



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Special Education Advisory Committee

JWS – Large Boardroom

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Deirdre Woo (Association for Bright Children); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society)

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

Regrets: Diane Miller (Member at Large); Kristina Huddy (Autism Ontario); Hetal Shah (Association for Bright Children); Judy Shiels (Voice)

Guests: Andrea Grebenc (Trustee-Chair)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

L. Morris called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

1.2 Approval of Agenda

#136-20 M. Shuttleworth and D. Vandenbossche

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for October 15, 2019.

Carried Unanimously

1.3 Minutes of September 17, 2019

#137-20 D. Vandenbossche and A. Brindle

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for September 17, 2019 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Code of Conduct Revision – Scott Prodrebarac

S. Prodrebarac spoke on the Halton District School Board's Code of Conduct policy. A slideshow was presented. During the presentation, SEAC members were given an opportunity to engage in discussions of this topic.

2.2 Special Education Review – Follow Up Action and SEAC Input

M. Zonneveld presented a slideshow on Processes and Supports for Highly Able/Potentially Gifted Primary Students. This slideshow was sent to all SEAC members prior to this evening's meeting for their review. Some discussion occurred when members asked questions of clarification at the end of

the presentation. Discussion continued through a three table rotation, where members provided supportive feedback and valuable input.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

M. Shuttleworth wanted clarification on the 2nd secondary gifted placement program being offered in 2020 in Burlington. Is this fiscally responsible and will it ensure a viable population at 2 schools as opposed to just one? M. Zonneveld responded that parents of identified gifted students were given a survey on this. One of the results of this survey concluded that parents/students were choosing not to go to the program due to the proximity of the program offered. The survey confirmed that parents wanted a 2nd secondary gifted program to be made available in Burlington. D. Woo asked for data/information on the number of requests from parents who asked for the 2 separate programs being offered. Will these students be given an opportunity to choose optional attendance for the school they wish to attend? M. Zonneveld explained that there was data/information collected from families and that this information was shared in the PAR process. He also confirmed that transportation would not be provided should the student be granted optional attendance.

At this point in the evening, J. Oliver expressed the following: “As most of you have likely heard by now, Kristina Huddy indicated that she is stepping down as the alternate representative for Autism Ontario. On behalf of the HDSB and the Board of Trustees, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Kristina for her dedication to and service on the Special Education Advisory Committee and her dedication to the achievement and well-being of all students, and in particular our students with exceptionalities. I’m sure you all join me in thanking Kristina and sending her our very best wishes.”

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent’s Report – October 15, 2019

1. Agenda Action Item 2.2 Special Education Review - Follow Up Action and SEAC Input - Last month SEAC heard a presentation on the Special Education Review - Phase III. This month we are sharing a proposal to change the problem solving process for primary students that are highly able/potentially gifted. Please see the slide show attachment included with the agenda. We will be presenting this to SEAC, followed by a three table rotation inviting SEAC input.

2. Working Together/SEAC Parent Postcard - Last month we discussed possible future agenda items and included ‘Parent awareness of SEAC’. Tonight we are sharing a draft of a postcard that we have developed to give to all parents before they attend a School Resource Team (SRT) meeting. The purpose is to make parents aware of the Working Together document and SEAC. We invite SEAC feedback on this before it goes to print in the near future.

3. Nelson CPP Outdoor Learning Area - In recognition of the value of outdoor learning, we began building outdoor learning areas for CPP classes two years ago, with MM Robinson and White Oaks being the first two CPPs to benefit from these new facilities. The board is preparing this year to transition the Robert Bateman CPP to Nelson HS for Sept 2020. This past summer the outdoor learning area at Nelson HS was completed and it looks fabulous! Photos have been shared as an #HDSBbuilds on HDSB Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. (we will take a look during our meeting)

4. Oct. 11 PA Day Learning Focus - The upcoming October 11th Professional Activity Day will be a day of mathematics learning for all HDSB schools, focusing on fundamental math concepts and skills as mandated by the Ministry of Education. The School Programs Department has provided schools with plans for a full day of learning, with opportunities to differentiate the learning based on each school’s improvement plan goals.

4.2 Association Reports

LDHH – October is awareness month – There will be lunch and learn on October 23 between 12-2 and an IEP workshop in the evening. This will be repeated on October 30 in Hamilton. Please visit our website at www.ldahh.ca for more information.

4.3 Trustee Reports

J. Oliver reported that the work of the Multi-Year Plan Steering Committee continues and there will be an opportunity for SEAC input.

M. Shuttleworth reported that the 2nd Annual Human Rights Symposium – Rights of the Child is being held on December 5th revolving around the rights of the child. Guest speakers include Michel Chikwanine and Stephen Lewis.

4.4 Committee Reports

- PIC - October 19 at Garth Webb SS
- Accessibility and Coordinating Committee - the draft of the Annual Accessibility Status Report 2018-2019 has been completed. The document was drafted based on the information contained in the 2018-19 operational plans as of end of June 2018.
- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee - none
- Nelson/Robert Bateman HS Integration Steering Committee - with the amalgamation of Nelson and Bateman – the International Bacclaureate program is moving from Bateman to Burlington Central HS. An integration committee will be formed shortly. Given that historically the IB program includes students with gifted exceptionalities – it is important for SEAC to be aware of this program destination. The BCHS/RBHS Integration Committee will meet throughout the 2019-2020 school year. The dates of these meetings will be: Oct. 22, 2019, Feb. 4, 2020 and Apr. 7, 2020. All meetings will run from 3:30 - 5:30 pm. Integration Committee will comprise of Superintendent, Principal, Trustee, School Council Chair or designate from each of the affected schools and may include additional members as well. Both students and a Special Education Advisory Committee member will be invited to participate on the integration committee.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

It was suggested that a survey on future topics will be sent to all SEAC members to fill in prior to next month, so we have a clear plan on what our priorities will be to discuss for this school year.

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 L. Morris adjourned the meeting at 9:22pm