

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee - (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Carole Baxter (Trustee); Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Surekha Kanithi (Association for Bright Children); Alison Brindle (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Evelyn Bursey (Community Living North Halton); Kathy Turner (Voice for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children Who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing); Melissa Somer (Member At Large)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent of Special Education); Sean Marks (Principal of Special Education); Lorna Goodrow (SEAC Administrator); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee)

Absent: Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Diane Vandenbossche (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association)

Guest: Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee)

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

Vice-Chair Schleifer read the Land Acknowledgement

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#208-23

Moved by: K. Lambacher

Seconded by: N. Toric

Be it resolved that the May 2, 2023 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

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Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of April 4 , 2023

#209-23

Moved by: N. Toric

Seconded by: A. Brindle

Be it resolved that the minutes of the April 4, 2023 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Budget Presentation - Superintendent Negoj and J. Chanthavong, Controller of Financial Services presented the 2023-2024 Special Education draft budget update. Several SEAC members had questions during and after the presentation. The full presentation will be shared with SEAC after the meeting. Chair Brindle thanked the presenters for their presentation.

2.2 Allocation of Educational Assistants (EAs) - Sean Marks, Principal of Special Education Department presented on the allocation of educational assistants (EAs). Several members had questions after the presentation.

2.3 Special Education Plan (SPED) - Superintendent Ruddock opened the floor to discuss any items that came from the draft SPED Plan. The plan will be voted on next month by SEAC. There were questions surrounding the self-contained class size cap, what is the Board's practice re supports for an IEP diagnosis, what is the process when a student with an existing IEP comes from another Board and would the Board consider specialized supports in the classroom for mental health for students.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

None

4.0 Communication to SEAC

Superintendent's Report for May, 2023

1. **Summer Learning** - The Ministry recently announced through the budget process that funding for summer learning will continue again this year (and next). We are currently waiting on the technical papers to determine the parameters for spending these funds. We hope to have more information for the June SEAC meeting.
2. **Special Athletes Track Meet:** Planning is underway for our 36th Annual Special Athletes' Track Meet on June 16th. This is a highlight of the year for our students with special education needs. We will welcome over 430 students from Life Skills,

Communication Programs, Mainstream classrooms, and EC Drury, both in-person at Garth Webb SS and virtually.

3. The [Director's Cut Episode #9 - Mental Health & Well-Being](#) was released last week. This video highlights the supports offered by our Student Well-Being Department for elementary and secondary students. Michelle Bates, the Mental Health Lead, will be joining us next month to share more information about their work.

4.2 Association Reports

S. Lansley from Easter Seal Society reported the following:

National Accessibility Week will take place this year from May 28th to June 2nd. This is an annual event for Canadians to come together to celebrate the valuable contributions and leadership of Canadians with disabilities, highlight the work of individuals, organizations and communities who are removing barriers, and reflect on our ongoing efforts to become a better, more accessible, more disability inclusive Canada.

May 31st is Red Shirt Day™ of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion. This is a day when people across Canada come together and wear red in schools, workplaces and spaces everywhere in order to create a visible display of solidarity: to show their support for persons and families of those who are living with disabilities, celebrate the achievements of people living with disabilities, and to pledge their commitment to help create a fully accessible and inclusive society that honours and values the contributions of people of all abilities in all aspects of life in Canada.

A letter was sent to the directors of all school boards across Ontario by Easter Seals Ontario to formally invite boards to participate in both National Accessibility Week and Red Shirt Day.

K. Turner reported that Voice is hosting a special event between June 9-11 at Great Wolf Lodge and to please contact her for more details if interested.

4.3 Trustee Reports

Trustee Baxter reported the following: A by-election for the seat of trustee for Burlington, Wards 1 & 2 has been called and will take place between May 15 and 29. Eligible voters (supporters of the public board) in Wards 1 & 2 will have three voting options for the by-election:

- online, from May 15 to May 19
- in person at advance polls on Wednesday, May 24
- in person on election day, Monday, May 29
- All information can be found on the City of Burlington website:
<https://myvote.burlington.ca/en/for-voters/>

On April 18th, Director Ennis conducted the next segment in the Director's Panel Series on Bringing the Multi-Year Plan to Life. The focus of that discussion was on Environmental Leadership. The Director's Panel series can be viewed on the HDSB website.

At tomorrow's Board meeting, Trustee Oliver - our Student Trustee mentor - will bring a report with the recommendation to formally accept the results of the Student Trustee elections. Sultan Alimzhanov and Shrena Sribalan were elected to serve as Student Trustees in the 2023/24 school year. Their term is scheduled to begin on August 1st.

4.4 Committee Reports

- Accessibility and Co-Ordinating Committee - Evelyn Bursey - none
- Mental Health and Student Well-Being Committee - Kate Lambacher - none
- Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee - Kajsa Klassen - none
- Indigenous Advisory Council - Melissa Somer - none

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

June - Mental Health & Well-Being Presentation

Community Living Burlington - Presentation

SPED Plan vote

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.