



Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Boardroom, J.W. Singleton Centre, Burlington, Ontario, on April 19, 2016.

Present:

Amy Collard **Vice-Chair** (Trustee Representative); Jason Bartlett, (Member-at-Large); Richelle Papin (Trustee Representative); Tammy Beattie (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Dianna Bower (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Kim Graves (Trustee Alternate); Lucille Morris (Member-at-Large); Leah Reynolds (Trustee Alternate); Dawn Spence (Association for Bright Children); Lori Aker (Halton Down Syndrome Association) ; Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Carla Marshall (Autism Ontario);

Board Liaison and Resource Personnel:

Mark Zonneveld (Superintendent); Jane Lewis (Principal of Special Education); Margaret Kew (Vice-Principal Special Education); Rebecca Bardin (SEAC Assistant)

Trustees: Jeanne Gray

Regrets: Sophie Geffros (Easter Seals Society); Susan Suter (Easter Seals Ontario); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Denise Nacev, **Chair** (Member-at-Large);

Absent: Judy Shiels (Voice for Hearing Impaired Children)

1. OPENING

1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

A Collard called the meeting to order at **7:10** p.m.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

#31-16 R. Papin/A. Collard

“THAT the agenda be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

2. CALL FOR NOTICES OF MOTION/REPORTS TO THE BOARD

3. BIG TOPIC

3.1 Accessibility Plan – M. Farrish and R. Eatough

M. Farrish and R. Eatough presented the HDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2012-2017. This plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2012 and includes specific goals that address students, staff and system. This presentation was shared with SEAC members prior to the meeting as well as the Accessibility Plan 2012-2017. Concluding the presentation M. Farrish and R. Eatough responded to questions brought forward by SEAC members.

3.2 Special Education Plan Review

A. Collard presented the 2016-2017 draft version of the Special Ed. Plan. The SEAC members were given the opportunity to review the changes that have been recommended by the Special Education Plan Review committee. Additional suggested amendments were brought forward and will be considered. A. Collard confirmed that additional amendments will be completed and brought back to SEAC for a final review.

4. ACTION

4.1 Motion to approve the Minutes of April 5, 2016 meeting

#32-16 L. Aker/A. Collard

“THAT the minutes of the April 5, 2016 SEAC meeting be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4.2 Committee and other Reports

Parent Involvement Committee – T. Beattie

- Meeting April 26th Milton Learning Centre – will be organizing PIC mobile, PIC reps will be visiting various schools to promote PIC and the introduction to the PIC newsletter
- Saturday October 15th – 9th annual PIC Conference taking place at Craig Kielburger S.S. keynote speakers are Craig Kielburger and Dr. Bruce Ferguson
- D. Nacev and T. Beattie attended the TDSB PIC Conference – excellent networking opportunity to meet other Ontario school board SEAC members.

Equity & Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee – A. Collard

- Recent workshop at Country Heritage Museum

EA allocation review D. Bower

- Next meeting is May 3, 2016

5.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

6.0 SEAC DISCUSSION/QUESTION PERIOD

J. Bartlett referred to the memorandum M. Zonneveld had sent out to SEAC and would like to confirm the purpose of “K” courses. M. Kew responded that these are non-credit bearing courses offered at the secondary level.

D. Bower would like clarification on the co-op funding model at the secondary level. Is there money set aside for students of CPP for co-op placements? Would also like to confirm if students are free to choose their placement or is this determined by other students placements? M. Zonneveld confirmed that budget money is allocated based on the size of the program. How the program looks varies on the individual student.

D. Bower would like to know who a parent should contact if they feel that the placement is being decided based on EA support. M. Zonneveld confirmed that there is an allotted budget for co-op placements. Schools are very innovative when arranging placements and transportation. M. Zonneveld encourages the parents to continue to problem solve with the school.

7.0 COMMUNICATION TO SEAC & CURRENT SUCCESSES

7.1 Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s Report – April 19, 2016:

In my message earlier this month about ‘Potential Changes in Special Education Programs and Services’ I also included the information below:

Additional Potential Changes

HDSB offers several programs that are not legislated and processed through IPRC. Two of these are the Early Language Development Classes (ELDC) and Communication Program classes. ELDC is a language-literacy program for students in Kindergarten who present with significant oral language delays/disorders. Communication classes are geared to children in K-Grade Three who have severely limited communication skills. The focus of this program is the establishment of a functional communication system appropriate to each individual student. For this coming school year we have 40 new student referrals for the Communication Classes and only 15 spaces in existing classes coming available. In light of the High Needs Amount funding reductions, there is no room in the budget to fund new Communication Classes. Therefore the Student Services Management Team is considering discontinuing the three ELDCs and opening three additional Communication Classes. If this decision is finalized we will be reconsidering how to support students that might be in an ELDC.

I would like to hear SEAC’s feedback on this proposed change. Please share your feedback via email in advance or at the meeting.

L. Aker would like to know what level of support students receive in ELDC and what support will be in place in a regular classroom.

C. Koekoek responded that ELDC is comprised of two programs that run concurrently throughout the year. Each term there is two classes of 10 children. The Speech Language Pathologist spends 1 day per week in each class. They perform assessments of the children and along with the teacher they plan goals and classroom strategies.

M. Zonneveld responded that there is value in these programs and would like to continue to support the students in the class.

C. Koekoek would like to continue to see the Speech Language Pathologist working with teachers to develop goals, teaching plans, IEP development etc. Currently work is being done with school staff specifically on the document “Oral Language at Your Finger Tips”. When the Speech Language Pathologists are present in the classroom it appears as an additional work station for the students.

L. Aker requested a PD session for staff on the document “Oral Language at Your Finger Tips”

C. Koekoek confirmed that a link to access this document will be shared with SEAC.

J. Bartlett would like to know what has replaced the FCP. C. Koekoek confirmed that this is now the Communication Program.

J. Bartlett would like to know if kids that are currently in ELDC will be mainstreamed in to a regular class. M. Zonneveld confirmed that ELDC students will be transitioned to a regular classroom.

M. Zonneveld appreciates SEACs input, understanding and support for these students. The sooner a decision can be made around programs the sooner principals can be made aware and prepare for any changes. Admin Council will determine how this decision will be brought forward.

D. Bower would like to know how this decision was driven? Is the best interest of the students forwarding this decision?

M. Zonneveld responded that it was initially reviewed to determine how to fund three new communication classes. Supporting students in their home school is the ideal method of service delivery.

7.2 Association Reports

ABC - Dawn Spence

- All about Anxiety, May 11th Longos Loft North Halton
- The 2016 Annual Conference to be held in Toronto Saturday May 7th, 8:30 - 5:00 p.m. TCDSB Head Office, 70 Sheppard Ave, Toronto
- S. Foster and D. Spence attended a few of the info sessions for the newly identified gifted students – SERTs attended with students – excellent session set-up

LDAH - T. Beattie

- Supporting the Development of Health Self-Esteem in Children with LDs—Wednesday April 20th, 2016
- Walk a Mile in My Shoes, Milton, June 7th

A. Marshall

- Chapter leadership council is April 23rd 2016

7.3 Trustee Report

R. Papin

- Working on the Multi Year Plan – April 13th and 14th
- Program Viability – meeting tonight

L. Reynolds

- Excited about launch of Inspire Awards. Call to action to parents, community members to nominate, these are inclusive awards

A Collard introduced and welcomed Keren Mack to SEAC in the role of Alternate Representative, Autism Ontario

D. Bower would like to know how the Multi-Year plan that trustees are working on fits with the Board Improvement Plan?

A Collard responded that once the Multi-Year plan is complete they will move into BIPSA

8.0 NEXT AGENDA/ORDER PAPER

Budget

9.0 MOTION TO ADJOURN

#33-16 R. Papin/A Collard

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm

CARRIED