



Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Boardroom, J.W. Singleton Centre, Burlington, Ontario, on June 7, 2016.

Present:

Denise Nacev, **Chair** (Member-at-Large); Amy Collard **Vice-Chair** (Trustee Representative); Jason Bartlett, (Member-at-Large); Kim Graves (Trustee Alternate); Susan Suter (Easter Seals Ontario); Lucille Morris (Member-at-Large); Leah Reynolds (Trustee Representative); Dawn Spence (Association for Bright Children); Lori Aker (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Carla Marshall (Autism Ontario); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Keren Mack (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: Joanna Oliver

Regrets: Sophie Geffros (Easter Seals Society); Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Richelle Papin (Trustee Alternate); Tammy Beattie (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton)

Absent: Judy Shiels (Voice for Hearing Impaired Children)

1. OPENING

1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

D. Nacev called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

#44-16 C. Marshall/L. Aker

“THAT the agenda be approved .”

CARRIED

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

None

3. ACTION

3.1 Minutes of May 3, 2016

Motion to approve the Minutes of May 3, 2016 meeting

#45-16 L. Aker/ A.Collard

“THAT the minutes of the May 3, 2016 SEAC meeting be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3.2 Confirmation of SEAC vote to support HDSB 2016-2017 Special Education Plan:

Learning Disabilities Association of Halton – No
Halton Down Syndrome Association – No
Easter Seals- No
Association for Bright Children - No
Autism Ontario – No
A Collard – Abstain
J. Bartlett – No
D. Nacev – No
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children – Abstained
L. Morris – Abstained

A Majority Report will be submitted on behalf of SEAC. A. Collard recommended that remarks/comments be submitted to the SEAC Chair, D. Nacev will then draft the report on behalf of SEAC.

D. Vandebossche would like to confirm what the process is after the majority report is submitted to the Board?

M. Zonneveld will confirm the process with the Kelly Amos, HDSB Chair and follow up with SEAC.

D. Nacev confirmed that she will compile a report and send to SEAC via email for feedback prior to submitting to the Chair.

Motion for SEAC to compose/submit a Majority Report outlining rationale in not supporting the 2016-2017 HDSB Special Education Plan

#46-16 S. Sutter/D. Vandebossche

“THAT SEAC members will submit comments/suggestions regarding the Majority Report to D. Nacev in the next few days. This report will be completed by June 17th. SEAC will have the opportunity to review and respond to D. Nacev prior to the majority report being submitted to the Chair of the Board.”

CARRIED

D. Nacev confirmed that the voting of the Special Education Plan was deferred last week and it will be voted on next week after the budget.

3.3 Determine Discussion Topics for 2016/2017

D. Nacev would like feedback on what discussion topics members would like to see come forward next year. D. Nacev reviewed the topics that were covered and outlined the topics that are outstanding:

- Mental health
- Gifted Review
- High Needs
- AODA implementation
- Leveled Literacy Intervention

D. Nacev requested feedback from SEAC on what other topics are priorities and discussion ensued amongst the members. A selection of topics were brought forward for 2016-2017 year and are as follows:

- Ministry Standards in Special Education Plan and SEAC involvement.
- Lexia Reading program and an update on the status of this program. How this program is being utilized and if it is being used to its full extent.
- Role of the EA for clarification purposes
- AODA Training – interested in more conversation around how it relates to Closing the Gap items and accessibility at schools
- SEAC Calendar, key dates on the Calendar.
 - A Collard responded that the Director is putting together an Admin. Procedure for the Budget and Sped. Plan. This will contain critical dates that will be shared on the SEAC calendar
- Board Improvement Plan, S. Miller responded that this could be brought to SEAC prior to finalizing
- D. Nacev is interested in putting together a survey to assist in prioritizing

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

none

5. SEAC DISCUSSION/QUESTION PERIOD

L. Aker requested a follow up on Accessibility. What types of accessibilities are waiting to be addressed? Would these items take top priority over air conditioning?

M. Zonneveld confirmed that accessibility is reviewed continuously and the needs of students coming into the board or transfer of students from one school to another to ensure accessibility requirements are met. J. Lewis confirmed that the accessibility budget is separate from Closing the Gap.

M. Zonneveld responded that there is also an expectation with Closing the Gap that all schools are up to a compliance standard for accessibility.

D. Vandenbossche requested that the meetings be voice recorded as in the past and feels that this would be a useful communication tool. M. Zonneveld responded that video and voice recording is costly because of the need of a trained technician. M. Zonneveld will inquire if voice could be incorporated without the video. This will be discussed further with Superintendent G. Truffen.

K. Graves has confirmed that A. Grebenc and herself are exploring the options of technical training to manage the video/voice recording of SEAC meetings.

L. Aker would like to know the outcome for Community Pathways Program due to the delay in expansion to the school.

M. Zonneveld confirmed that the 10 classroom expansion has been delayed due to budget. Many renovations have taken place and the schools continue to provide service to the students. Community

Pathways Program continue to have additions to staffing and space as needed at each of the schools. M. Zonneveld anticipates that this will continue to be the process.

S. Miller confirmed that the Principal at Craig Kielburger is confident that the students will continue to be provided the same level of service. L. Aker would like to confirm the dates of the expansion. K. Graves confirmed that this has been delayed approximately 6 months due to design.

L. Aker requested J. Lewis to speak to the process of having the waiver letter corrected. J. Lewis confirmed that Student Services is working with the vendor and alternatives are being reviewed. L. Aker would like the IPRC waiver letter added to the plan as an appendix.

Motion to have the IPRC waiver letter reviewed as a committee in the SEAC fall agenda.

#47-16 L. Aker/D. Vandebossche

“THAT SEAC review the IPRC waiver letter as a committee in the SEAC fall agenda. Once it is reviewed by SEAC it be added to the Special Education Plan appendices.”

CARRIED

L. Aker requested an update on the High Risk Needs Review, where they are in the process of the High Risk Needs Review and will a report be coming to SEAC? M. Zonneveld will confirm the dates with SEAC in the fall but will also ensure that this comes to SEAC for input prior to completion.

L. Aker would like all SEAC motions added to the Board website.

6.0 COMMUNICATION TO SEAC AND CURRENT SUCCESSES

6.1 Superintendent’s Report

Report will follow

- Support for Students should the Learning Centre not move forward next year
 - o Learning Disabilities as a focus for next year
 - o Special Athletes Track meet is this Friday at Craig Kielburger.
 - o Special Education Review – looking at Programs and Services. Report coming to the Board next week.
 - o Self-Contained Class Admin Procedure – first draft to Admin Council. Will be brought to SEAC in September and is in process
 - o Future items that will be brought in the new year – Growing public awareness in Autism Services in the province. Would like to discuss these changes with SEAC. No details at this time to share.
- A. Collard would like to know if the board is expecting funding to help support the changes that will be taking place. M. Zonneveld responded that these are options that are being discussed. Special Needs Strategy - had an opportunity for input and the Ministries are coming back to the Boards with next steps.

6.2 Association Reports

LDAH – D. Vandenbosshce

- Second last lecture series tonight – last lecture will take place on June 15th, Milton
- Registration open for keyboard classes in Fall 2016
- Applied for pro-grant for the Lecture series to take place next year.

LDAH Would like the support of Student Services Department and HDSB with providing students/parents LDAH information. M. Zonneveld responded that the SEAC flyer has been removed from the Special Education Plan for review/updating. It is being reviewed by Student Services and would welcome suggestions on how to keep this information current. S. Miller responded that this is a broader issue of communication with HDSB. This has been identified and being addressed at the senior level.

M. Zonneveld thanked D. Vandenbosshe and Trustee D. Danielle for attending the Student Services Staff meeting that took place. M. Zonneveld spoke to the morning's events and the valuable learning opportunity for all.

HDSA - L. Aker

- GO21 Saturday June 18th, Milton – Major fundraising event
- 11 schools participated in the world down syndrome – videos will be available on the website

L. Aker announced that she will be stepping down as the HDSA SEAC Representative. She thanked everyone for their support and commitment and that it has been a pleasure working with each member of SEAC.

ABC – D. Spence

- Annual picnic - Saturday June 18th at Lowville park

6.3 Trustee Reports

A. Collard

Program Viability Review, Special Education Plan, Budget, Multi Year Plan will all be voted on at the upcoming Board meeting.

These are public meetings and the public are welcome.

K. Graves

Considering a notice of motion regarding the Learning Centre and would like thoughts from SEAC and suggestions on what would be considered. This motion would consider formalizing a plan and reporting back to the Board the following year regarding the delivery of these services. K. Graves concluded that emailed comments/suggestions are welcomed.

D. Vandenbossche would like to know if there are currently students on the wait list for the learning Centre. D. Vandenbossche stated that if the support and capacity is not available at the students school, this could be problematic.

J. Lewis responded that there are a variety of reasons that a student could be on a waitlist. There are currently no students that have been assigned a September start date. Approximately 30 students are on the wait list from previous referral meetings; no start date had been assigned to these students.

L. Aker requested that the parents voice of the how the students have been accommodated be incorporated into the review.

6.4 Committees and Other Reports

D. Nacev was not able to submit the application for the Pro-grant Vote is happening on the budget at the June 15th Board meeting and would welcome SEAC members to attend this meeting. D. Nacev will be submitting a delegation to the Board. D. Nacev reviewed with SEAC the items that she would like to add to the delegation and welcomes any suggestions from members.

Motion to waive the rules

#48-16 L. Aker/J. Bartlett

CARRIED

Motion to delegate to the Board

#49-16 D. Nacev/D. Vandenbossche

“THAT SEAC Chair D.Nacev delegate the Board of Trustees about our concerns with the budget and specifically with the cuts to Special Education Funding.”

CARRIED

PIC

Planning for conference is underway and the speaker will be Craig Kielburger.

EIE

Final meeting for the school year was held May 18, 2016 in the Milton Staff Learning Centre. The meeting was started with the affirmation statement regarding Halton’s rich history of First Nations and Metis that Halton District School Board is using to begin many of its meetings. As there was no new learning planned for the meeting, members had the opportunity to share verbal updates with each other. We heard from Halton Interfaith Council, Halton Diversity and Equity Roundtable, Community Development Halton, HDSB Board of Trustees, HDSB Human Resources, HDSB First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education, PIC, HDSB SEAC, and Library Services and ELL. If you want more information I regard to any update presented, please contact me.

The committee has done a great job of covering many of the 7 lenses of Equity and Inclusive Education. I requested on behalf of SEAC that the committee focus on the Ability Lens next year.

EA Allocation

Draft report stage – in motion

L. Aker would like to confirm if all stake holders have been involved in the review. The Motion that SEAC passed stated that we would extend to add a comprehensive review. Will the consultation take place with other stakeholders? What will that time frame look like?

M. Zonneveld responded that this has been discussed and this could be a next step to consider. SEAC will be updated in September 2016.

7.0 NEXT AGENDA/ORDER PAPER

Information will be shared closer to September

S. Miller thanked all members of SEAC and the organizations that are represented on the committee. S. Miller acknowledged that this year has been challenging for everyone. HDSB truly appreciates the work of each of these organizations and the representatives who support the students and families we serve.

9.0 #50-16 L. Aker/R. Papin

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm