

DRAFT

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee - (Virtual Meeting)

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Jenn Heidstra (Association for Bright Children); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Joanna Oliver (Trustee)

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

Regrets: Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Yalin Gorica (Association for Bright Children); Rebecca Hurren (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Diane Miller (Member at Large); Kathy Turner (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#200-23

Moved by: Sarah Lansley

Seconded by: Tracey Ehl Harrison [Trustee]

Be it resolved that the November 1, 2022 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

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1.4 Minutes of October 11, 2022

#201-23

Moved by: Erin Sproule

Seconded by: Heather Gerrits [Trustee]

Be it resolved that the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 AODA presentation. Ian Gaudet, Superintendent of Facility Services and Allison Vader-Ippolito, General Manager of Human Resources presented. There was an opportunity for a Q&A after the presentation. Chair Brindle asked if there are students on the Accessibility Committee? SO Gaudet confirmed we have staff and parents but no students currently.

2.2 Student Well-Being Presentation. Superintendent Dean Barnes, Student Well-Being introduced Michelle Bates, Manager of Student Well-Being. There was an opportunity for a Q&A after the presentation. There was a discussion on how many students are self-referring for mental health issues and discussions around how VSS students can be supported? There was a discussion around immigrants and newcomers. Superintendent Barnes responded that the Board has a Welcome Centre. The Centre provides settlement workers and interpreters for all students and families should they require these services. M. Bates commented that as well, there is a social worker connected directly with our Welcome Centre to help support all newcomer students and their families.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

Trustee Ehl Harrison shared that she saw the new outdoor accessible space at Oakwood Public School and that students of all different abilities, learning and exceptionalities were together having a wonderful time. Superintendent Ruddock also shared pictures of the Oakwood accessible space. A similar space has also been made available at J.M. Denyes Public School.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

November 1, 2022

1. **Grade 4 CCAT7:** Administration is now complete. Families will receive their child's results in late November. Families will be informed at this time whether their child meets HDSB criteria to continue on in the gifted screening and/or identification process.
2. **Outdoor spaces:** Special Education Services has partnered with Facility Services to improve the naturalized play spaces for students in some of our Life Skills and Communication classes. Most recently, the spaces at Oakwood and JM Denyse PS have been completed.
3. **IEP Update:** This fall we have transitioned to a new IEP engine called Aspen. There are a number of new improvements to the IEP, as well as staff training focusing on writing / implementing effective IEPs. With the implementation of this new program, however, came some glitches that staff have been working through. As a result, the IEP deadline was extended to October 24th. Families should now have the Fall 2022 IEP for their child.
4. **Tutoring Supports - Ministry Funding:** The Ministry is allowing boards to rollover unspent tutoring funds from spring/summer 2022. We are currently awaiting the details of this extension and working on a plan to maximize this funding, which now expires March 31, 2023.
5. **CPP Information Evenings:** The Community Pathways Program is a Self-Contained Special Education placement for high school students with an exceptionality of Intellectual Disability- Developmental Disability or Mild Intellectual Disability. Special Education Services will be providing two virtual Regional Program Information Sessions for the Community Pathways Program to support centralized messaging for HDSB families. Both sessions will address the same information, so please suggest that parent(s) and/or guardian(s) only attend one of the following;
Tuesday November 1st (7:00 pm)
Wednesday November 2nd (7:00 pm)
6. **SEAC:** As a reminder, this is the last meeting for this SEAC. Thank you to all of you for your commitment to SEAC and, more importantly, commitment to our students and families. I have truly enjoyed working with you through this term. I have learned a great deal from all of you. I hope to see many or all of you back for the next term. A SEAC orientation for the 2022-2026 SEAC will be hosted virtually on January 17, 2023 at 7pm. Thank you to this SEAC for all of your work, support and advocacy for our students and families.

4.2 Association Reports

None

4.3 Trustee Reports

November 2, 2022 Board meeting

The Board meets next on November 2, 2022. The agenda can be found [here](#). SEAC members may be interested in the updated 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, shows where the various programs are located across the board, and this year it also has a number of key performance indicators including facility condition, outdoor learning spaces, and carbon footprints. There is also a plan to integrate accessibility considerations for each school. For more information, visit the LTAP [webpage](#).

Student Trustees and Student Senate

Student Trustees, Cindy and Ethan, have been sworn in and are getting the Student Senate organized for this school year. Each school is able to designate a student senator. The first meeting of the Student Senate has taken place, and senators are able to sign up for different committees including mental health and the environment.

End of term Board meeting schedule

Trustees met on October 26 and presented a variety of end of term reports showing the work completed and next steps for the governance related work of trustees, and a number of updated policies and procedures, such as the delegations policy and procedure, and the school naming and renaming policy and procedure. They are all available [here](#).

The Board schedule to the end of this term is:

- November 9 - Special Board meeting
- November 16 - Inaugural meeting of the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees

SEAC is also going through a renewal of participants. Thank you to everyone and the organizations that are involved. Your contributions to this Board are so very valuable. We/Trustees have learned a great deal from you and we are grateful.

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

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

None

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.