

**HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Special Education Advisory Committee - (Virtual Meeting)**

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @ 7pm

**MINUTES**

Present: Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Yalin Gorica (Association for Bright Children); Jenn Heidstra (Association for Bright Children); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Candice Keem (Community Living Burlington); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Diane Miller (Member at Large); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Kathy Turner (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children)

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

Regrets: Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Rebecca Hurren (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton);

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**1.0 Opening**

**1.1 Welcome and Call to Order**

A. Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory**

A. Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

**1.3 Approval of Agenda**

#190-22 T. Ehl Harrison and L. Morris

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for April 12, 2022.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 1.4 Minutes of March 1, 2022

#191-22 D. Miller and Y. Galin

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for March 1, 2022 be approved.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 2.0 Action

Action Item 2.1 A presentation was made by Rossana Bisceglia from our Research and Accountability Department on Aggregation of Identity Based Data. R. Bisceglia welcomed SEACs feedback after the presentation and several SEAC members asked R. Bisceglia questions.

Action Item 2.2 Superintendent Ruddock, gave a presentation on the 2022-2023 Special Education Plan that was shared with SEAC in March. After the presentation, there was a discussion and several SEAC members had questions and comments on the Plan.

#### 3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

Y. Gorica asked about staffing due to Covid's 6th wave. When teachers from our self-contained classrooms are absent, how does the Board fulfill these absences as special training for these classes is required. Superintendent Ruddock commented that it has been a challenge to cover these absences. This is a challenge in every school board. It is a very difficult time in education in terms of a staffing perspective. We are approaching this with a layered approach, ie. utilizing our central staff, school administrators, etc. Our first and foremost thought though is always to the safety of our students. A. Brindle wanted to recognize the difficulty of staffing in our Board and to thank the Board for all their staffing efforts.

#### 4.0 Communication to SEAC

##### 4.1 Superintendent's Report

- A. Summer Learning** - We have again received funding for offering summer learning for special education. The intent will be to offer a variety of programs during the month of July contingent on registrations as well as staff support. These programs will be offered virtually and run 4 days/week. Information will be going out to schools and families in the coming weeks. In addition, schools will be receiving funds for transitional support to be used during the last two weeks of August.
- B. Tutoring supports** -The Ministry has provided special funding for tutoring supports for students the areas of literacy, numeracy and other foundational skills. After school and summer opportunities - are being planned by School Programs, in addition to the SES opportunities described in #1.

Community organizations have also been invited to submit proposals for 15% of the total allocation (\$450 000). The invitation for proposals went out to SEAC organizations, organizations with an existing MOU and those with a working relationship with the board. The call for proposals closes April 22nd and recipients selected the week of the 25th.

- C. Professional assessments** - we will once again be completing summer assessments both psych educational and language assessments. This work is funded through both board and ministry sources.
- D. [Development of proposed Kindergarten to Grade 12 education standards - 2022 final recommendations report](#)** has been released. In all, there are 225 recommendations -many of which recommend policy and practice changes. We are awaiting Ministry of Education direction on next steps.
- E. CPP boundary in Oakville** - With the continued growth in the CPP programs in Oakville, particularly at White Oaks SS, we have re-examined how we determined the CPP for a Grade 8 to 9 transition. Students east of 16 Mile Creek will attend WOSS; students west of the creek will attend TA Blakelock, effective September 2022.
- F. Remote learning for 2022-23** -Interest in remote learning for next year is significantly less than the past two years.
  - a. Secondary: approximately 300 students have chosen remote;
  - b. Elementary: approximately 500 students have chosen remote
  - c. Staff are currently looking at the viability of course and program offerings, based on enrolment numbers, and will work with families to ensure students are supported.

#### **4.2 Association Reports**

Alison Brindle reported the following:

LDAH was very fortunate to receive 2 years of funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a project to work with members of our Black community to look at the supports in place for Black students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD in Halton and Hamilton, in the community, the school boards and progressing into post-secondary institutions. We are hoping to work with the local school boards to identify the kind of support that our Black community members need and want for their children with learning disabilities.

### **4.3 Trustee Reports**

T. Ehl Harrison and H. Gerrits reported the following:

1. Trustees will be having a budget workshop tomorrow evening. Funding from the province is status quo. Some COVID-related funds are carrying over this year, allowing continuity of some of the supports and PPE. In light of heightened learning and well-being needs, it appears that there may be some difficult trade-offs to consider.
2. A new school in Milton was recently named Rattlesnake Point Public School.
3. Trustees sent a [letter](#) this week seeking funding support for additional learning resource teachers, in part to address learning loss during the pandemic.
4. A special board meeting will be held tomorrow evening prior to the Committee of the Whole to get/share/discuss updated information about masking.
5. A recent [decision](#) has been made to formally recognize History and Heritage months.
6. Trustees are working on a number of initiatives including updating the By-Laws and a number of policies, Trustee Promotion and Onboarding, and Self-Assessment.
7. Later this month, Trustees will launch Re-Imagine Forward, an initiative meant to bring people together to share stories and ideas about possible big moves to reimagine public education. You and all of your members and colleagues are invited.
8. Director Ennis continues to host a panel series on identity, inclusion and human rights. The next one, Indigenous Perspectives on Decolonizing Education and Land will take place on Tuesday, April 26 at 6 - 7:30 p.m. This and all sessions can be accessed [here](#).

### **4.4 Committee Reports**

- PIC - none
- Accessibility Coordinating Committee - none
- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee - none
- Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy Steering and Advisory Committee - none

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

SPED Plan

Budget

Well-Being Aggregated Data

At this point, Y. Gorica asked a question that had been submitted by the public. See below:

*“I was wondering why only 2 diagnostics have to be chosen to appear on an IPRC/IEP when a student has multiple diagnostics?”*

Superintendent Ruddock and S. Marks, Principal of Special Education Services

Department addressed the question that had been submitted from the public.

## **6.0 Adjournment**

6.1 A. Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.