



HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee - (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee); Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Surekha Kanithi (Association for Bright Children); Alison Brindle (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Nadia Toric (Community Living Burlington); Evelyn Bursey (Community Living North Halton); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Rebecca Hurren (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Kathy Turner (Voice for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Melissa Somer (Member At Large); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society)

Staff: David Boag (Superintendent Special Education); Sean Marks (Principal); Lorna Goodrow (Administrator)

Guests Director Ennis; Trustee Shuttleworth

Regrets: Matthew Diodati (Trustee); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Diane Vandebossche (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children Who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Superintendent Boag called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Superintendent Boag read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Superintendent Boag began the inaugural SEAC meeting and presided until the Chair was elected. Superintendent Boag called upon all SEAC members (Trustees, association reps and members at large) to indicate their interest in the position of Chair. SEAC reps may also indicate their support for another member.

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Only one member of SEAC expressed an interest in being Chair, therefore, no vote was required and Alison Brindle was declared as Chair. Newly elected Chair Brindle, called upon all SEAC members to indicate their interest in the position of Vice-Chair. There was only one member that expressed interest for Vice-Chair, therefore no vote was necessary. Katie Schleifer was declared Vice-Chair.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

#202-23

Moved by: C. Baxter

Seconded by: M. Somer

Be it resolved that the February 7, 2023 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

1.5 Minutes of November 1, 2022

#203-23

Moved by: C. Baxter

Seconded by: M. Somer

Be it resolved that the minutes of the November 1, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Special Education Services Department Priorities Presentation

S. Marks, Principal, Special Education Services Department presented a “Special Educations Services Priorities” slideshow/presentation to SEAC. There was an opportunity for a Q&A during and after the presentation. During this presentation, Director Ennis joined the meeting at 7:30 and congratulated and welcomed the current SEAC Committee members and looks forward to working with everyone.

2.2 SEAC Learning for this Year

Chair Brindle asked members if they had some thoughts around what they would like to learn this year on SEAC. There were many topics expressed by members that have been recorded and will be addressed at future SEAC meetings.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

Superintendent Boag mentioned that Roxana Negoii, Superintendent of Business Services would like some feedback from SEAC around the budget process and would SEAC prefer one or two presentations? Chair Brindle confirmed that it would be welcomed to have two presentations on the budget.

K. Schleifer gave some feedback on the two Special Olympic days held recently. Would organizing this event be better to do by “area” as coordinating bussing seemed to be a big issue around this event. Overall the event was amazing and it was appreciated that it was not restricted to certain grades.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

Superintendent’s Report

1. The Halton Sports Festival Special ran on January 25th and February 1st. This event was sponsored by Special Olympics Ontario. Two great days of fun and friendly competition were had by approximately 250 athletes from 24 schools across the HDSB.

2. We are in the process of reaching out to the chairs/staff liaisons for all Board committees to see if they are looking for SEAC representation on these committees. Once compiled, this information will be shared with SEAC.

3. Budget process is underway for next year. We are at the early stages. GSNs (Ministry Funding) does not usually come out until Feb/Mar of the prior year. Budget process and allocation of resources occurs by the staff first and then comes to the Board of Trustees for decision making usually in June. Early spring we ask our Budget department to attend a SEAC Meeting to take us through the budget and receive feedback.

4.2 Association Reports

Chair Brindle reported the following for Centre for Diverse Learners Halton:

The Centre for Diverse Learners is opening registration for its first-ever summer camp tomorrow. Programs will run weekly throughout the summer from 9 am-3:30 pm each day and focus on literacy/numeracy in the morning and social skills and fun activities in the afternoon. Diverse learners from Grades 2-6 are welcome. For more information, please take a look at our website

www.diverselearners.ca

We are also very excited about our upcoming 12th Annual Solutions for Learning Conference taking place online on March 3rd and 4th. We have 3 amazing keynote speakers, including Dr. Kilpatrick, Dr. Ross Greene, and Dr. Velikonja talking about structured literacy, collaborative problem-solving, and the neurological basis of diverse learning. We follow up with 4 streams of experts providing insight

into evidenced-based approaches to support diverse learners with literacy, numeracy, social-emotional and general struggles. Finally, we have an Equity and Diversity panel discussing the intersectionality of neurodivergence, education, and the experience of also coming from an additional equity-seeking group. For more information, please head to our website.

K. Turner reported the following for VOICE For Children Who Are Deaf & Hard of Hearing: In March we are having a Maple Syrup Walk at Mountsberg Conservation Area. In June we host a weekend at Great Wolf Lodge and we are also going to be holding workshops for our families during the year.

R. Hurren reported the following for Halton Down Syndrome Association: Sadly, the World Down Syndrome Day contest is not running this year. We encourage schools to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on Tuesday March 21, 3:21 to represent the three copies of chromosome 21 that a person with Down Syndrome has. We are also excited to share that our Annual Halton Walk for Down Syndrome is happening again in person at the Milton Fairgrounds in June. More details to follow when they are released.

4.3 Trustee Reports

Trustee Baxter reported the following:

As Trustees begin a new term, a number of professional development sessions have been scheduled. Many Trustees were already able to participate in the annual Public Education Symposium last month. Included presentation by Patricia DeGuire, Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission that prepared the Right to Read report in 2019.

School Boundary Reviews are underway in Georgetown and Burlington to address accommodation pressures, with the goal of balancing enrolment. Changes to the location or boundaries for special education programs are not being considered in either review.

- Another review is planned for North-East Oakville this spring.
- Information on all boundary reviews can be found at

<https://www.hdsb.ca/schools/Pages/School-Boundary-Reviews.aspx>

Student trustee elections are taking place on Feb 23rd. All Grade 7-12 students will be provided with a link to candidate information and later a link to place an online vote on Election Day.

4.4 Committee Reports

None

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Halton Down Syndrome Presentation for March's SEAC meeting

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.