



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Special Education Advisory Committee

JWS – Large Boardroom

Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Deirdre Woo (Association for Bright Children); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Diane Miller (Member at Large); Lisa Camerson (Autism Ontario); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association)

Staff: Mark Zonneveld (Superintendent); Sean Marks (Principal of Special Education); Lorna Goodrow (Administrator)

Regrets: Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Judy Shiels (Voice); Hetal Shah (Association for Bright Children)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

L. Morris called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

L. Morris read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#142-20 A. Brindle and M. Brown

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for January 14, 2020.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of December 3, 2019

#143-20 H. Gerrits and A. Brindle

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for December 3, 2019 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 After school skills development program for students with autism

M. Zonneveld and S. Marks presented a slideshow.

SEAC members had several questions during and after the presentation. These were discussed during and after the presentation.

2.2 EA allocation process

S. Marks presented a slideshow. There was a great deal of discussion after the presentation.

A break-out session was held for all SEAC members after the slideshow for their input. These results will be shared with all SEAC members.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

M. Zonneveld asked that if any members have any questions, to please contact him.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report – January 14, 2020

1. Facility Needs for Sept 2020 - The Student Services and Facilities Departments are anticipating the facility needs at all schools in September so that all students are able to participate and be supported as appropriate. This planning must occur now in order to have any renovations/upgrades completed by the end of August. Possible renos/upgrades may include ramps, door openers, accessible washrooms, room alterations, curbing and pathways, and new programming areas. Most construction occurs during the summer months but some begins in the spring and some is completed in the fall in order to get all of the work done.

2. Special Education Plan Update - Staff have been editing the Plan as part of the initial update for next year. This will be shared with SEAC on Feb 4th. Further updates will continue and be shared again in May before it goes to the Board of Trustees in June for approval with the budget.

3. Contract Negotiations - Here is the message that went home to parents last week:

Dear families of elementary students,

As you are aware, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) has been in a legal strike position since Nov. 25, 2019 with respect to central bargaining between ETFO, the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA). Since then, ETFO has been in labour sanctions. **ETFO announced today they will begin Phase 3 of labour sanctions Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, and if no agreement has been reached, they will begin Phase 4 on Jan. 20, 2020.**

In the Halton District School Board, ETFO represents permanent and occasional (supply) teachers in elementary schools, as well as early childhood educators working in our Kindergarten classrooms.

The sanctions identified by ETFO in **Phase 3, effective Jan. 13**, that may impact families include:

- Not planning or participating in school assemblies, except to provide supervision to students
- Not participating in extracurricular activities (sports teams, clubs etc.) except for those that are scheduled within the regular school day
- Not participating in field trips
- Not arriving earlier than 30 minutes before the instructional day for students
- Not remaining at school later than 15 minutes after the instructional day ends

Specific information regarding the cancellation of school activities will be provided by your child's school.

The sanctions identified by ETFO in **Phase 4, effective Jan. 20**, include:

- Not participating in any school board or Ministry professional learning.

ETFO has also announced that if no agreement is reached by Jan. 17, 2020, ETFO members will commence a full-withdrawal of services (strike) on a rotating basis effective Monday Jan. 20, 2020. To date, there has been no announcement of which school boards will be affected by these rotating strikes.

It is important to note these labour sanctions are occurring at the central bargaining table between provincial unions, the Government of Ontario and OPSBA, and are not a reflection of relationships between the HDSB and our local unions.

We will continue to provide you with accurate and timely information as we are able through SchoolMessenger, the [HDSB website](#) and the Board's social media pages ([Twitter](#)/[Facebook](#)/[Instagram](#)).

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Stuart Miller
Director of Education

4.2 Association Reports

A. Brindle reported that the 9th Annual LDAHH Solutions for Learning Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn in Burlington on March 11th, 2020. This is a great learning experience with an inspiring keynote speaker and 12 break-out sessions to choose from. There are streams for both parents and educators. Our EARLY BIRD discount finishes on January 31st, so hurry to confirm your spot and preferred sessions. <https://ldahh.ca/annual-conference/>

LDAH is also running two workshops this month at its Guelph Line location, and all are welcome: <https://ldahh.ca/solutions-learning-lecture-series/>

January 23rd- An Introduction to Parent Advocacy and IEPs

January 30th- How Money Works- Financial Literacy Education for the Family

4.3 Trustee Reports

J. Oliver reported that Trustee membership on the various HDSB committees has changed for this new year 2020. Report #20002, titled Striking Committees, from the Jan 8, 2020 Board meeting provides the membership list.

The work of the Multi-Year Plan Steering Committee continues. Steering committee members are now looking at the draft MYP Engagement Report with feedback from the various stakeholder consultation sessions, including SEAC. It will form the basis of the discussions by Trustees and senior staff for the development of a new draft Multi-Year plan.

Meetings continue to take place between Trustees, senior staff and the local MPPs to talk about how the new budget formula and changes to education in Ontario are affecting HDSB.

4.4 Committee Reports

- PIC – none

Accessibility Coordinating Committee – J. Oliver reported on a new accessibility tool that has been added to the HDSB.ca website to enhance readability and accessibility of the website's content. Users will note that there is a blue icon at the bottom left corner of the website. By clicking on it, users will find a number of options available to them.

A new accessibility feedback/comment survey tool has been created to allow stakeholders to submit their concerns and other feedback. This survey tool is found on the HDSB.ca homepage. It provides the user the ability to identify the specific location and type of accessibility concern that they would like to report.

All HDSB schools' websites will have a standard appearance and content by the end of this year. Some schools' websites have already transitioned to this new standardized format.

All formatting of HDSB documents is being reviewed and standardized for AODA (the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005) compliance. This includes the use or non-use of specific fonts, bullet points, flow charts etc.

- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee – D. Vandebossche reported that next meeting will be March 12, 2020.
- Nelson/Robert Bateman HS Integration Steering Committee – J. Oliver reported that the Student Voice Committee met today regarding transition to Nelson HS.
- Central/Robert Bateman HS IB Program Integration Steering Committee – A. Brindle reported that there is a meeting in February, 2020.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Next SEAC meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2020.
Special Education Plan will be discussed

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 L. Morris adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm .