

# Halton District School Board

## HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Special Education Advisory Committee - (Virtual Meeting)

Tuesday, January 4th, 7pm

#### MINUTES

Present: Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Yalin Gorica (Association for Bright Children); Rebecca Hurren (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Kathy Turner (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children)

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

Regrets: Jenn Heidstra (Association for Bright Children); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Candice Keem (Community Living Burlington); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Diane Miller (Member at Large)

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## **1.0 Opening**

### **1.1 Welcome and Call to Order**

A. Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

### **1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory**

A. Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

#184-22 T. Ehl Harrison and D. Vandenbossche

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for January 4, 2022.

**Carried Unanimously**

### **1.4 Minutes of December 7, 2021**

#185-22 D. Vandenbossche and H. Gerrits

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for December 7, 2021 be approved.

**Carried Unanimously**

## **2.0 Action**

Allison Ippolito, General Manager of Human Resources and Ian Gaudet, Executive Officer of Facility Services presented the Annual Report for the AODA Committee. There was an opportunity for members to ask questions. Superintendent Ruddock and SEAC Chair Alison Brindle thanked both Allison and Ian for their informative presentation.

## **3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period**

Y. Gorica - what is the policy regarding whether to move a student with special needs from in person to remote learning because the school cannot provide sufficient EA support? SO Ruddock responded that the board offered parents their choice of delivery model, based on family preference / need. SO Ruddock commented that many issues have yet to be resolved but that discussions have started. We try to be flexible and compassionate and provide sufficient support to all of our students and make all of our resources available to support students. SO Ruddock wanted to acknowledge our Special Education staff and all of their hard work and dedication in supporting all of our special needs students that are starting back tomorrow with in-person learning.

## **4.0 Communication to SEAC**

### 4.1 Superintendent's Report

#### 1. Reopening of schools January 5th:

- Most students are to access the learning remotely
- Students in Life Skills, CPP, Communications classes, ECPP and Project Search offered in-person learning
- Students with significant special education needs beyond those classes/programs may be determined to need in-person to access learning if they cannot be accommodated in remote
- Additional IPAC measures will be implemented
- Changes to access to testing, isolation periods and reporting of cases in schools

2. Halton Hills council recently approved their ActiVan service (a transportation service for seniors and individuals with disabilities) to transport their clients to Oakville Hospital. For our students in Project Search, this means the program is more accessible where transportation was previously a barrier or a burden for some.

3. Elsie McGill Secondary School is scheduled to move into their completed new school building for Semester 2. This will also be the site of our 7th Community Pathways Program in the board, beginning in September 2022. The school will begin the transition of incoming Grade 9 and 10 CPP students, as defined by the CPP Milton boundary. Given EMSS will not offer Essential level programming, students seeking CPP with integration into Essentials would be assigned to CKSS.

4. Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Entry to School program -new Ministry initiative to support students with Autism with an intensive 6 month program prior to entry into school and then working collaboratively with the school team as the student enters school. The Ministry ran a request for proposals for a service provider and recently announced that ErinOak has been awarded the contract in the Halton Region. In the coming months, we look forward to collaborating with ErinOak in this work.

## 4.2 Association Reports

A. Brindle reported that the Early Bird Discount pricing for our 11th Annual Solutions for Learning Conference ends on January 31st. We have 16 amazing speakers lined up in 4 streams; literacy, numeracy, socio-emotional learning and general LDs. It is great professional development for educators, professionals and parents on all aspects of learning disabilities, ADHD and related mental health issues. For more information, please go to [www.Ldahh.ca](http://www.Ldahh.ca). Tickets are just \$167 until January 31st

## 4.3 Trustee Reports

Trustees Ehl Harrison and Gerrits reported the following:

1. The Board's first meeting of the year is tomorrow evening and it is likely that the focus will be on all of the changes related to return to school, driven by the Province's late in the holiday break announcements. These announcements, driven by the latest wave in the COVID pandemic, have put stress on families, staff and students. We are aware that many staff worked, again, over their break, and that there is much concern in the community. Here is the [press release](#) from the Province, including the link to the associated regulation, which notes a return to remote learning at least until January 17. Today the schools are distributing technology to students in need, for their on-line learning (as many as possible).
2. In December, the Board approved additional use of Board surplus of up to \$5,489,582 bringing the total drawdown on surplus to \$11,009,338, largely to address pressures related to COVID-19. ([Report 21164](#))
3. A number of opportunities have been identified for Community Planning Partnerships in schools that have surplus capacity and upcoming new builds. These can be seen in [Report 21159](#).
4. Anyone interested in seeing the different committees that Trustees have been appointed to for the upcoming year, should reference [Report 21163](#) or how the annual school year calendar is created, should reference [Report 21158](#).
5. The delay in opening Milton SW#12 public school continues to impact students. To see the latest redirections, see [Report 21160](#).
6. Members of the community are invited to contribute possible names for the new school. There is an online form that can be accessed [here](#).
7. The new high school - Elsie McGill, in Milton is on track to take partial occupancy by semester 2. The safety of students and staff is paramount and will be monitored, as construction teams will remain on-site for the coming months.

## 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 - Y. Gorica confirmed first meeting was held in December.

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

none

## **6.0 Adjournment**

6.1 A. Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.