

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Alison Brindle (Chair); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Xin Yi Zhang, (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee);

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Jennifer Fowler (Superintendent, Safe Schools); Sommer Sweetman (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)

Regrets: Erin Ruppel (OPVIC); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Joanna Oliver (Trustee).

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#234-24

Moved by: A. Winch

Seconded by: M. Dockeray

Be it resolved that the November 20, 2024 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

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1.4 Minutes of September 11, 2024

#235-24

Moved by: A. Winch

Seconded by: J. Legare

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the September 11, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Updates to the Code of Conduct Presentation

Superintendent Fowler provided a presentation and has asked for feedback from the members on the Code of Conduct and School Dress Code Policy. Please see the presentation [HERE](#).

2.2 Special Education Plan Standards Overview

Kate Lambacher provided a presentation on the Special Education Plan Standards. There was an opportunity to ask questions. Please see the presentation [HERE](#).

Amanda Winch has offered to review the IPRC Process and Appeals and present the findings at the January or February SEAC meeting.

At a future meeting, we should review the Individual Education Plan Standard as a group and provide our thoughts on what works and what doesn't.

2.3 What is the role of the Chair?

Chair Brindle provided a presentation on the Role of the Chair. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. Please see the presentation [HERE](#).

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

[This letter](#) from Limestone District School Board to the Registrar and CEO of the Ontario College of Teachers was distributed to the SEAC members. We will review at the next meeting to see if our members have any feedback.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ruddock shared the following:

1. **ASSDP Saturday Sessions** - Parent coaching sessions began on October 19 and will run for 8 weeks. These sessions were well attended by parents of primary students with Autism.
2. **CCAT7 Administration:** The process for the administration of the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test occurred in October and 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. This year, the test was administered online. More information can be found on the board's website: <https://www.hdsb.ca/learning-and-resources/Pages/Special-Education-Programs-and-Placements.aspx>
3. **Secondary School Transitions** - This is the time of year when our secondary schools host Open House sessions for incoming Grade 9 students. Similarly, Special Education Services hosted virtual information sessions for CPP (Community Pathways Program), a Self-Contained Special Education placement for high school students with an exceptionality of Intellectual Disability- Developmental Disability or Mild Intellectual Disability.

Secondary schools work with elementary schools over the next number of months to plan for a smooth transition of students from Grade 8 to 9, across all program pathways.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in transitions and offer their expertise on their child's strengths and needs.

4. **Secondary athletics** We have five events scheduled throughout the year for our nearly 300 CPP students including partnering with Special Olympics Ontario for more opportunities. This includes such activities as bowling, soccer, basketball, and track & field. Many students have also started to access intramural sports, clubs and teams at the schools. Special Olympics Ontario will provide these opportunities in the future as our secondary schools continue to express interest.

4.2 Association Reports

Chair Brindle shared on behalf of Centre for Diverse Learners, that their winter programming is now open for registration.

4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Baxter thanked the committee members for their input in the Multi Year Plan which is complete and available on the website.

4.4 Committee Reports

We are still looking for a new representative for the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) committee. If anyone would like to become involved, please reach out to Superintendent Ruddock or Chair Brindle.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- Student Well Being
- Supporting Challenging Behaviors
- January/February - Review IPRC
- IEP Plan Standards

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.