



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee

Milton Staff Learning Centre, Main Resource Room

Tuesday January 17, 2017, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Denise Nacev, **Chair** (Member-at-Large); Amy Collard (Trustee Alternate); Jason Bartlett, (Member-at-Large); Leah Reynolds (Trustee Representative); Dawn Spence (Association for Bright Children); 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); Carla Marshall (Autism Ontario); Kim Graves (Trustee Representative)

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

Trustees: Joanna Oliver

Regrets: Richelle Papin (Trustee Alternate);

Absent: Judy Shiels (Voice for Hearing Impaired Children); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association);

1.0 **Opening**

1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

D. Nacev called the Meeting to order at **7:00** p.m.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

#63-17 L. Reynolds/J. Bartlett

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda for January 17, 2017 as amended.

Carried Unanimously

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

None

3.0 **Action**

3.1. Minutes of December 6, 2016 meeting

#64-17 L. Reynolds/D. Vandebossche

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for December 6, 2016 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

3.2. Burlington PAR, Director of Education Stuart Miller

S. Miller spoke to the Program and Accommodation Review (PAR) Burlington Secondary Schools that is taking place within the Halton District School Board. S. Miller stated the importance of the SEAC/community perspective of the review.

S. Miller presented an overview of the challenges, current situation, enrolment trends of the Burlington schools that are under review and discussed an overall declining enrolment trend in Burlington schools. S. Miller concluded the presentation with a review of benefits of large schools/small schools and opened the floor for discussion and feedback. This will be brought forward later in the agenda and discussed amongst SEAC members.

L. Reynolds would like to know how the SEAC voice can be engaged in the PAR? S. Miller suggested that SEAC make a submission of considerations. S. Miller has discussed options with SEAC Chair, D. Nacev.

J. Bartlett inquired if the 2025 projections suggest that there is no new capacity being built? S. Miller responded that Burlington enrolment is expected to continue to decline while an increase in population will exist in Milton and Oakville schools.

T. Beattie mentioned that D. Bower is sitting on the Burlington PAR Committee for M.M. Robinson High School and is an excellent resource for SEAC.

A. Collard commented that closing a school in Burlington is not for the purpose of accessing funding to build another school in an alternate location such as Milton/Oakville.

S. Miller thanked SEAC for their input and encouraged SEAC to review the information and timelines and discuss PAR further. S. Miller understands the difficulty of decisions to close schools and can imagine how difficult this is for the schools and families. Halton is a growth board but growing in areas and declining in others. These decisions are based on the best interest of the students.

M. Zonneveld responded that support plans for students and families are a priority.

S. Miller highlighted that Burlington PAR information can be found on hdsb.ca along with [frequently asked Questions and Answers](#).

D. Nacev requested that SEAC members send their perspectives relating to special needs students/PAR to her attention. D. Nacev will compile a report that can be reviewed at the February SEAC meeting and then submit to the PAR Committee for consideration.

3.3. PPM8, Caroline Koekkoek, Jane Lewis, Ian Brandon

M. Zonneveld introduced C. Koekkoek, J. Lewis and I. Brandon to present PPM8.

C. Koekkoek presented Ministry updated PPM8 as of August 2014 and the definition of Learning Disability as outlined in PPM8. C. Koekkoek reviewed the implications for psychology and school boards as it relates to changes to PPM8. C. Koekkoek concluded her presentation and opened the floor to SEAC members for discussion/questions.

D. Vandenbossche thanked C. Koekkoek for highlighting the differences between DSM-V and Learning Disability. D. Vandenbossche has been made aware of discrepancies that exist with the post-secondary pathways and is concerned that DSM-V can make the pathway more difficult for the student.

C. Koekkoek responded that the results of DSM-V are not necessarily consistent with PPM8 (e.g. no requirement of "Average" cognitive ability), and this can cause challenges with respect to identification.

J. Lewis and I. Brandon presented on the PPM8 and its relation to HDSB System Support and Student Support with effective programming. J. Lewis will make this PowerPoint presentation and notes available to SEAC.

J. Lewis mentioned that regular meetings take place with all networks within HDSB Special Education. This presentation is geared towards LD but the collaborative approach is taking place amongst all exceptionalities.

T. Beattie would like to know if Pulse, Lexia, and Leaps and Bounds programs are available to all students outside of the LD Classes? T. Beattie feels that this programming is beneficial to students in all classrooms.

J. Lewis confirmed that there have been a number of sessions provided to teacher networks that have focused on the Pulse program. Leaps and Bounds is in most schools as a junior intervention.

D. Vandenbossche expressed a concern about the amount of modifications on student IEPs and feels strongly that students need to continue work at a grade level.

D. Vandenbossche appreciates the work being done but would like to see more implementation at the grass roots.

D. Vandenbossche requested that all members of SEAC have a copy of PPM8 to review as programming section in PPM8 is extensive.

J. Lewis responded that the link will be sent out along with the slide show to SEAC.

T. Beattie and D. Vandenbossche will forward further questions via email.

3.4. Sped Plan Revisions

D. Nacev discussed the timelines involved for SEAC's input into the Special Education Plan. This was discussed amongst the group and it was agreed that SEAC would review the draft Special Education Plan 2017 and discuss edit suggestions at the February SEAC meeting. D. Nacev also confirmed that voting to support/not support this document will need to take place at the February SEAC meeting.

D. Nacev requested that SEAC members have all feedback/suggestions entered onto the google form by February 3rd. This will allow members to review suggestions prior to the meeting. Please contact R. Bardin if you have problems accessing the link.

4.0 Questions from the Public

M. Dockeray brought forward a question regarding IEP review and support needed to more efficiently assist students with special education needs. M. Dockeray is concerned that lack of funding for EA support for all placements is effecting the implementation of IEP's.

M. Dockeray commented that an IEP review to assist in streamlining would be beneficial but has concerns around the lack of EA support to ensure that the IEP is being implemented.

M. Zonneveld responded that one of the priorities is reviewing what program needs are outlined in the IEP. The implementation can involve an EA and other times it does not. EAs play a significant role in supporting students. Through training, HDSB is working to enable the classroom teacher to provide increased IEP support.

5.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

D. Vandenbossche inquired when the majority response from Trustees would be made available to SEAC?

M. Zonneveld responded that the majority response has been composed and signed by K. Amos. Will ensure that it is sent to SEAC and added to the Special Education Plan.

6.0 Communication to SEAC

6.1. Superintendent's Report – January 2017

1. Gifted Screening test results delayed

The results of the second level of gifted testing for Gr. 4 students, the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test, have been delayed. These tests are scored by a third party firm that is experiencing unresolved software scoring problems. We are sending the tests to another firm which will delay the release of the results until the end of February. We have adjusted the timelines for sharing results with parents, school open houses, parent decisions and SRT recommendations so that IPRC timelines can still be met before the end of June. These new timelines will be shared with schools in the near future so that staff can inform parents.

A. Collard questioned if there is an additional cost going to the other firm. M. Zonneveld confirmed that it will be approx. \$1000.

2. Milton Boundary and Burlington Program and Accommodation Reviews
Board staff continue with this work and with engaging the public in these reviews. Student Services staff are participating as needed and staying apprised of the accommodation pressures in each area. Any changes to Special Education programs and services will occur according to our Self-Contained Classes administrative procedure.

3. Traumatic Events Response Team
Unfortunately our TERT has been quite busy this year in supporting students and staff in several schools. This team provides essential services to schools when traumatic events occur and do so with great skill, compassion and professionalism. Their support is greatly appreciated and highly regarded by our system.

6.2. Association Reports
none

6.3. Trustee Reports
L. Reynolds

- L. Reynolds and K. Graves will be the Trustee voting members of SEAC, A. Collard and R. Papin will move into the SEAC Alternate role.
- Burlington PAR - D. Danielli is the Trustee Representative on this Committee. Trustees are listening to the community voice and also very interested in SEACs perspective.

6.4. Committees and Other Reports

D. Nacev mentioned that the Special Education Review Committee will be meeting tomorrow and will provide an update following the meeting. D. Nacev mentioned that draft surveys have been put together and will be sent to SEAC for review and feedback.

M. Zonneveld confirmed that one survey is for parents with students with an IEP that are identified and the alternate survey is for parents with students with an IEP that are not identified.

S. Siddique would like to know if the review committee is accepting literature from SEAC associations. D. Nacev confirmed that she received S. Foster's literature and it will be sent on to the consultants. If there are other associations that would like to share, please send to D. Nacev as soon as possible.

S. Foster would like to know what other school boards are being reviewed as comparisons?

D. Nacev responded that this information has not yet been shared with the committee but will share with SEAC once it is available.

D. Vandenbossche is concerned about the message that is going out announcing the survey. Are the needs of parents with special needs going to be met?

M. Zonneveld responded that this has been discussed – one possible solution is that parents could turn to schools for support with the survey. Consultants have experience working with a range of public members and have completed similar work in the past. Due to the time frame, it is challenging to incorporate all accommodations. This is being viewed as a possible stage 1, considerations are being reviewed for a possible stage 2. It is hoped that schools will support parents with their needs in completing the survey.

D. Vandenbossche questioned if it is feasible for principals to reach out to the parents that require assistance. D. Vandenbossche is concerned that this will create a gap.

M. Zonneveld will continue the conversations and talk further with the consultants around accommodations. M. Zonneveld is hopeful that this survey will capture most of the audience.

Accessibility Coordination Committee - L. Reynolds on behalf of R. Papin

- met on Thursday, January 12th, at 9am at JWS.
- focused on creation of the new MYP for Accessibility.
- discussed process and content and plan to work with our departments and/or groups to complete a draft MYP for review together at our March meeting.
- Accessibility Coordinating Committee would like to have SEAC input on the Appendices and requested this item be added to an upcoming SEAC agenda.
- information will be sent to SEAC members via R. Bardin.
- requested a sub-committee to review the items and then bring it back to the group for a motion to provide official SEAC comment and a report back to SEAC in March
- R. Papin offered to head the sub-committee.
- any persons interested in being on this sub-committee, please contact R. Papin

Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee – A. Collard

- final meeting A. Collard will be attending for this committee
- discussed faith accommodations – ability needs to be a focus at a future meeting.

7.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair
- Sped Plan Revisions
- Discussion of timelines for Budget

Things to move forward for next meeting:

- Burlington PAR Considerations/Ideas - will pull together recommendations from SEAC
- Sped Plan Review – February 3rd
- survey will be sent out to SEAC to review
- Accessibility Plan Appendices feedback – feedback needed prior to March 9th

8.0 Adjournment

8.1. Motion to Adjourn

#65-17 L. Morris/S. Foster

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm