



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Special Education Advisory Committee

JWS – Large Boardroom
Tuesday May 2, 2017, 7pm

MINUTES

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

Staff: David Boag (Associate Director); Jane Lewis (Principal of Special Education); Rebecca Bardin (SEAC Assistant)

Trustees: Tracey Ehl Harrison

Regrets: Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Mark Zonneveld (Superintendent); Margaret Kew (Vice-Principal of Special Education)

Absent: Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Ontario)

1.0 **Opening**

1.1. **Welcome and Call to Order**

D. Nacev called the meeting to order at **7:04** p.m. and welcomed D. Boag, Associate Director who is attending this evening's meeting in M. Zonneveld's absence. It was determined amongst the members that there would not be a budget discussion this evening and an additional SEAC meeting would be arranged for a budget discussion. SEAC is invited to the Trustee Budget Workshops and are encouraged to attend.

1.2. **Approval of Agenda**

#75-17 **L. Morris/S. Siddiqi**

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda for May 2, 2017.

Carried Unanimously

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

None.

3.0 **Action**

3.1. Minutes of April 11, 2017 meeting

#76-17 L. Morris/S. Siddiqi

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for April 11, 2017 be approved as amended.

Carried Unanimously

3.2. PAR Presentation & Discussion, Stuart Miller

D. Nacev introduced S. Miller, Director of Education and S. Podrebarac, Superintendent of Education who spoke to Burlington PAR Report 17075. S. Miller mentioned that there would be an opportunity for discussion and questions following the presentation.

S. Miller and S. Podrebarac presented the PAR review which highlighted the PARC process, recommendations and a summary of the rationale for the Director's recommendation. S. Miller mentioned that this was presented to the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday April 26th, 2017.

Concluding the presentation, SEAC members were given the opportunity for discussion, comments and questions. SEAC members voiced several concerns surrounding the recommended closure of Robert Bateman and Pearson High School which would involve the relocation of several highly specialized programs that currently reside within Bateman High School. The concerns surrounding the movement of these programs involved the availability, accessibility, financial cost and overall transition of staff/facilities and the students with special education needs. Several questions, comments and concerns were brought forward and discussion ensued.

S. Miller recognized the concerns of the overall transition of students should this recommendation move forward, although is very confident that the programs can be replicated. S. Miller thanked SEAC for the discussion and feedback surrounding the Burlington PAR recommendation and acknowledged that this is a very difficult process for all students involved. The final decision resides with the Board of Trustees and HDSB will readily follow through with the recommendation of the Board. The decision will not change the philosophical manner on how HDSB teaches students with special education needs.

Discussion ensued amongst SEAC around the need to participate in a delegation which would enable SEAC to bring forward concerns surrounding the recommendation. D. Nacev confirmed with SEAC which organizations would be requesting to delegate individually on behalf of the Associations they represent and which members would be requesting to delegate on behalf of SEAC. It was decided that the information shared would be compiled to create a SEAC delegation.

K. Graves mentioned that the deadline to apply for a delegation is this Friday at noon.

A. Collard recommended that all SEAC members who do not intend on delegating individually, work together to produce a SEAC delegation.

3.3. Budget (pending additional information)

SEAC members decided that an additional meeting will be scheduled to discuss budget recommendations.

4.0 Questions from the Public

None.

5.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

S. Siddiqi brought forward a concern that the waiver letter sent to parents has not yet been updated.

J. Lewis confirmed that the waiver letter has been updated to reflect the previously discussed changes. Letters that have been recently created are correct as there is only one source for schools to obtain the generated letter.

6.0 Communication to SEAC

6.1. Superintendent's Report – April 2017

SEAC Superintendent's Report – May 2, 2017

D. Nacev mentioned that due to M. Zonneveld's absence, a Superintendent report will be available at the next scheduled SEAC meeting.

6.2 Association Reports

LDAH – D. Vandenbossche

Scholarships available for students with Learning Disabilities:

Roy Cooper Scholarship:

- LDAO offers an annual \$1,000 scholarship award in memory of Roy V. Cooper, whose volunteerism within his own chapter community and the LDAO is recognized.
- The scholarship recognizes an Ontario high school student who has a documented Learning Disability and who will be attending a postsecondary institution in the upcoming academic year. The student must be pursuing a bachelor of engineering or a bachelor of science in a physical sciences discipline (please note: physical sciences do not include social sciences or technology majors). Candidates must have been full time high school students during the 2016-2017 school year and be entering their first year of college or university in 2017-2018.
- Applications are to be received by local LDA chapters by June 16, 2017. Chapters will recommend one candidate from their area each year to be placed in the provincial competition. Please contact your local chapter to obtain an application form:
www.ldao.ca/lda-in-canada/ldao-chapters/

The Justin Eves Foundation

595 Bay St., Ste 1202, Toronto, ON M5G 2C2 Phone: (416) 586-0085 Fax: (416) 586-1480 Website: www.justinevesfoundation.com

- Justin Eves Foundation Scholarship: For students with learning disabilities attending college or university
- Deadline June 30, 2017 for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Everything at LDAH is progressing as smoothly as can be expected:

- We are planning for our next PRO Grant application to help us to continue to provide parents with affordable workshops while moving around the region.
- Many of our programs are winding down toward the summer but one of the new ones we just initiated is Mindfulness and that one is proving to be quite popular. There is a strong possibility that it will continue into the summer.
- As always check the website for current and future events.

HDSA – S. Siddiqi

Scholarship – May 19th deadline.

6.3. Trustee Reports

A. Collard

- student of excellence celebration is tomorrow night
- long-term accommodation plan has been given to Trustees to review and available for SEAC to review

R. Papin

- budget information session starting for preparation for budget approval

6.4. Committees and Other Reports

PIC – D. Spence

- continued planning for October conference

Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee- D. Vandebossche

- participated in an Equity Focused conversation with the TARO Network ESG & HDSB Equity Steering Committee “Unpacking Islamophobia Building Religious Literacy”
D. Vandebossche shared the presentation with SEAC.

7.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Additional date for budget review recommendations

D. Nacev brought forward the discussion of a delegation to the Board of Trustees and suggested that Trustee SEAC Representatives and Trustees in attendance may choose to withdraw from the remainder of the SEAC meeting due to SEAC delegation discussion as this could cause a conflict.

D. Nacev requested that SEAC bring forward content suggestions for the delegation. D. Nacev explained that the delegation is five minutes of advocating and speaking to the Board about what SEAC would like the Board of Trustees to consider in their decision. D. Nacev mentioned that if you decide to delegate on behalf of the association you represent you would likely only speak to specifics as they relate to the students that your association represents - SEAC delegation would consist of a general delegation.

Motion to Adjourn

#77-17 D. Spence/J. Bartlett

“THAT the meeting be extended.”

Carried Unanimously

Discussion ensued amongst SEAC members as to what will be addressed and represented in the SEAC delegation.

Motion to Request Delegation to the Board of Trustees

#78-17 C. Marshall/J. Bartlett

“THAT SEAC delegate the board with our concerns regarding the Program and Accommodation Review Recommendation Report given to the Board of Trustees by Director Miller.

Carried Unanimously

8.0 **Adjournment**

8.1 Motion to Adjourn

#79-17 D. Vandenbossche/J. Bartlett

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm