

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 20, 2018, 6:30 P.M.

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held this date in the Education Centre, 400 Taunton Road East, Whitby.

ROLL CALL:

Craig Cameron, Member At Large
Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association
Darlene Forbes, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (Chair)
Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC)
Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large
Claire Perrin, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

Trustees: Donna Edwards Linda Lowery

Staff: Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor
Special Education Officers Andrea McAuley and Kyla Reimer

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

1. Call to Order:

Chair Darlene Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Welcome Guests:

Chair Darlene Forbes welcomed special guests: Mary Beth Arpan, Educational Assistant; Morgan Bowmaster, Special Education Resource Coach; Jack Barclay, Elementary Representative and Eleanor McIntosh, Secondary Representative.

Chair Darlene Forbes advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

3. Regrets:

Regrets:

- Janet Cairns, Secondary School Representative
- Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
- Linda Lowery, Trustee

Absent:

- Claire Perrin, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

4. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to include item 8. (b) SEAC Membership Vacancy.

That the agenda for September 20, 2018 be approved as amended.

MOVED BY: Eva Kyriakides

SECONDED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes from June 14, 2018:

That the minutes from June 14, 2018 be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Carolyn McLennon

CARRIED

6. Special Education Department Report:

The Special Education Department Report was included under item #9) Reports, Administration.

7. Presentation:

Early Years Transitional Support Update

Special Education Officer Andrea McAuley introduced Mary Beth Arpan, Educational Assistant (EA) and Morgan Bowmaster, Special Education Resource Coach who provided SEAC committee members with a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the Early Years EA Transition Support pilot project. Mary Beth and Morgan explained the roles and timelines; as well as the six common challenges and strategies to support students in the kindergarten program. They also answered questions of committee members.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes:

a) SEAC SIP Funding Letter to Ministry

The Ministry's response letter was handed out to committee members to review and provide feedback. It was agreed upon that a new letter would need to be written. SEAC Chair Darlene Forbes will prepare a new SIP funding letter and will e-mail the draft letter to committee members for modifications and approval prior to sending to the Ministry.

b) SEAC Membership Vacancy

The SEAC Membership vacancy advertisement was handed out to committee members to review and provide feedback. Recommendations will be incorporated into the advertisement and it will be reposted to all school websites; e-mailed to SCC Chairs and the DDSB's Transition Advisory Group (TAG).

Scheduled Discussion Period

The open discussion period was used to discuss the following topic:

SEAC Annual Goals

Committee members took this opportunity to discuss the SEAC's annual goals for the 2018-19 school year. The following items were noted:

- Parents as Partners Conference – SEAC information table
- Regional SCC's – SEAC information table
- Standing Library for SEAC members to use
- SEAC brochures distributed to SERT Offices

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor noted that she would follow up with Superintendent Martine Robinson regarding SEAC's participation at the Parent as Partners Conference and the Regional SCCs.

Special Education Officer Andrea McAuley noted that SEAC brochures will be sent to the SERT offices.

9. Reports:

Administration:

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor

DDSB Welcome Back Barbeque

The 2nd annual Welcome Back to Learning Barbeque was held on Thursday, August 30, 2018 and was a huge success with 6,170 students, parent/guardians and community members in attendance. The event welcomed all DDSB school communities with food, refreshments, giveaways, prizes and entertainment to help kick-start the new school year. Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor thanked Darlene Forbes and Eva Kyriakides for representing SEAC at the barbeque.

Autism Summer Transition Camp

The summer transition camp for students with autism was held from August 20-24, 2018 at Bolton C. Falby PS in Ajax. This year's camp had 14 students in attendance who received help in transitioning back to school.

Inclusive Student Services

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor noted that the Special Education Department has a unique discipline in leading special education; which services surrounds and looks at students with a variety of needs. Communication is moving forward to the system regarding the new branding of the Special Education Department to now be referred to as Inclusive Student Services.

1EP Conference

The 1EP Conference was held on September 14, 2018 at the Education Centre. The theme of this year's conference was "Supporting DDSB Special Education Class Teachers in Individualized Learning for Students". Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor was the keynote speaker. The day included: morning breakout sessions; community partners/lunch; afternoon breakout sessions and then a wrap up in the Boardroom where every participant received a copy of the resource: "How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms".

Operational Goals – Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2021

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor provided committee members with an overview of the new multi-year strategic plan, Ignite Learning. The strategic priorities and operating goals are a reflection of student, staff and community voice. Camille noted the DDSB strategic priorities being implemented are: Success; Well-Being; Leadership; Equity; Engagement and Innovation.

9. Reports: (cont'd)

Board:

Trustee Donna Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received presentations on the Bruce Mather Award; Transition Planning: *Choosing My Success, Refining My Pathway and Designing My Future*; Focusing on the Fundamentals of Mathematics and Ignite Learning Strategic Plan at the Board Meeting that was held on Monday, September 17, 2018.

10. Association Reports:

Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC)

The 2018 Gifted Conference is being held on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto. Topics Include: Multiple Exceptionalities (2E), Well-being, Bullying, At Risk Gifted Students, Anxiety, Trauma, Motivation, Procrastination, Atypical Neurology, Creativity, Sex-Ed for Gifted Students, Social Emotional Development, High Achievers & Under-Achievers, Self-Care for Gifted Children & Adults, Advocacy and more.

Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR)

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region's (LDADR) Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Thursday, September 27, 2018 from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Trent University, Durham. Following the AGM, a presentation on Improving the Odds: Implementing the IEP will start at 7:30 p.m.

11. Correspondence/Attachments:

- Letter from Easter Seals Ontario

Received a letter from the association that Cathy Walsh has resigned as the SEAC Representative for Easter Seals Ontario. Claire Perrin would like to remain as the SEAC alternate while the association seeks a new representative.

12. Questions and Comments:

Carolyn McLennon requested an update on the Ontario Human Rights policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities. Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor responded that a gap analysis report is currently being prepared for the Senior Team and Trustees. She noted that a public report will be available at a later date.

Darlene Forbes requested an update on the evidence based reading programs (Empower and Lexia). Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor replied that after reviewing the minutes the vendors were to reach out to the DDSB to set up staff presentations. As of today's date, no calls or e-mails have been received. A presentation would be welcomed to ensure that the reading programs are not being duplicated with an existing evidenced based reading program such as Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI).

13. Celebrations and Success:

Tara Culley shared that this is the first year in her son's career at school that he loves school and his teacher.

Craig Cameron wanted to celebrate all teachers who use the Remind School Communication App. It's not only for the students but for the parents as well. It is a simple but really valued tool.

Darlene Forbes shared that her daughter has managed to get up one hour early and has not been late once for school this year.

Trustee Donna Edwards mentioned that she attended the 2018 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Antigonish, Nova Scotia in August. The Rhythmic Gymnastics Team came home with 57 medals.

14. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – October 18, 2018 in Room 2007.

15. Adjournment:

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

MOVED BY: Eva Kyriakides

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:
Darlene Forbes, SEAC Chair

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
SEAC SIP Funding Letter – Rewritten and sent to committee members for review and feedback	Darlene Forbes, SEAC Chair	By next SEAC meeting.
Re-post revised SEAC Membership Vacancy	Diane Kent, Administrative Assistant	By next SEAC meeting.
SEAC's participation at the Parents as Partners Conference and the Regional SCCs.	Camille Williams-Taylor, Superintendent of Education/Inclusive Student Services	By next SEAC meeting.
SEAC brochures distributed to SERT Offices	Andrea McAuley, Special Education Officer	September 28, 2018