



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee - (Virtual Meeting)

Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Deirdre Woo (Association for Bright Children); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society)

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

Regrets: Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Judy Shiels (Voice); Hetal Shah (Association of Bright Children); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Diane Miller (Member at Large)

Guest(s): Stuart Miller (Director of Education); Roxana Negoii (Superintendent of Business Services)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

L. Morris called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

M. Shuttleworth read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#150-20 D. Woo and A. Brindle

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for May 5, 2020.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of April 7, 2020

#151-20 J. Baldwin and D. Vandebossche

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for April 7, 2020 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Roxana Negoï - Superintendent of Business Services presented a slideshow on the 2020-2021 budget. There was a Q&A after the presentation.

2.2 The election process for SEACs Chair and Vice-Chair was discussed. J. Oliver asked if there was any interest in having an election and when it should take place for the role of Chair and Vice-Chair of SEAC. J. Oliver commented that SEAC will need to agree on a timeline for this change if there is one. It was determined that this action will be revisited later in the year.

2.3 No Association made a presentation this month.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

S. Siddiqi asked how are the supports that students typically receive in the classroom modelled online? Are the teachers given direction for additional support that may be needed? These levels of supports are varying between families. Some families that have full time EAs are not getting this support. M. Zonneveld confirmed that M. Brown's question was the same as S. Siddiqi's. M. Zonneveld commented that this support looks different between students because we want it to be tailored to each student. We've asked our schools and teachers to work closely with families to understand their students' needs and what supports work best. It's not our intention to replicate what goes on in the classroom. J. Baldwin asked if the Board is following up on student compliance in terms of reporting to teachers and being engaged with online activities? M. Zonneveld responded that this is an ongoing challenge. The higher grades can be more challenging. We are trying to be very mindful of each student's situation. It's a very individual approach and our teachers are contacting their student's and families on a regular basis. J. Baldwin asked if there have been issues with providing technology to our students? M. Zonneveld confirmed that the Board has worked very hard so that this is not an issue. We've had our schools/teachers ask all their families what their current needs are. We have done our best to provide all of our students with the technology that they need, whether it's a hub, USB stick, hard print materials, etc. delivered to their home. We've been very successful with providing students what they need. D. Woo asked if there are conversations being held regarding September, 2020 and what this could look like? M. Zonneveld responded that these discussions are taking place right now. We are taking a great deal of direction from the Province and Public Health.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report – May 5, 2020

1. Pandemic School Closure Update

Many actions have been taken to support students, families and staff during the school closure, including but not limited to:

- Teachers, EAs and SERTs are providing direct support to students with special needs. Here are examples of the types of supports and interactions that have been created: [MMR CPP](#), [Heritage Glenn KELLP class](#)
- Ongoing development of resources for educators
- Ongoing development of [Special Education Resources for Students/Parents/Guardians](#)
- Transition of SRT and IPRC to virtual processes, with many conducted successfully, including parent involvement
- Sending home IEPs and assessment reports via confidential email
- Ongoing development of mental health resources for staff
- Ongoing development of [Mental Health Resources for Families](#)

- PSSP staff have begun taking new referrals for virtual service

2. Structured Learning Class Update

The SLC pilot is continuing next year as the students will be monitored in their home schools to determine the effectiveness of the transfer of knowledge and skills back into a regular class setting. The data gathered will be used to inform recommendations about this type of class and programming for students with ASD.

3. ASSDP Update

With the school closure continuing until at least May 30, the After School Skills Development Program will not be launched this spring. Decisions will be made in the near future regarding whether it will launch in the summer or the fall.

4. Self-contained Class changes for September

NEW

Life Skills at Heritage Glen

Life Skills at Alexanders

Learning Disabilities at Pineland

Behaviour Resource at Charles R Beaudoin

Life Skills at Sam Sherratt

Learning Disabilities at Irma Coulson

Learning Disabilities at Silver Creek

MOVING

LD from JM Denyes to Martin Street

Woodview from Robert Little to McKenzie-Smith Bennett

CLOSING

Structured Learning Class at Ryerson

Structured Learning Class at JM Denyes

5. Nelson CPP Readiness, Outdoor Area, and Transition Planning

Work continues to prepare for the opening of the new Community Pathways Program at Nelson HS in September. Construction will resume as soon as possible with the intention of having the CPP area ready before Sept. Input regarding the CPP area, including the outdoor space, was gathered from staff, parents and Community Living Burlington. The feedback was extremely positive from all groups. The outdoor area will have the split rail fence extended and some additional landscaping included in response to the positive feedback and suggestions received. Student input will be gathered in the design of the centre of the outdoor area when possible. Transition planning for students from Robert Bateman and elementary Life Skills classes will begin virtually and in person as our situation allows.

6. Food Security

Food security is a concern for many students and families during the pandemic. The HDSB is working with Halton Food for Thought, Food for Kids, Food for Life and the Halton Learning Foundation to ensure that families are connected with the right agencies to get the food and other supplies they need.

4.2 Association Reports

A. Brindle reported that despite the pandemic and the necessary shut-down of in-person services, LDAHH continues to provide support and tutoring for its clients. Staff are working from home and are available to answer parent questions by phone or email. All of our programs have been moved online and continue to be available to support those students for whom online learning is an option.

This week, we are launching a new session of our SOAR program, teaching Grade 6-8 students and Grade 9+ students about their learning disabilities, self-advocacy skills, and skills necessary for a successful transition to either high-school or post-secondary institutions.

<https://ldahh.ca/transition-skills/>

LDAH is also pleased to announce that it has secured Pandemic Response Funding from both Hamilton and Burlington and will shortly be launching FREE one-on-one early literacy/math skills tutoring for students with identified or suspected learning disabilities. This tutoring will be provided by Ontario Certified Teachers and is designed to support students, their teachers, and the school boards in ensuring that essential remediation in these areas continues despite the pandemic. We will send further information on this new program to our community partners as soon as it is available, and welcome their support in helping to identify students who would benefit.

4.3 Trustee Reports

M. Shuttleworth reported the following: We continue to meet via teleconference to keep updated on COVID-19 issues as well as regular ongoing business of the board. One item of interest is that we are holding the Student of Excellence Awards virtually next Thursday, May 14th at the same time as it was meant to be held at Craig Keilburger.

4.4 Committee Reports

- PIC – none

- Accessibility Coordinating Committee – J. Oliver reported on this Committee. Please see chart below:

Activity 2019-2020 School Year to Date	
Sample Actions Taken	Description
<i>Accessibility Compliance Report;</i> Submitted to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility Dec. 2019	Specifics areas under review include: Information & Communication Transportation Employment Design of Public Spaces Customer Service
Administrative Procedures	Attendance Management AP (updated) Individual Work Accommodations AP (updated)
Human Resources PD Sessions for employee groups	PD Session- HDEAA (November) PD Session- CUPE (July) Information sharing: attendance support, accommodations, disability management process
AccessiBe added to www.hdsb.ca	AccessiBe allows the end user to adjust all visible features of a website to enhance the accessibility  Look for this symbol on each webpage of hdsb.ca
Creating a Culture of Accessibility in the HDSB (January 2020) (scheduled launch Spring 2020 - on hold)	This updated document provides a resource for board personnel to consult when working and interacting with members of the public, including parents, who may have a disability

- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee – none
- Nelson/Robert Bateman HS Integration Steering Committee – none
- Central/Robert Bateman HS IB Program Integration Steering Committee – none

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

J. Oliver reported that given the pandemic and school closures this list needs to be put on hold when staff can meet. Please consider any other topics you wish to include to be addressed at a later date. M. Zonneveld reported that final budget and the final version of the Special Education Plan will be presented.

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 L. Morris adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.