



# Halton District School Board

## HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 7pm

#### MINUTES

Present: Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Alison Brindle (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); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Diane Miller (Member at Large); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton)

Staff: Mark Zonneveld (Superintendent); Sean Marks (Principal of Special Education); Rebecca Newcombe (Vice-Principal of Special Education); Lorna Goodrow (Administrator, Student Services)

Regrets: Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Hetal Shah (Association of Bright Children); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Judy Shiels (Voice)

Guest: Director S. Miller

---

### **1.0 Opening**

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

L. Morris called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

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

L. Morris read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

#### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

#154-21 J. Baldwin and M. Brown

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for September 15, 2020.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### **1.4 Minutes of June 2, 2020**

#155-20 A. Brindle and D. Miller

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for June 2, 2020 be approved.

**Carried Unanimously**

## **2.0 Action**

### **2.1 Chair and Vice-Chair Election Timing**

L. Morris reminded members that last May there was a discussion on when elections would be held for the Chair and Vice-Chair. M. Zonneveld commented that there is flexibility on when we can hold these elections. J. Oliver and L. Morris went around the “table” to ask if there were any comments/questions on this. There was interest in holding an election for a new Chair and Vice-Chair at the end of the December SEAC meeting.

### **2.2 School Reopening Update**

M. Zonneveld shared a slideshow with members. Several questions were raised by members during and after the presentation of this slideshow.

Director Miller joined the meeting at 8:05 pm during the presentation of the slideshow. Director Miller wanted to welcome and to thank everyone and understands that this is a very challenging time and especially challenging for the Associations that SEAC members represent. We need your voice now more than ever due to the situation we are facing.

M. Zonneveld then continued with the slideshow.

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

L. Morris and J. Oliver asked all members if they had any questions at this point. D. Miller asked about the on-line learning and wondered how in September would students that struggled with online learning be reviewed? M. Zonneveld responded that additional review would be necessary for some students, but realistically cannot be done for all. M. Zonneveld explained that due to the circumstances and our spring environment it’s been a real challenge and we are doing the best we can. M. Zonneveld thanked the Trustees for their support during this challenge.

## **4.0 Communication to SEAC**

### **4.1 Superintendent’s Report – September 15, 2020**

1. School Reopening Update - This is the main agenda item for this meeting as there are many updates to share with SEAC that pertain to students with special needs. This update will include information about the start up of our four virtual schools. We will continue to update SEAC on a regular basis on our progress in performing special education work during COVID.

2. Nelson CPP Opening - The Nelson CPP facility and staff are ready to welcome our students. Students and families have been involved in transition opportunities during the past few weeks, and students began to attend full time on Friday. Here is a [video](#) of the new CPP area that has been shared with families.

3. CTCC Programs, and Project Search - All Care, Custody and Treatment Programs are up running, including the program within Syl Apps. Students in these programs continue to be served and have their educational and other needs met during COVID. Project Search is up and running again at OTMH as well. We hope to bring a presentation to SEAC about this program this fall.

## 4.2 Association Reports

Alison Brindle reported the following: The Learning Disabilities Chapters throughout Ontario are collaborating to present a province-wide LD/ADHD Parent Support workshop for back-to-school on September 22nd at 6.30pm- 9pm through Zoom.

This event has presenters on a choice of three key issues that parents may be facing:

- 1) Anxiety reduction
- 2) Executive functioning strategies
- 2) Parent Advocacy

We then have breakout sessions with school board staff or SEAC representatives to discuss navigating the current special education system in-person or online.

The cost is \$25 and subsidies are available. Register online at [www.ldahh.ca](http://www.ldahh.ca)

LDAH will be conducting a workshop on IEPs and IPRCs: Navigating the Special Education System on October 6th at 6.30pm through Google Meet. This workshop is free. Registration is online at [www.ldahh.ca](http://www.ldahh.ca)

## 4.3 Trustee Reports

J. Oliver reported the following update:

The Board of Trustees continued to meet throughout the summer. In addition to a number of sub-committee meetings, there were also special meetings of the Board. The recordings of these meetings are available on the HDSB.ca website. Of particular interest may be the meeting of July 15 and July 22nd, when the HDSB budget was presented and discussed. A summary of the key elements of the budget as relating to SEAC was shared with you all a few weeks ago by email.

Another special Board meeting of interest will be the meeting of August 19th when Trustees had a very lengthy discussion about all the aspects related to Reopening of Schools.

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, the HDSB held a Town Hall for the HDSB community about reopening of schools and the type of scheduling that our elementary and secondary students can expect. At this Town Hall, the Medical Officer of Health for Halton Region, Dr. Meghani, spoke about the pandemic and the necessary health and safety protocols required to be in place in each of our schools to help ensure a safe return to school for our students and staff.

Please note that there are two new sections on the HDSB website:

The Reopening of Schools Plan page- where you will have access to all the information relating to Reopening of Schools and related updates and FAQs, as well as

The COVID-19 Advisory page: where you will be able to see timely data about any reported cases of COVID-19 by school, and where you will find links to municipal, provincial and national sources of information.

HDSB families, and in particular those families new to HDSB, are reminded to download the Halton District School Board app. This app can be found on the App Store (for Apple devices) and Google Play (for Android devices) by searching "Halton District School Board", where all the relevant information and messages are available at the click of a button.

#### 4.4 Committee Reports

- PIC – none
- Accessibility Coordinating Committee - none
- 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 reminded members that if anyone wanted to make a presentation to the group about their Association to please let us know.

Project Search presentation

Summer Learning and Summer Mental Health Supports for presentations

J. Oliver asked all members if they had any suggestions for upcoming SEAC meetings

#### 6.0 Adjournment

6.1 L. Morris adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.