

## HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm (Rescheduled from May 7, 2024)

#### MINUTES

**Present:** Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Surekha Kanithi (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Alison Brindle (Centre for Diverse Learners-Halton); Nadina Toric (Community Living Burlington); Evelyn Burse (Community Living North Halton); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Erin Ruppel (OPVIC); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Xin Yi Zhang, (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee)

**Staff:** Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Roxana Negoii (Superintendent, Business Services); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Jay Chanthavong (Controller of Financial Services); Kevin Raposok (Communications); Claire Sheffield (IPL); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)

**Regrets:** Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Angel Zuzic (Community Living North Halton); Joanna Oliver (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

#228-24

Moved by: Katie Schleifer

Seconded by: Kajsa Klassen

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

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**Carried Unanimously**

1.4 Minutes of April 2, 2024

#229-24

Moved by: Amanda Winch

Seconded by: Jennifer Legare

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the April 2, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2.0 Action**

2.1 SEAC Budget Update Presentation

Superintendent Roxana Negoj & Jay Chanthavong provided a presentation on the 2024 - 2025 budget. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. Presentation can be found [here](#).

2.2 Analysis of “Unidentified” IEP Data

Claire Sheffield provided a presentation on the Analysis of Unidentified IEP Data. More information can be found [here](#). There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

2.3 Special Education Plan 2024 - 2025

Superintendent Ruddock highlighted updates within the [2024 - 2025 Special Education Plan](#). There was an opportunity to ask questions. The plan will be presented again next month for each association and member to vote on their support or not.

**3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period**

None.

**4.0 Communication to SEAC**

4.1 Superintendent’s Report

1. **Special Athletic Track Meet** - A reminder that we will be hosting the SATM on June 14, 2024. This year marks the 37th Annual Special Athletes’ Track Meet and is the highlight of the year for many of our students with special education needs.  
If you would like to attend the event, please reach out to Laura to confirm details.
2. **Summer Learning** - The Ministry just confirmed the funding for summer learning last week. Plans are underway and an update will be provided at SEAC.

- a. Gary Allan - Summer School - credit course for students with IEPS on Assistive Tech
  - b. Structured Reading
  - c. Educational Assistants in Summer School
  - d. Transitions, including assistive technology and the return to school
  - e. Summer Wellness Program - CYC and SW support during a 2 week summer camp with teacher for literacy instruction.
  - f. Summer School MH Supports - SW support available to registered summer school students (virtual and on-site as SW moves to different summer school sites)
  - g. Psychoeducation groups - offered by CYC's - Peers & Social Detective (for students who are neurodiverse) and Trails and Chill Club (anxiety/worries and low mood)
  - h. ASSDP
3. **Co-Op Employer Recruitment** - We received a special grant from the Ministry to promote co-op opportunities for students with disabilities. We have co-planned with the School Programs Department a Co-Op Recruitment Fair on May 22 and 23, to promote our students to potential employers and dispel the myths around students with disabilities in co-op placements and promote the assets they bring to the workplace.
4. [Director's Cut Episode #12: MYP - Learning & Achievement Area of Focus - Student Point of View](#) - We are immensely proud of the program, Project Search, showcased in this recent Director's Cut video. Sadly, our long-time partner, Community Living Oakville, is no longer receiving the grant to allow for their skills trainers in this program. While we are confident our own staff can fill the shoes they are leaving behind, this program would not be where it is today without their commitment and support. I would like to thank CLO for their partnership and, more specifically Mike and Meagan for their expertise, wisdom and passion for the past 6 years.

#### 4.2 Association Reports

Autism Ontario - Jennifer Legare reported a 1:1 summer support reimbursement fund open until the end of May of up to \$600; May 6th registration for marking "Feel Better Box" is open - more details on their website.

Halton Down Syndrome - Annual Halton Walk for Down Syndrome coming up on June 8th in Milton.

VOICE - Erin Sproule is excited to announce that registration will soon be open to the Annual Family Camp happening on September 13, 14, 15.

CDL has its youth summer program open for neurodiverse youth ages 14+. More information on

registering is on their website.

#### **4.3 Trustee's Reports**

Trustee Baxter talks about the development of the MYP. The Virtual Town Hall event is on May 28th and the link to register will be shared. Ember Experience will be attending the June SEAC meeting to facilitate dialogue with SEAC members.

#### **4.4 Committee Reports**

Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children) reviews the March meeting discussion on the anti-bully strategies for teachers, challenges in the classroom, punishments vs managing behavior in situations, and resolving and preventing issues in the school. Their April meeting discussed the significant escalation of anxiety in children, along with the dependence that children are having on their cell phones to manage stress and loneliness; what will be the impact when the new regulations around cell phone use in the classroom gets rolled out?

#### **5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper**

- Multi Year Plan - Ember Experience
- 2024 - 2025 SEAC Meeting Dates to be confirmed after Board of Trustees meeting

#### **6.0 Adjournment**

Chair Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.