

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Alison Brindle (Chair); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Xin Yi Zhang, (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Stacey Farrell Bangerter (Vice-Principal, Special Education); Kevin Raposo (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)

Regrets: Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Erin Ruppel (OPVIC); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children);

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

#232-24

Moved by: Katie Schleifer

Seconded by: Amanda Winch

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

Carried Unanimously

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1.4 Minutes of June 4, 2024

#233-24

Moved by: Melissa Dockeray

Seconded by: Carol Baxter

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the June 4, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Visible Values - Data Informed Planning

Stacey Farrell Bangerter provided a presentation on Visible Values. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. Please see presentation [HERE](#)

2.2 Sub-Committee for Special Education Plan Standards

There are 18 standards in the Plan that have to be followed, so we are looking for members to review a selected standard, provide an overview of the key information, and connections / gaps with legislated requirements for the Standards. Kate Lambacher offered to provide an initial overview of the Standards.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

Nothing at this time.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ruddock shared the following:

1. **2024-25 School Year-** We have had a successful and smooth start back to school.
2. **Summer Learning / Support** - We had a very successful summer learning program this year. In addition to the offerings from School Programs and Gary Allan, SES hosted learning sessions for a range of special education needs and age/grade ranges, including Assistive Technology camps, Structured Reading Intensive, and entry to school programs for students with Autism. The Student Well-Being Department also provided virtual mental health supports

throughout the summer, using our CYC and Social Workers. Finally, our SLPs and Psychoeducational Consultants conducted additional assessments over the summer.

3. **Entry to School - Transitions** - Again this year, the Ministry provided funding for staff to host transition meetings for students with significant special education or mental health needs. These funds were used to support students visiting the school, as well as case conferences with parent/guardian and other key stakeholders to support students who are experiencing greater challenges in returning to school.

4.2 Association Reports

Nothing to report.

4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Baxter reiterates the appreciation to the SEAC members who participated in the Multi-Year Planning exercises and the Trustees look forward to bringing a plan forward this Fall.

4.4 Committee Reports

We are looking for a new representative for the AODA committee. If anyone would like to become involved, please let Superintendent Ruddock or Chair Brindle know.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- Kate's review of the SPED Plan Standards
- Kate would like to see standards around parent communication for evaluations and particular diagnoses
- Alison Brindle, stepping down as Chair, election to take place in January
- SATM - is there an opportunity to host a meet for Secondary students - Superintendent Ruddock to bring additional information back

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.