

Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee - (Virtual Meeting)

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Diane Miller (Member at Large); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Yalin Gorica (Association for Bright Children); Jenn Heidstra (Association for Bright Children); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent); Sean Marks (Principal); Lorna Goodrow (Administrator)

Regrets: Candice Keem (Community Living Burlington); Judy Shiels (Voice); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

A. Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

L. Morris read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#170-21 J. Baldwin and Y. Gorica

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for April 6, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of March 2, 2021

#171-21 J. Heidstra and M. Shuttleworth

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for March 2, 2021 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 A presentation was made by Angela Sauve, Robert Garcia and Ryan Candlish, Instructional Program Leaders in the Special Education Department on Community Pathways Program Guide and Community Skills Co-Op Program. There was an opportunity for questions at the end of this presentation.

2.2 Roxana Negoii, Superintendent of Business Services presented a budget overview and after there was an opportunity to ask questions.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

S. Lansley asked about reviewing PAAC survey at some point during a SEAC meeting. A. Brindle commented that confirmation is under way to inform SEAC of all committees that Trustees and SEAC members are part of currently. Also will confirm what committees are looking for a representative from SEAC.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report - April 6, 2021

1. **World Autism Day / April is World Autism Month** - We recognize Autism awareness with the hope to build inclusion and appreciation for students and members of our community with Autism. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the learning of our organization with regards to a post using the puzzle pieces symbolizing Autism -thank you to Lisa Cameron, our representative from Autism Ontario. I have learned that that representation is not appreciated by all members of the community as it can be interpreted as people with Autism are not whole, they need to be put together and are complex. I also learned that this image is no longer used by Autism Ontario on their website. We will be updating our awareness campaign to ensure it is inclusive and respectful of the Autism community.
2. **Destreaming Grade 9 Math** - The Ministry of Education announced earlier this school year that, effective in September 2021, Grade 9 mathematics would be a de-streamed course. In HDSB, a multi-disciplinary team has formed to lead the implementation of this change, including representation from Special Education Services (SES). This will be a first step in de-streaming the Grade 9 curriculum, with more subjects to be phased in during the subsequent years. SES will be looking at the effective strategies and supports for learners with special needs in this revised delivery model.
3. **Summer Learning** - Further to the information shared last month about summer learning, the Ministry of Education announced funding for both summer learning for students with special education needs, as well as funds for transitions into the next school year. SES is developing a menu of offerings for summer learning and, similar to last August, we will be providing funding to schools to support students' transition into school in the final weeks of August, prior to the first day of school. We are planning to offer 3 blocks of 8 day sessions to provide learning opportunities in the areas of life skills, speech and language, communication, social skills, structured reading, executive functioning and gifted enrichment. In May, schools will share the registration process with families of students with IEPs and who will benefit from the programs. School Programs will also be offering summer learning opportunities that students may access.
4. **Structured Learning Class Pilot - Phase II** - We are excited to launch Phase II of this project, with the key learnings from the first phase which ran from over the 2018/19 and 2019/20 school years. The Structured Learning Class (SLC) is a two year pilot program, located in three schools: Alexander's PS (Burlington), Heritage Glen PS (Oakville) and P.L. Robertson PS (Milton) . 6 students placed in each class must:
 - Have a clinical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder;
 - Have the ability to access the Ontario Curriculum;
 - Require additional programming for social skills, social cognition and self-regulation;
 - Must speak in age-appropriate sentences (length, complexity and correct

grammatically), but does not use language effectively for social purposes.

The delivery model for this program is currently under development; however, it will include support from a Speech and Language Pathologist and integration into the regular class setting.

5. **September 2021 Self-Contained Classes** - Each spring, we examine our complement of needs and self-contained classes / locations to determine whether we need to open, close or consolidate classes. Below is a summary of changes for September 2021.

M - Move O - Open C - Close

CLASS / LOCATION	M	O	C	RATIONALE
Structured Learning Class: Alexander's, Heritage Glen and P.L. Robertson Public Schools		X		Second phase of a pilot. See #3.
Life Skills - Heritage Glen		X		Increased number of students accessing this placement in the East Area. This will be Heritage Glen's 2nd Life Skills class.
Learning Disabilities - Burlington Central School		X		Reconfiguration of other LD classes in the West Area to Junior grades, creating the need for an Intermediate class.
Learning Disabilities - Hawthorne Village PS		X		Increased number of students accessing this placement in the North Area.
Life Skills (Intermediate Grades) - McKenzie-Smith Bennett			X	Reconfiguration of MSB to a Kindergarten - Grade 6 school and Acton District High School to Gr. 7-12. Current intermediate students in the Life Skills class have been offered a choice of placement: early entry into CPP at Georgetown District High School, Intermediate Life Skills at Silver Creek PS, or remain at their home school with support.
Primary Gifted - Ryerson PS			X	Students placed in Primary Gifted will be congregated into two sites: North (Sam Sherratt PS) and South (Pilgrim Wood PS).

Learning Disabilities - McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS			X	Intermediate students will move to a LD class at Acton District High School, due to the reconfiguration of the elementary and secondary school.
Kindergarten Expressive Language and Literacy Program (KELLP) - Heritage Glen PS			X	An addition to the self-contained classes at Heritage Glen requires KELLP to move to Palermo PS due to accommodation pressures. Given the students in the program are new each year, this does not result in a disruption to students.

6. [2021-22 Special Education Plan](#)- A reminder that, in May, SEAC votes on the Special Education Plan. Please do not hesitate to provide input, feedback or questions on this plan.

4.2 Association Reports

None

4.3 Trustee Reports

T. Ehl Harrison and H. Gerrits reported the following: Search for the next HDSB Director is ongoing. The stakeholder consultation has wrapped up. The position profile and the job ad have been created and the advertisement has been released. Applications are being accepted until April 21, 2021.

We are moving into the annual budget process, with the grants for student needs expected later this month. These grants from the Provincial Government provide the vast majority of money each year. There is a [report in the agenda package](#) for tomorrow night that summarizes the findings of the budget consultation. A number of themes emerged including support for enhanced: experiential learning opportunities, diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism work, mental health resources and activities, and, for special education supports.

Other agenda items include: the annual AODA report which came to SEAC recently, and a report on the roll out of a program called “We’ve got you. Period” to provide free menstrual products in student washrooms.

Minister has indicated that schools will be open, and that spring break will proceed.

The first HDSB [Student Census](#) is ongoing (January to early spring). The Student Census is voluntary as required by the Anti-Racism Act, 2017 and Ontario’s Education Equity Action Plan to gather and report identity-based data. Students from grades 4-12 students will independently fill out the census. Parents/guardians of Kindergarten to Grade 3 students have/will receive an email containing a link to complete the Student Census on behalf of their children. Census information is available in the following languages: العربية (Arabic), Français (French), □□□□□ (Hindi), □□□□□□ (Punjabi), 中文 (Simplified Chinese), Español (Spanish), اردو (Urdu)

Seen something that inspires you? The [Inspire Award](#) is given to an individual or group that is formally or informally associated with the Halton District School Board, who support our students and their achievements through exemplary caring, initiative, innovation and creativity.

Interested in supporting SEAC / raising the voices of the group by bringing motions to the board table and in outside-of-board activities, such as writing to the province or other SEACs regarding matters of importance, such as the planned enhancements of online and remote learning and the potential impacts on students with special education needs.

Trustees continue to advocate for new schools in South Milton and North Oakville. The new secondary school in South Milton will be named at an upcoming board meeting, and it will be home to a new CPP program.

4.4 Committee Reports

- PIC - none
- Accessibility Coordinating Committee - none
- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee - none

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Autism Ontario Presentation
Voice Presentation
Marcel and Michael Presentation
Special Education Plan
Budget

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 A. Brindle adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.