

Feedback is invited by Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022 at 4 p.m. using:

- The [online feedback form](#), or
- Email: [plan@hdsb.ca](mailto:plan@hdsb.ca)

Feedback will then be compiled and considered, along with LTAP approval in October.

### **Climate Ready Project at Irma Coulson Public School in Milton**

The Halton District School Board and Irma Coulson Public School in Milton, along with [Evergreen](#), are excited to be [unveiling of the new Climate Ready Schools project](#), a first of its kind in Canada. The Climate Ready Schools program provides a progressive approach to addressing climate change and school ground design. This project creates enhanced and accessible experiences for student development in which they can connect hands-on with the environment. The overall aim of this project is to help mitigate the effects of climate change by cooling outdoor learning sites with shade and better managing the infiltration of stormwater to minimize flooding.

### **End of term Board meeting schedule**

The Board schedule to the end of this term is:

- October 12, 26, November 2 - Board
- October 19 - Committee of the Whole
- November 9 - Special Board meeting
- November 16 - Inaugural meeting of the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees

### **Inspire Awards**

Seen something that inspires you? The [Inspire Award](#) is given to an individual or group that is formally or informally associated with the Halton District School Board, who support our students and their achievements through exemplary caring, initiative, innovation and creativity.

### **4.4 Committee Reports**

- Parent Involvement Committee – none
- Accessibility Coordinating Committee – L.Morris confirmed they have met. L. Morris mentioned that we would like to put the Accessibility Committee on our list of presentations after the new year and after the election.
- Equity & Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee - D. Vandenbossche confirmed that this committee was folded into another committee and will present in the future
- Mental Health and Well-being Strategy Steering Committee - Y. Gorica confirmed that October 13 will be the next meeting

### **5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper**

Student Well-Being Department will present in November  
Overview on special programming that HDSB offers for families/students  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing strategies/programs  
Voice presentation

### **6.0 Adjournment**

6.1 Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.