



HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee - (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, September 13, 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); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Jenn Heidstra (Association for Bright Children)

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

Regrets: Candice Keem (Community Living Burlington); [Diane Vandenbossche](#) (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#196-23

Moved by: E. Sproule

Seconded by: S. Siddiqi

Be it resolved that the September 13, 2022 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of June 7, 2022

#197-23

Moved by: Y. Gorica

Seconded by: D. Miller

Be it resolved that the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

Superintendent Ruddock provided information for our next SEAC term. A letter with details to be distributed to all SEAC members. Superintendent Ruddock explained that Associations can submit new names to the Board. Last meeting for this SEAC Committee will be November 1, 2022. SEAC allows for up to 12 Associations and we currently have 8.

On November 17, a new Board of Trustees will be sworn in. Chair Brindle and Superintendent Ruddock proposed a new January SEAC meeting date of January 17. Orientation for all new members will be on this date and our SEAC meetings will resume in February. There will be no SEAC meeting scheduled for December.

Chair Brindle and Vice-Chair Morris provided a brief overview for both Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

E. Sproule asked about access to technology and how and when it gets delivered. S. Marks, Principal of Special Education Services Department responded that it depends on the situation and technology. First SERTS let us know what is needed, then it is relayed to IPLs and IRTs for any form of AT. Superintendent Ruddock commented that we have the ability to “loan” out AT temporarily if there are issues with shipping and/or materials and equipment.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

1. School Start-Up: An update to this year's school start-up will be provided.

2. Entry to School Transitions: For the second year, the Ministry has provided funding to support student transitions in August. This process allowed for schools to plan for the return of students with significant special education and/or mental health needs through a variety of supports (e.g., school visits, planning meetings, staff training, parent meetings).

3. Summer Learning and Assessments

- a. In addition to summer learning opportunities for students through School Programs, and the Gary Allan and Welcome Centres, SES offered a range of learning opportunities to support students with special education needs. Sean Marks will provide some highlights of summer learning successes this evening.
- b. Mental health supports were also offered to students throughout the summer. Student Well-Being will provide an update to SEAC at the November meeting.
- c. The Ministry of Education provided tutoring funding to community organizations. In HDSB, the following organizations offered summer programmes that were free of charge to HDSB students: Learning Disabilities Association of Halton Hamilton (LDAHH), Halton Black Voices, Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton, and the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford.
- d. 30 psychoeducational assessments and 50 language assessments were completed by SES staff over the summer. These summer assessments support our ongoing efforts to reduce wait times for students on the list to be assessed.

4. Fall Tutoring Supports and Assessments

The Ministry of Education has again provided funding for community organizations to deliver tutoring supports to HDSB students. The following organizations have been granted funding through an RFP process: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton, Park Street Education, LDAHH, Halton Black Voices, Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton, and the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford.

The Ministry has also provided funding for assessments to be conducted and to reduce wait times. Given this funding could not be used to hire staff, we have engaged the services of two private psychoeducational consultants to conduct assessments on our behalf. We anticipate approximately 60 assessments to be completed through this process by December 31, 2022.

Y. Gorica asked how will the board reach out to the families and are students recommended by their teachers for these assessments? Superintendent Ruddock confirmed that students are self/parent selected. Superintendent Ruddock confirmed that a communication will go out to parents regarding the registration process and that the Ministry stipulated that all organizations must be Not For Profit only.

4.2 Association Reports

LDAHH is proud to be running Next Steps After High School for students in Grade 10-12+. This is free of charge due to funding from the Halton Region Community Investment Fund. This program is for students with suspected/diagnosed LDs, ADHD and other challenges, and helps them identify a future career goal and possible pathways to reaching that. The program is run in association with community partners who provide information on various pathway options including apprenticeships, college, university, or working/volunteering in the community. Students will be better equipped and prepared with resources to manage change in their next chapter. Topics explored include self awareness and self-advocacy, accessing supports in post-secondary and community employment programs to support skill development. Information can be found at [Next Steps After Highschool - Learning Disabilities Association of Halton Hamilton \(ldahh.ca\)](https://ldahh.ca)

4.3 Trustee Reports

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. The Board met for the first time this school year last Wednesday, September 7. The agenda can be found [here](#).

The draft Equity and Inclusive Education Policy has been sent for legal review. You can see the draft [here](#). There are sections which speak to shared and committed leadership, inclusive curriculum and assessment practices, mental health, among others. A new draft Indigenous Education Policy has also been submitted for legal review. You can see the draft [here](#).

The Board also discussed the School Naming and Renaming Governance Procedure, and has referred this to the Committee of the Whole for discussion. One of the points being considered is whether or not schools should be named after people.

The Committee of the Whole meets tomorrow night. Other agenda items include consideration of a revised by-law, which governs activities in the boardroom, and a reflection of some training that the Chair and Vice Chair recently took. The group will discuss Section 264(1)(c) of the Ontario Education Act.

Later this month, the newest draft Long Term Accommodation Plan will be launched for community ideas and questions. The Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) is an annually reviewed planning tool that provides enrolment projections to guide accommodation planning needs and actions over a 15-year time period. Planning staff have reimaged this document and this release has tonnes of user friendly information.

The Board schedule to the end of this term is:

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

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 – none
- Equity & Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee - none
- Mental Health and Well-being Strategy Steering Committee - none

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Superintendent Ruddock confirmed that the 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

Project Search Update - October

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

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