

## HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm

#### MINUTES

**Present:** Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Alison Brindle (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Xin Yi Zhang, (Trustee); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Kathy Turner (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Evelyn Bursey (Community Living North Halton); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Erin Ruppel (OPVIC); Vanessa Tomas (CanChild); Alice Soper (CanChild); Danijela Grahovac (CanChild); Andrea Cross (CanChild); Alexandra Minuk (CanChild)

**Staff:** Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Hannah Lai, Sharon Langman, Lisa Montilla, Rachel Morash, Elizabeth Tracz Ogiltree, Sarah Wilson, (DHH Team), Kevin Raposo (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Coordinator, Special Education)

**Regrets:** Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Diane Vandenbossche (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Melissa Somer (Member At Large); Surekha Kanithi (Association for Bright Children); Angel Zuzic (Community Living North Halton); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Carole Baxter (Trustee); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association)

#### **1.0 Opening**

##### **1.1 Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

##### **1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory**

Chair Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

##### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

#222-24

Moved by: E. Sproule

Street Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5A8

Mailing Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • P.O. Box 5005, Stn. LCD 1, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

**Phone: 905-335-3663 | 1-877-618-3456 Fax: 905-335-9802**

[www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca)

Seconded by: K. Turner

Be it resolved that the February 6, 2024 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

1.4 Minutes of January 9, 2024  
#223-24

Moved by: J. Legare  
Seconded by: M. Dockeray

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the January 9, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2.0 Action**

2.1 CanChild F Words for Child Development Presentation

Welcome to CanChild, Alice Soper, Daniella Grahovac, Vanessa Tomas, and Ali Minuk. Presentation on the work being done can be found in this link: [SEACHaltonDistrictSchoolBoard.pptx](#)  
There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.2 DHH Staff Presentation

Welcome to HDSB Deaf & Hard of Hearing Team: Hannah Lai, Kris Kelly, Lisa Montilla, Rachel Morash, Elizabeth Tracz-Ogiltree, Sarah Wilson, Sharon Langman, Janina, Sarah Oliver, and Susan Russell. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.3 Budget Discussion

Participants were sent into 2 breakout rooms for discussion and input.

**3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period**

There were 2 questions raised by the public. The budget question will be responded to by that team. The other relates to the name of the Learning Disabilities Self-Contained Class that will be covered in the Superintendent's Report.

**4.0 Communication to SEAC**

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ruddock shared the following:

1. **Welcome Erin Ruppel, OPVIC** - Ontario Parents of Vision Impaired Children

2. **Anti-Sex Trafficking (AST) Session** - the board is hosting an information session for the community on February 15, 2024 at Elise MacGill SS. More information was sent to families on Friday, January 26th, including the registration link. This session filled up very quickly and, as a result, a future date will be communicated for another session. VP Farrell-Bangerter will return to SEAC next month to provide an update on the AST curriculum for students in CPP.
3. **Sports Festival Day with Special Olympics Ontario**  
Special Education Services in partnership with Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) is pleased to be holding three Sports Festival Days open to all HDSB elementary students with special needs. This event is organized and run by Special Olympics Ontario and it functions to introduce communities to the Special Olympics movement. It is a fun, non-competitive event designed to provide young athletes with an intellectual/physical disability an entry point to sport and physical activity. It enables communities to support physical literacy development as well as community program development (SOO). Over 375 students are registered to attend this exciting day. Student volunteers from Irma Coulson Public School will support the athletes as they participate in numerous activities.
4. **HDSB Budget Survey** will be open for feedback shortly. Our Communications Team will be sending a communication to staff and families with details.
5. **Self-Contained LD and Life Skills classes** - update on the renaming process will be provided by Principal Spruin.

#### 4.2 Association Reports

Jennifer Legare, Autism Ontario, wants to remind everyone about Celebrate the Spectrum April 2, 2024. More information on the [Autism Ontario](#) website.

Melissa Dockeray, Easter Seals, reminding about their Red Shirt Day on May 29, 2024 to highlight the day for accessibility and inclusiveness as sponsored by the Easter Seals. More details to come.

Nadina Toric, Community Living Burlington, shares this flyer: [SibShop Flyer](#)

Alison Brindle, Centre for Diverse Learners - workshops on psych eds and how to get one, access this through their website. March 1st & 2nd, is the 13th Annual Solutions for Learning Conference. The new Executive Director moving forward is Carolyn Rankin-Boutin as Alison moves into a new role at CDL.

#### 4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Zhang shares that there is information regarding the Special Education Budget on the HDSB.ca website from the June 7th & June 21st, 2023 Board Meetings.

Also, a reminder that public Board Meetings will start at 6:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm for February, March, and April.

#### 4.4 Committee Reports

The committees had nothing to report.

#### 5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- Anti-Sex Trafficking
- Anti-Bullying
- Early Literacy
- Special Education Plan
- Budget Discussion
- Autism Ontario Presentation

#### 6.0 Adjournment

Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.