



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee

JW Singleton Education Centre (Board Room), Burlington

Tuesday December 6, 2016, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Denise Nacev, **Chair** (Member-at-Large); Amy Collard **Vice-Chair** (Trustee Representative); Jason Bartlett, (Member-at-Large); Leah Reynolds (Trustee Representative); Dawn Spence (Association for Bright Children); Richelle Papin (Trustee Alternate); Tammy Beattie (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Keren Mack (Autism Ontario); Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Lucille Morris (Member-at-Large); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association)

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

Trustees: Joanna Oliver; Tracey Ehl Harrison

Regrets: Kim Graves (Trustee Alternate); Carla Marshall (Autism Ontario);

Absent: Judy Shiels (Voice for Hearing Impaired Children);

1.0 **Opening**

1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

D. Nacev called the Meeting to order at **7:03** p.m.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

#60-17 J. Bartlett/L.Morris

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda for December 6, 2016 as amended.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 **Call for Notices of Motion/Reports to the Board**

none

3.0 **Action**

3.1. Minutes of November 1, 2016 meeting

#61-17 R. Papin/D. Vandebossche

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for November 1, 2016 be approved as amended.

Carried Unanimously

3.2. Special Education Review

As agreed amongst SEAC members this item was moved to follow the adjourned SEAC meeting with the intent to meet as a Special Education Review Focus Group with the purpose of SEAC being able to provide the consultants with open feedback.

4.0 Questions from the Public

None

5.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

No discussion or questions from members

6.0 Communication to SEAC

6.1. Superintendent's Report – December 2016

1. Students With High Risks Review

Our work on this review continues. We have analyzed accident report data, received input from school admin and SEAC, and have begun regular meetings with the steering committee. We will be gathering input from various staff and considering next steps.

2. Special Education Programs and Services Review

This review is moving ahead very well with the following work nearing completion: analysis of HDSB, GTA boards and provincial enrollment data by exceptionality, analysis of HDSB funding and budget for special education, focus groups discussions with SERTs and school admin, individual meetings with some senior admin. Next steps include input from SEAC tonight, parent surveys, and input from PSSP and EA staff.

3. Professional Development

Staff development planning and delivery is ongoing, with a heightened focus this year on students with learning disabilities. Staff have also participated in several learning activities outside the board including Geneva Centre for Autism International Symposium, Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Ministry Wellness and Engagement training, and Children's Mental Health Ontario Conference.

4. Most Likely to Succeed Screenings

We have hosted several screenings for staff of Most Likely to Succeed. This provocative film has stimulated much discussion about what and how we learn. We are exploring innovative approaches to teaching and learning with the intent of increasing student engagement and positive school experiences and learning outcomes.

D. Vandebossche requested an opportunity for SEAC to attend a screening of the film "Most Likely to Succeed".

A. Collard responded that she has recently reached out to Superintendent J. Newton to set up a screening for SEAC. Further details will follow once available.

J. Bartlett would like to confirm how many meetings will take place with SEAC and the Special Education Review Consultants?

M. Zonneveld responded that this will be SEAC's first opportunity to participate in the research portion of the review. Future opportunities may come available based on the considerations for next stages of the review.

L. Reynolds thanked M. Zonneveld for offering the feedback on the Special Education Review and would like to know what opportunities the wider group of parents will have to provide feedback?

M. Zonneveld responded that they are considering sending out a survey to all parents with students receiving Special Education within HDSB. Currently reviewing the response options in this outreach as this is a work in progress.

D. Vandebossche would like to know if accommodations will be attached to the survey?

M. Zonneveld responded that this is being discussed and the hope is that it will be as accessible as possible.

S. Foster would like to know if the consultants are approaching specialists/experts in areas such as gifted education, autism etc. and other experts in education in each of the exceptionalities?

M. Zonneveld responded that this has not been the plan to go to individuals as you are describing. Comparisons taking place with other boards and literature reviews.

S. Foster requested that each association be given the opportunity to submit literature that they feel will contribute to the review. What is the time line and when should this be submitted?

M. Zonneveld responded that this can be reviewed further with the steering committee on Thursday. Time lines will need to be reviewed and discussed.

S. Foster mentioned that there is an endless amount of literature that can portray very different views. It would be useful for the associations to provide literature that is supported and that they feel is relevant to the associations and the students it supports. Should associations assist in directing consultants to the literature or provide literature?

J. Bartlett would like to know what the comparison benchmark that HDSB will use in assessing current practice. What is the comparative benchmark relative to the boards standards and ministry standards?

M. Zonneveld responded that there has been a large amount of data reviewed and the committee is currently in the process of discussing the option of an interim report to SEAC. All of the above is considered in the research and comparisons.

J. Bartlett would like to know if other members of SEAC could attend the steering committee meetings as an observer in order to have a deeper understanding of the review and the process.

M. Zonneveld responded that this will be discussed further at the steering committee meeting but also suggested that any questions be brought forward to D. Nacev the SEAC Representative. D. Nacev will continue to provide feedback and an update to SEAC following the Special Education Review Steering Committee meetings.

T. Beattie would like to know if any of the data being collected will include the Learning Centres?

M. Zonneveld responded that the depth of the program evaluation will be considered.

S. Foster requested that D. Nacev reach out to SEAC through email prior to the steering committee meetings requesting any questions be sent to her that they would like brought forward. Would also request that D. Nacev continue to provide SEAC with a debrief following the meeting.

D. Nacev responded that she welcomes any questions from SEAC prior to the meetings. The focus group tonight will cover much of the data that was discussed at the last meeting.

D. Nacev confirmed that she will continue to provide SEAC with feedback following the steering committee meetings.

S. Siddiqi supports the suggestion of sending literature on behalf of the associations.

S. Foster would like to know how other boards are being evaluated and compared to HDSB?

M. Zonneveld responded that quantitative data is being gathered as well as reviewing budgets spent/allocated, looking at performance data such as EQAO and learning skills.

M. Zonneveld has been contacting neighbouring boards to further research their program offerings. This is conducted through conversations and anecdotal methods.

S. Foster requested a list of boards that HDSB is using as comparisons. S. Foster would like to reach out to other SEAC Representatives within these boards to discuss in further detail what is working and not working and provide this feedback to the Steering Committee.

M. Zonneveld responded that this suggestion will be taken back to the steering committee for further discussion.

S. Foster would like to ensure SEAC fully utilizes the opportunity of the Special Education Review and suggested that more time be given if needed to complete this review to its fullest extent.

M. Zonneveld responded that timelines are being discussed and it is possible that this could be broken down into part 1, 2 etc.

M. Zonneveld confirmed that D. Nacev will follow up with SEAC after Thursday's meeting.

6.2. Association Reports/

D. Vandebossche LDAH

LDAH Report to SEAC Dec. 6, 2016

1. Our November Lecture Series workshop in Georgetown was well-received. The topic was psychological assessments and tying into IEP. There were so many questions about IEPs that we could probably run a separate session just on that topic. We handed the parents a Parent Tool Kit binder with appropriate dividers and the York Region DSB waterfall chart titled "Understanding Learning Disabilities". The next session in January, in Milton, will feature Dr. Sue Ball from York Region DSB who will provide parents with a deeper understanding of the information in the waterfall chart. All sessions are listed on our website.

2. Our Reading Rocks program has finished the fall session. Gains were seen in all students in reading and self- esteem which is the goal. The winter session starts in January and also starts the second year of our OTF Grant. If you know of anyone who would like to volunteer to tutor please contact Katie Jacobs at LDAH- 905-333-1977. We welcome adults, postsecondary students and senior high school students. No training is required as we train our volunteer tutors and they receive constant support from on-site Facilitators. We will provide letters of recommendation and volunteer hours to anyone successfully completing the 8 week session.

3. The conference information is on our website - Idahalton.ca. The conference is Thursday March 23, 2017 at the Burlington Holiday Inn. Registration is open. Information is also being sent to all school boards in the province. We are very exciting that Dr. Todd Cunningham will be our keynote speaker.

4. We are planning to start a Jump Math Booster Program for students from Grades 4-6, Jan 21 - March 4. See website for details and to register.

6.3. Trustee Reports

R. Papin

- Timeline for the Program and Accommodation Review (PAR) for Burlington Secondary Schools
- Thursday, December 1, 2016 – Formation and orientation of PAR Committee; Chair: HDSB Superintendent
- Thursday, December 8, 2016 – Public Meeting # 1; Location New Street Education Centre, 3250 New Street; Please register for this event. More information is available on the HDSB website.
- The Halton District School Board directed the Director to undertake a school boundary review for the new Martin Street Public School with an expected completion date of no later than February 2017.
- The Halton District School Board directed the Director to undertake a school boundary review for the area bounded by Dundas Street to the south, Walkers Line to the east and Highway 407 to the north and west; with an expected completion date of no later than February 2017.
- Both committees have been formed and began consultations. More information is available on the HDSB website.

M. Zonneveld mentioned that S. Miller would like to attend the January SEAC meeting to present and gather feedback from SEAC on PAR.

D. Nacev asked that the PAR meetings not conflict with SEAC meetings.

R. Papin did respond that they have considered this when scheduling the meetings.

D. Nacev welcomed two new representative from Halton Down Syndrome. Sophia Siddiqi and Mike Brown.

6.4. Committees and Other Reports

PIC – D. Spence

Orientation meeting needs to discuss the role further with D. Nacev. Update to follow next SEAC meeting.

Accessibility Coordination Committee

- Meeting took place on Nov 10th. Looking for a SEAC member to sit on this committee
- Reviewing upcoming requirements

Equity

No report meeting in a couple of weeks.

7.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

S. Millar – Presenting PAR
Sped Plan Review
December – PPM8 Presentation

D. Vandebossche understands the importance of all items on next month's agenda but strongly advised SEAC to keep the PPM8 item on the agenda. D. Vandebossche feels that SEAC needs to understand the new LD definition, accommodations, modifications. This has been requested as an agenda item since September 2014 and also requested that the committee receive PD on this topic.

D. Nacev thanked D. Vandebossche for her feedback and will look at how the January SEAC agenda can accommodate PPM8.

8.0 Adjournment

8.1. Motion to Adjourn

#62-17 A. Collard/J. Bartlett

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm