

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Alison Brindle (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Xin Yi Zhang, (Trustee); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Evelyn Bursey (Community Living North Halton); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Carole Baxter (Trustee); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Stacey Farrell Bangerter (Vice Principal, Special Education); Christine Howard (Manager - Professional Student Services); Laurie Reid (System Principal); Christine Caughill; Angela Sauve, Ksenia Micallef; Sommer Sweetman (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Coordinator, Special Education)

Regrets: Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Diane Vandenbossche (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Surekha Kanithi (Association for Bright Children); Angel Zuzic (Community Living North Halton); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Erin Ruppel (OPVIC); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Joanna Oliver (Trustee)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#224-24

Moved by: A. Winch

Seconded by: K. Schleifer

Be it resolved that the March 5, 2024 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of February 6, 2024

#225-24

Moved by: E. Sproule

Seconded by: J. Legare

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the February 6, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Literacy Plan Presentation

Welcome Conan Spruin, Christine Howard, Laurie Reid and Christine Caughill. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.2 Autism Ontario Presentation

Welcome Autism Ontario, presenters Jennifer Legare and Amanda Winch. Presentation can be seen [HERE](#). There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.3 Anti-Human Trafficking Education Strategies Follow Up

Welcome Stacey Farrell Bangerter, Angela Sauve, Ksenia Micallef. Presentation can be seen [HERE](#). There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.4 Budget Update

Superintendent Ruddock shared the budget survey is now closed and feedback will be reviewed. Waiting on Ministry GSN in April then decisions on efficiencies will be made. Next presentation will likely be in May by Superintendent Roxana Negoii. The Special Education Plan will also come around that time.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

Sarah Lansley, Easter Seals, wondered about the status of the [INVITATION](#) for participation in National AccessAbility Week and Red Shirt Day.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ruddock asked Principal Spruin to share some of the work that has taken place this year with ASSDP (After School Skills Development Program). Thank you and congratulations to Audrey Draaisma for the immense success of this program.

4.2 Association Reports

Jennifer Legare, Autism Ontario, wants to remind everyone about Celebrate the Spectrum April 2, 2024, Paperwork Party (March 6), Awesome Moms (March 21), Rad Dads (March 25), Autism Ontario Exploring Autism (March 25). More information is on the [Autism Ontario](#) website.

Sarah Lansley, Easter Seals, shares that March is Easter Seals month. Lots of fundraisers to get involved with. More information available on the [Easter Seals](#) website.

Alison Brindle, Centre for Diverse Learners had a very successful conference on March 1st & 2nd. Thanks for being involved. New programming starting after March break. Details available on the [Centre for Diverse Learners](#) website.

4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Baxter thanks all associations who provided feedback on the questions they asked back in February.

4.4 Committee Reports

The committees had nothing to report.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- Budget & Special Education Plan coming
- Any associations that would like to present, please reach out.

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.