

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, January 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Alison Brindle (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Xin Yi Zhang, (Trustee); Nadia Toric (Community Living Burlington); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Kathy Turner (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Carole Baxter (Trustee); Evelyn Bursey (Community Living North Halton)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Stacey Farrell Bangerter (Vice Principal, Special Education); Roxana Negoï (Superintendent, Business Services); Jay Chanthavong (Controller of Financial Services); Allison Vader-Ippolito (General Manager, Human Resources); Ian Gaudet (Superintendent, Facility Services); Marta Zammit (Office Supervisor, Special Education); Laura Radinovic (Coordinator, Special Education)

Regrets: Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Diane Vandenbossche (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Melissa Somer (Member At Large); Surekha Kanithi (Association for Bright Children); Angel Zuzic (Community Living North Halton)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Superintendent Ruddock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Superintendent Ruddock read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

1.3 SEAC Chair and Vice-Chair Election

There was one nomination for Chair, Allison Brindle. There were no other nominations therefore, Superintendent Ruddock acclaimed Allison to Chair of SEAC. Thank you for continuing on in this position and so adeptly facilitating our discussions and supporting HDSB students and families.

There was one nomination for Vice-Chair, Katie Schleifer. There were no other nominations, therefore, Chair Brindle acclaimed Katie to Vice-Chair of SEAC. Thank you for your support and willingness to step in as needed.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

#220-24

Moved by: K. Turner

Seconded by: S. Siddiqi

Be it resolved that the January 9, 2024 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

1.5 Minutes of December 5, 2023

#221-24

Moved by: A. Brindle

Seconded by: C. Baxter

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the December 5, 2023 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 AODA Plan Update

Welcome to Ian Gaudet, Superintendent of Facilities Services, and Allison Vader-Ippolito, General Manager of Human Resources. Presentation on the work being done to support AODA can be found [here](#). There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.2 Budget Presentation

Welcome Roxana Negoï and Jay Chanthavong, Superintendent and General Manager of Business Services respectively. Presentation on this year's budget can be found [here](#). Participants were sent into 2 breakout rooms for discussion and input.

2.3 Supporting Behaviour Needs Presentation

Stacey Farrell Bangerter, VP of Special Education Services, presented a plan to support students with challenging behaviours. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.4 Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board [SIP Letter to Ministry of Education](#)

Letter was reviewed and discussed, including a reference to a similar letter sent by HDSB SEAC in June 2020.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

Trustee Zhang shared comments from the parent community regarding location of self-contained classes and offering programs in schools within close proximity to a student's home school.

Evelyn Burseley welcomes any feedback or questions that she can bring forward to the AODA committee.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ruddock had nothing to report.

4.2 Association Reports

Jennifer Legare from Autism Ontario provided the following update:

March Break Reimbursement Fund

Need support for your autistic child during March Break?

The March Break Reimbursement Fund is available to Ontario families of autistic children or youth who retain the services of a one-to-one support worker OR who have paid for their child to attend a March Break camp or program but not both.

Maximum reimbursements of \$350 per child or youth (up to 18th birthday) will be made to subsidize services purchased during the March Break Week.

A minimum of 1,007 families from across Ontario are expected to receive reimbursements.

Reimbursements will be provided based on a random selection made from all eligible applicants who apply between December 20, 2023 and January 22, 2024.

<https://www.autismontario.com/marchbreak>

Sarah Lansley, Easter Seals Society, mentioned that Summer Camp Registration opens on January 19, 2024.

Katherine Turner, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, mentioned that Horse Camps will be happening again in the summer. More details to come.

Chair Brindle provided the following update for the Centre for Diverse Learners. They are running an Executive Functioning Workshop for parents on January 13th - the half-day event happens regularly to support parents understanding how to help their children with planning, learning strategies, organizing etc. The early bird deadline for the 13th annual Solutions for Learning Conference will be until Jan. 15th. Speaker information can be found [here](#).

4.3 Trustee's Report

No formal report was presented.

4.4 Committee Reports

Trustee Baxter emphasizes that Special Education is an important topic as it relates to student achievement and as we've heard, comprises a large and important component of our budget. Last year, Trustees committed to professional development specific to special education. Trustees would like to request the assistance and perspectives of the member associations to round out our learning by answering a couple of questions. Those are:

- 1) Which programs and services does the board currently provide that are essential to student achievement for the students that your association represents?
- 2) Are there any programs and services that you would like to see offered for the students that your association represents?

Simple answers in a bullet point list is sufficient. Trustee Baxter to speak with Superintendent Ruddock and Chair Brindle on the best way to collect this information.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- CanChild "F-Words for Child Development"
- Autism Ontario
- Budget discussions

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:59 pm.