



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Special Education Advisory Committee

JWS – Large Boardroom

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Deirdre Woo (Association for Bright Children); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Diane Miller (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); Hetal Shah (Association for Bright Children); Kristina Huddy (Autism Ontario);

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

Regrets: Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Judy Shiels (Voice); Danielle Adair (Voice)

Guests: Andrea Grebenc (Trustee-Chair)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

1.2 Approval of Agenda

#134-20 M. Shuttleworth and L. Morris

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for September 17, 2019.

Carried Unanimously

1.3 Minutes of June 4, 2019

#135-20 L. Morris and S. Siddiqi

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for June 4, 2019 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Special Education Review Phase III Review

E. Gray spoke on the findings/research for Phase III of the Special Education Review. A slideshow was presented. There was a great deal of discussions/questions regarding the above presentation.

2.2 Election of new SEAC chair

Due to D. Adair moving out of the Halton region, the SEAC committee proceeded to elect/appoint a new Chair. At this point, J. Oliver asked for indications of interest in the position of Chair. Each SEAC member was given the opportunity to indicate their interest and/or indicate support for another member. No vote was necessary due to L. Morris being the only member to volunteer for the Chair position. L. Morris was declared the SEAC chair for the 2019-2020 school year.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

K. Huddy wanted clarification around the reduction in the budget and funding for some programming and professional development. M. Zonneveld responded that the Board's need for professional development is endless. Tough decisions need to be made throughout the school year to determine how some funds are distributed. If the Ministry designates funding for a particular program, the Board must use these funds accordingly.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report – September 17, 2019

1. System Startup Update - Our start up this year has been fairly normal as things go in schools and in Student Services. Students have been supported in transitioning back to school and new students have been welcomed into the board. Adjustments will be made in the next week or two to class, staff and resource allocations to schools. New classes/programs offered for students this year include Project Search at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital for CPP students, Kindergarten Expressive Language and Literacy Program (KELLP), and Early Language and Phonological Awareness Program (ELPHA). The Structured Learning Class (SLC) pilot is continuing for one more year.
2. Self-contained Classes Maps - These maps were requested at a SEAC meeting last spring and are now available for SEAC members. They show the location of each class in the HDSB, with several schools hosting multiple classes.
3. Special Education Review information requests - At our June meeting, a SEAC member requested a copy of the questions asked of students and parents through surveys and focus groups during Phases I & II of the Review. These questions were shared with SEAC members earlier this month. There was also a request for the costs for providing self-contained gifted classes. This was difficult to ascertain during the review as we don't collect all of the data to fully flush out the answer to this question. Additional busing is required to get students to these classes but in some cases students in gifted classes share the buses with other students so we can't isolate the cost. We can determine the cost of the student assessments and will share this at a future meeting.
4. Continuation of the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) - The Ministry of Children Community and Social Services has extended the current OAP, which was to end on December 31, 2019, for another six months until June 30, 2020. Therefore, we don't anticipate a significant number of students entering into our schools during this school year as a result of discontinued services in the community. The Ministry has said that they will be announcing a replacement for the OAP in the near future.

4.2 Association Reports

LDAH- is hosting their first corporate breakfast. Tickets are available on the LDAHH.ca website. A. Brindle confirmed that the LDAHH Association is now called Learning Disabilities Association Halton/Hamilton.

4.3 Trustee Reports

J. Oliver- The Board of Trustees, Director and the Senior Administration will embark on developing a new Multi-Year Plan. The steering committee had its first meeting and a visioning meeting is scheduled for later this month. Multiple stakeholder groups will be engaged in this process with SEAC as one of the key stakeholders.

M. Shuttleworth – 2 new student trustees were elected. COTW – Mayor of Burlington spoke regarding perhaps implementing free transit for students on city buses.

4.4 Committees and Interested Representatives

- PIC – The annual PIC Conference is scheduled for October 19th at Garth Webb SS (Oakville). This is a free conference for all HDSB parents with a variety of topics of interest. SEAC will receive a link to the registration site to share with the member associations and school councils will be sharing this information with their parent communities.
- Accessibility and Coordinating Committee - none
- Special Education Review - none
- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee – Human Rights Symposium in December-send link to SEAC members
- Nelson/Robert Bateman High School (NEL/RBHS) Integration – 2nd phase funding for updates on Nelson, Integration Meetings Committee will be held October 22, 2019. L. Morris will be the representative from SEAC.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Code of Conduct/Violence in schools

Mental Health Update/Suggestions and follow up with M. Bates

Update on early intervention tools and strategies to identify children at risk

Assistive Technology update including ATcamps

Awareness of SEAC for parents (BBQ, open houses, etc.)

Bullying, racism, homophobic behaviours. How are we measuring the metrics of this?

Budget

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 L. Morris adjourned the meeting at 9:26 pm