

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, October 18, 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 Heather Mundy

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Darlene Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

**2. Welcome Guests:**

Chair Darlene Forbes welcomed special guests: Darlene Bain, Special Education Facilitator; Randi-Lea Micklewright, Special Education Facilitator; Caroline Mills, Teacher from David Bouchard PS; Grace Lindsay, student from Fleming College; Amanda Paterson, 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:

- Linda Lowery, Trustee

Absent:

- Claire Perrin, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was amended to include item 7. (b) Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.

That the agenda for October 18, 2018 be approved as amended.

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Craig Cameron

CARRIED

**5. Approval of the Minutes September 20, 2018:**

That the minutes from September 20, 2018 be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

**6. Inclusive Student Services Report:**

Special Education Officer Andrea McAuley introduced Special Education Facilitator Randi-Lea Micklewright and Caroline Mills, Teacher from David Bouchard PS who provided SEAC members with PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the impact of changes and supports to the Practical Learning Program as the direct connect to students in schools. She also introduced Special Education Facilitator Darlene Forbes who presented Inclusive Student Services Report.

**Speech Language and Hearing**

DDSB Early Years will be using the Oral Language Continuum and Phonological Awareness Hierarchy, created by DDSB Speech Language Pathologists, for assessment to inform faces on the data in the new Kindergarten Building Collaborative Inquiry (BCI) groups.

**6. Inclusive Student Services Report: (cont'd)**

Psychological Services

Psychological Services has had a busy September with the start-up of their services within DDSB schools, including the distribution of Psychological Services start-up kits and the development of collaborative Service Plans. They also have been busy starting their system training in non-violent crisis intervention, having just re-certified 80% of Psychological Services staff as course instructors. Finally, close to 100 referrals for psychological assessments were activated for purposes of transition planning for students with Intellectual Disabilities. Next up, Psychological Services staff will be gearing up for targeted Behavior Assessments to support the Board's applications to the Ministry for funding of supports for students with intensive needs.

Advanced Technology (AT)

- First 2018/2019 AT night on Thursday, October 11, 2018
- 35 + parents in attendance from various schools all around the DDSB
- Parents had the opportunity to use a Chromebook
- Focus of session was how the Read & Write tools can support reading, writing, research and organization

Upcoming Parent Advanced Technology Training Evenings

In these sessions parents and guardians will learn about the common pieces of software used within the DDSB: Google Suite, Read and Write and Clicker 6. During the 90-minute session, attendees will use school laptops to explore and engage in hands-on learning activities.

**Dates and Locations:**

	School	Date and Time
Whitby	DDSB Office 400 Taunton Rd. E	Thursday, Oct. 11th/18 6:00 - 7:30 pm
North	Uxbridge Secondary 127 Planks Lane	Tuesday, Nov. 20th/18 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Oshawa	Eastdale Collegiate 265 Harmony Rd. North	Thursday, Jan. 24th/19 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Ajax/Pickering	Glengrove P.S. 1934 Glengrove Rd, Pickering	Tuesday, Feb. 26th/19 6:00 - 7:30 pm

<http://bit.ly/parentnight2018-2019>

**7. Presentations:**

a) Abilities Scholarship Award

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR) and the Durham District School Board (DDSB) have partnered to provide a \$1000.00 Abilities Scholarship Award. This scholarship recognizes a DDSB high school student who has a diagnosed Learning Disability and who is continuing studies (apprenticeship, college or university) in the upcoming academic year. Candidates must have been high school students, part-time or full-time, during the 2017-2018 school year and be entering their first year of apprenticeship, college or university in 2018-2019.

A committee consisting of DDSB and LDADR representatives reviewed the nominations. The committee decided to award the scholarship to Lindsay Grace, a student at Brooklin H.S.

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor, Trustee Donna Edwards and SEAC Chair and LDADR Representative Darlene Forbes presented the award to Grace.

b) Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

Chair Darlene Forbes provided SEAC members with a PowerPoint presentation on October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.

**8. Business Arising from the Minutes:**

a) SEAC SIP Funding Letter to Ministry

The new SIP funding letter written by SEAC Chair Darlene Forbes was distributed to committee members for their review and to provide feedback. Darlene agreed to revise the letter and will e-mail the draft letter to committee members for approval prior to sending to the Ministry.

b) Scheduled Discussion Period

This item was deferred to the November SEAC meeting. Committee members would like to use next month's discussion period to discuss the Policy for Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities - Ontario Human Rights Commission.

**9. Reports:**

**Administration:**

**Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor**

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)/SEAC

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor followed up with Superintendent Martine Robinson in regard to SEAC's request to be promoted through PIC. It was agreed upon that on a pilot basis, a structure would be created that would enable a SEAC representative to have a seat on PIC. It would also be reciprocal that a PIC member will be offered to have a seat with SEAC.

Update: Policy for Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities - Ontario Human Rights Commission

A gap analysis report was shared with Administrative Council. The report was taken back to the DDSB Accessibility Committee for a deeper analysis. Co-chairs Heather Mundy and Lisa Bianca went through the process and are preparing a report to take back to Administrative Council and then to Board in November.

Social Work

The Social Worker Team is currently working on resource for Administrators to address attendance. The "Attendance Matters: A Multi-Tiered Intervention Approach" document will be rolled out at Family of Schools meetings in October and November.

This is My Story

The Inclusive Equity Department in collaboration with the Communications Department have launched a new project entitled "This is My Story". This series focuses on the diversity of staff in the DDSB and how they make it happen

**Board:**

Trustee Donna Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received presentations on Ignited Teacher Efficacy & Student Ownership for Learning; Faces on the Data Case Conferences and Equitable Leadership Program at the Board meeting that was held on Monday, October 15, 2018.

Trustee Donna Edwards also extended her congratulations to Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor who will be assuming her new duties as the Director of the Ottawa Carleton DSB effective January 1, 2019.

**10. Association Reports:**

Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR)

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region presents “How Difficult Can This Be? F.A.T. (Frustration, Anxiety, Tears) City Workshop on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Brooklin Community Centre. All are welcome - no registration or fee is required.

**11. Correspondence/Attachments:**

- Letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington CDSB

**12. Questions and Comments:**

Trustee Donna Edwards mentioned that the newly elected Provincial Government has put a freeze on Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. This will have a significant impact on schools that have difficulties in fundraising.

Special Education Officer Andrea McAuley noted that the SIP teams were in this week for grant writing. Approximately 120 claims will be submitted but at a reduced impact as the workbooks for the student's timetables have not yet been released to school boards from the Ministry.

It was also noted that 27 Educational Assistants who are currently funded through the Local Priorities Funding will end in 2019. This will further increase the deficit in special education funding.

Trustee Donna Edwards provided an overview of the Education Development Charges for SEAC members. Education development charges (EDCs) are fees imposed on residential land development or redevelopment projects to help cover the cost of land acquisition upon which new schools are built. The fees are collected by the municipality upon issuance of a building permit. It is important to note that EDCs are just one type of development charge collected by the municipality. Municipalities also collect development charges to cover the cost of capital infrastructure for fire, police, and transit, storm and sanitary sewer, parks and recreation.

EDCs are collected by Municipalities imposed by school boards under the Education Act, Provincial regulations and school board bylaws. It is the government of Ontario and its provincial regulations that determine how school boards can spend the EDCs. Under the current provincial EDC regulation, school boards can only use EDCs to purchase land for new school sites. EDCs cannot be used for the cost of the school building or renovations to existing schools.

In order to collect EDCs, school boards must show that the number of students it needs to accommodate is larger than the space available on a board wide basis, regardless if a particular neighbourhood cannot accommodate students in that school.

**12. Questions and Comments: (cont'd)**

Under the current EDC Board Bylaw, the DDSB collects approximately \$1,949 per new residential house build. The cost of land continues to escalate in Durham. A recent ad for a piece of land 1.635 acres in size was advertised at a price of 1.2 million dollars. New school sites are approximately 8 acres in size. EDCs collected today do not cover the real cost of purchasing new school sites in the area.

The Provincial Government just put a freeze on all renewals of EDC Bylaws. The Boards EDC Bylaw is renewed every five years and was due to be renewed in May 2019. Therefore, the rate of EDCs collected is frozen at the 2014 rate while the cost of land for new school sites continues to increase.

**13. Celebrations and Success:**

Tara Culley shared that her son Adam went out on a second date.

Trustee Donna Edwards mentioned that her daughter Victoria was nominated and will be receiving a certificate at the Volunteer of Distinction Night that will be held on October 25, 2018 at Sinclair SS.

**14. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – November 22, 2018 in Room 2007.**

**15. Adjournment:**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

MOVED BY: Kathy Kedey

SECONDED BY: Eva Kyriakides

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:  
 Darlene Forbes, SEAC Chair

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
SEAC SIP Funding Letter – Revised and sent to committee members for review.	Darlene Forbes, SEAC Chair	By next SEAC meeting.
November Agenda Item: Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities - Ontario Human Right's Commission	Diane Kent, Administrative Assistant	November 22, 2018.