



Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Special Education Advisory Committee
JWS – Large Boardroom
Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Diane Miller (Member at Large); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee);

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

Regrets: Deirdre Woo (Association for Bright Children); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Judy Shiels (Voice); Hetal Shah (Association for Bright Children); Lucille Morris (Member at Large)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

J. Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

J. Oliver read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#144-20 D. Vandebossche and L. Cameron

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for February 4, 2020.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of January 14, 2020

#145-20 M. Shuttleworth and D. Vandebossche

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for January 14, 2020 be approved. An amendment was made to Action Item 2.2.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 Review of Special Education Plan

All SEAC members and Trustees were sent a copy of the draft Plan, the current Plan and the Summary of Amendments, Appendix R prior to this evening's meeting. M. Zonneveld explained the process and timelines regarding how the Special Education Plan is finalized and approved. M. Zonneveld welcomed any questions/comments about the draft Plan that was shared with members. Several members had questions regarding the Summary of Amendments. M. Zonneveld addressed these questions/comments.

A Brindle asked M. Zonneveld what is the Board's position or thoughts on working with the Ministry to change and develop a more appropriate category for mental health? M. Zonneveld responded that there have been discussions with the Ministry about having these categories/identifications expanded.

At this point in the evening, on a motion from J. Oliver, SEAC members were asked to approve the amendments to the 2020-2021 draft Special Education Plan. This motion was moved by M. Dockeray (Easter Seals Society) and seconded by J. Baldwin (Member At Large).

SEAC voted and the draft Plan was unanimously approved. The Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton abstained from this vote as they did not have enough time to read all of the amendments prior to this evening's meeting.

2.2 Prescribed Assistive Technology Admin Procedure (AP)

SEAC members and Trustees were sent a copy of this procedure prior to this evening's meeting. M. Zonneveld then presented this AP to all in attendance. Several members had questions on this Admin Procedure. M. Zonneveld remarked that SEAC's comments will be taken back and modifications can be looked at being made to this AP.

2.3 Mental Health – SEAC input re Parent Focus Groups

M. Bates sent invitations to those SEAC members who expressed an interest to attend one of the following evenings:

The first meeting is Monday February 3rd, 5:30-7:30 at JWS in the small board room.
Another meeting opportunity is Friday 7th 12:30-2:30 at Milton Learning Centre, Speyside Room

L. Cameron confirmed that she attended the meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020. L. Cameron felt the input that was given was very valuable. A. Brindle has confirmed her attendance for Friday, February 7th.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

A. Brindle asked M. Zonneveld, that due to the Early Screening Gifted Program being stopped, was there any feedback on the number of staff that have been freed up? What has this done to potential wait times for other exceptionalities and diagnoses? M. Zonneveld responded that the Board is in the middle of collecting this data and confirmed that he will bring this information back to SEAC as soon as it is available.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report – February 4, 2020

1. Project Search in the News - Project Search is our new year-long coop program for students in their last year of CPP, offered in partnership with Halton Health Care at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. The program was featured in *Making a Difference* on Global News which aired on Monday night. We are very proud of the immediate success of this program and would like to add it to a SEAC agenda in the near future.

2. Labour Sanctions Impact - There are many ways in which the labour sanctions impact our students, families and school board. One of those impacts is that we must reduce/delay many of our initiatives and projects. Therefore I have fewer updates to share with SEAC while the sanctions are in effect.

3. Labour Update - Here is the letter that went home to parents/guardians of elementary students last week:

Labour Update for Elementary Families

Jan. 28, 2020

Dear families of HDSB elementary students,

We would like to update you on the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) labour action. Yesterday (Monday, Jan. 27), ETFO announced two potential walkouts impacting HDSB elementary schools and the beginning of Phase 5 of labour sanctions next week.

Potential HDSB Elementary School Closures on Monday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 6

ETFO announced it will hold a **one-day walkout impacting HDSB elementary schools on Monday, Feb. 3 in addition to a province-wide walkout impacting all Ontario public school boards on Thursday, Feb. 6**, if a tentative agreement is not reached by Friday, Jan. 31. These walkouts are a result of central bargaining taking place between the union, the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).

If these walkouts occur, **the HDSB will have no choice but to close elementary schools on Monday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 6** as there would not be adequate supervision to ensure the safety and well-being of students. Families are encouraged to make contingency plans for their child. **HDSB secondary schools will remain open.** Aldershot School and Burlington Central School will be closed for students in Grade 7 and 8 only.

ETFO Labour Sanctions - Phase 5

ETFO announced yesterday **Phase 5 of labour sanctions will begin Monday, Feb. 3** if no agreement is reached by Friday, Jan. 31.

The sanctions identified by ETFO in **Phase 5, effective Monday, Feb. 3**, include:

- Not participating in any extracurricular activities starting Monday, Feb. 3

Specific information regarding the cancellation of school activities will be provided by your child's school.

In the HDSB, ETFO represents:

- Permanent and occasional (supply) teachers in elementary schools
- Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECE) working in Kindergarten classrooms

For a list of HDSB employee groups, please visit [this page](#).

Please note the following:

- Adult School Classes: Adult school credit classes will not be impacted.
- Community Use Rentals: Community use rentals will not be impacted.

It is anticipated that striking workers may picket at schools and Board offices. If you or your child happen to encounter picket lines, please be aware that you have the right to cross picket lines at any time.

We will continue to provide families with accurate and timely information as we are able by email, the [HDSB website](#) and the Board's social media pages ([Twitter](#)/[Facebook](#)/[Instagram](#)).

To learn more about the Collective Bargaining process and current status updates, please visit this page: <https://www.opsba.org/advocacy-and-action/labour-relations>.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Stuart Miller
Director of Education

Here also is the letter to parents/guardians of secondary students:

OSSTF Labour Update (Jan. 30): Secondary schools

Jan. 30, 2020

Dear HDSB families of secondary students,

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) announced today it will hold another **one-day walkout on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at some Ontario school boards including the Halton District School Board**, if a tentative agreement is not reached by then. This one-day walkout is a result of central bargaining taking place between the union, the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).

If a one-day walkout occurs, the HDSB will, once again, have no choice but to close secondary schools on Tuesday, Feb. 4 as there would not be adequate supervision to ensure the safety and well-being of students. Families are encouraged to make contingency plans for their child, if required. We have been advised that OSSTF members intend to return to work on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

In the HDSB, OSSTF represents:

- Permanent and occasional (supply) teachers in secondary schools
- Office, clerical and technical employees (OCTU) **in both elementary and secondary schools**
- Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP) which includes Psychologists, Social Workers, Child and Youth Counsellors, Speech-Language Pathologists and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Facilitators **in both elementary and secondary schools**

For a list of HDSB employee groups, please visit the [HDSB Employee Groups](#) webpage.

Please note the following:

- **Athletics, Extracurriculars and Field Trips:** If the one-day walkout occurs, all secondary school athletics, extracurricular activities and field trips scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 4 will be cancelled. Attempts will be made to reschedule these events.

- **Adult Day School and all Night School Classes:** If the one-day walkout occurs, all adult day school credit classes and all night school credit classes will be cancelled for Tuesday, Feb. 4.
- **Community Use Rentals:** Community Use rentals will not be impacted.

It is anticipated that striking workers may picket at schools and Board offices. If you or your child happen to encounter picket lines, please be aware that you have the right to cross picket lines at any time.

We will continue to provide families with accurate and timely information as we are able through email, the [HDSB website](#) and the Board's social media pages ([Twitter](#)/[Facebook](#)/[Instagram](#)).

To learn more about the Collective Bargaining process and current status updates, please visit this page: <https://www.opsba.org/advocacy-and-action/labour-relations>.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Stuart Miller
Director of Education

4.2 Association Reports

A. Brindle reported that LDAHH's workshop this month is on Wednesday 12th February at 6.30pm. It is being led by a guest speaker from the Canada Revenue Agency who will provide information about the Disability Tax Credit and how to claim it. Tickets are available online. <https://ldahh.ca/lecture-series-workshops/>

LDAH is also looking for Volunteer Board Members with specific skills in Finance, Marketing, Social Media and Fundraising to assist us with our expansion both geographically into Hamilton and with new programs and services. Experience living with or supporting those with learning disabilities is not a requirement but is an asset.

Please contact president@ldahh.ca for more information.

<https://ldahh.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Board-Recruitment-Posting.pdf>

4.3 Trustee Reports

J. Oliver reported on the Milton SW #1 HS Boundary Review. All information is posted on the board's website - [Milton HS Site](#). The new high school will open with grade 9 and 10 students. It will have a Community Pathway Program (CPP) and will open with an I-STEM school (grade 9 only).

Trustees and senior admin held a Multi Year Plan (MYP) workshop last week. They have reviewed the Community Engagement Report from phase 1 as well as data from a variety of sources relating to student achievement, school climate and student well-being. More Steering Committee meetings and workshops to come as the work on the 2020-2024 MYP continues.

Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital launched Project Search in 2019, a school-to-work initiative in partnership with the Halton District School Board's community pathways program for students with developmental disabilities. Susan Hay featured the story on Global news on Feb 3rd 2020.

4.4 Committee Reports

- PIC – M. Shuttleworth reported that next meeting will be held at Garth Webb SS on February 18, 2020.
- Accessibility Coordinating Committee - none
- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee – D. Vandebossche reported that next meeting is March 12, 2020
- Nelson/Robert Bateman HS Integration Steering Committee – M. Shuttleworth reported that next meeting is April 2, 2020
- Central/Robert Bateman HS IB Program Integration Steering Committee – A. Brindle reported that work is on-going with staff and students. M. Shuttleworth reported that next Thursday a semi-formal is being held for all 3 schools (Central, Nelson and Bateman).

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Next SEAC meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2020.

LDAH will present at March's meeting

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 J. Oliver adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm .