

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Alison Brindle (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Xin Yi Zhang, (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Sommer Sweetman (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)

Regrets: Surekha Kanithi (Association for Bright Children); Evelyn Burse (Community Living North Halton); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Erin Ruppel (OPVIC); Angel Zuzic (Community Living North Halton); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#230-24

Moved by: Erin Sproule

Seconded by: Carol Baxter

Be it resolved that the June 4, 2024 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of May 14, 2024

#231-24

Moved by: Amanda Winch

Seconded by: Jennifer Legare

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the May 14, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Ember Experience

Ember Experience facilitated the discussion around the Multi-Year Plan.

2.2 2024 - 2025 Special Education Plan Vote

The plan received majority support. Committee members have an opportunity to submit a Minority Report on the Special Education Plan, if they choose. Any Minority Reports will be appended to the Plan.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

Sarah Lansley, Easter Seals Ontario, wondered about creating a sub-committee of SEAC to look at the standards. We will add to the September agenda.

PAAC letter that was distributed to members to encourage people to return in-person meetings. Hybrid is the preferred method.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ruddock thanks all for the hard work, support (or non-support), good thinking, and input this year around the Special Education Plan.

Principal Spruin welcomes all to attend the 36th annual Special Athletics Track Meet on June 14th. Also, thanks Audrey Draaisma, for her hard work not just this year but over her entire career with

HDSB and wishes her the best in her retirement. Thanks also to the Structured Reading Itinerant Teachers for their hard work and dedication.

4.2 Association Reports

From Easter Seals:

Video Resource (16 min.) - "Change Starts with Us": this video brings together voices from students (including our 2024 Ambassadors), parents, and educators to explore how we can enhance accessibility and inclusivity in our schools for students with disabilities.

* YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/UhiBSGdjcwv?si=js-4CvxnxrFsYCgK>

* Download Video File (recommended for playing live as wifi can be unreliable for streaming):
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/37hostrbi2ottj1q29ast/Change_Starts_With_Us_ESO_EN-CC.mp4?rlk=miargnxbul37jzmfz0mt045a8&st=32wa30v8&dl=0

These video and more resources can be found on the Resources page of our Red Shirt Day website - please encourage your schools to visit this page and utilize the resources:

<https://redshirtday.org/resources/>

From Autism Ontario:

Reach for the stars award applications accepted until June 30th; Building Brighter Futures Fund applications open in July; Seminars; Awesome Moms & Rad Dads continuing over the summer; weekend at zoo; all information can be found at AutismOntario.com under events.

4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Baxter thanks the trustees and members for participating in the MYP session.

4.4 Committee Reports

Nothing to report.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- Building our knowledge
- Brainstorming to see what SEAC members would like as presentations

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.