

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 22, 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
Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC)
Melanie Maas, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (Alternate)
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:

Vice-Chair Donna Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Welcome Guests:

Vice-Chair Donna Edwards welcomed special guests: Jack Barclay, Elementary Representative; Janet Cairns, Secondary Representative and members of the gallery.

Vice-Chair Donna Edwards 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:

- There were no regrets at this time.

Absent:

- Linda Lowery, Trustee
- Claire Perrin, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

4. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to defer the following items: 6.) Inclusive Student Services Report; Item 7.) Presentation and Item 8.) Reports to permit more time for item 8 b.) Open Discussion Period.

That the agenda for November 22, 2018 be approved as amended.

MOVED BY: Melanie Maas

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes October 18, 2018:

That the minutes from October 18, 2018 be approved.

MOVED BY: Eva Kyriakides

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

6. Inclusive Student Services Report:

This item was deferred to the December SEAC meeting.

7. Presentation:

There was no presentation at this time.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes:

a) SEAC SIP Funding Letter to Ministry

The SIP funding letter that was written by SEAC Chair Darlene Forbes was distributed to committee members for their review. Kathy Kedey offered to reach out to Darlene for her revisions to incorporate into the letter.

b) Scheduled Discussion Period

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

Policy for Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities – Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC)

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor provided committee members with a PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of the Executive Summary Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities and hand-out information on the Equity and Diversity Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

SEAC and members from the public gallery were invited to join three working groups to provide their input on some of the OHRC policy recommendations. Next steps will be to collect feedback; meet again with SEAC Trustees to then bring back OHRC Policy recommendations to SEAC in December to have the opportunity to provide additional feedback prior to going to Board.

9. Reports:

The Administration and Board reports were deferred to the December SEAC meeting.

10. Association Reports:

VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Voice for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children will be hosting an Escape Room Challenge at CASA Loma on Sunday, December 2, 2018 for teens (ages 13-18) with hearing loss.

11. Correspondence/Attachments:

- Letter from the Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD)

Received a letter from the association that Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD) has appointed Elizabeth Daniel to position of SEAC Representative and Katie Harkot as the Alternate Representative.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT ELIZABETH DANIEL BE THE SEAC REPRESENTATIVE AND KATIE HARKOT BE THE SEAC ALTERNATE FOR THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDERS.

MOVED BY: Kathy Kedey

SECONDED BY: Craig Cameron

CARRIED

- Letter from Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR)

Received a letter from the association that Darlene Forbes has resigned from the SEAC Representative position for Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR). The association has appointed Rowin Jarvis as LDADR's new SEAC Representative and Melanie Maas will continue as the Alternate Representative.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT ROWIN JARVIS BE THE SEAC REPRESENTATIVE AND MELANIE MAAS BE THE SEAC ALTERNATE FOR THE LEARNING DISABILITES ASSOCIATON OF DURHAM REGION.

MOVED BY: Eva Kyriakides

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

- Letter from Upper Grand DSB

12. Questions and Comments:

Superintendent Camille Williams-Taylor informed SEAC members that it is her last three official days with the Durham DSB and that Special Education Officer Andrea McAuley will now be the new Superintendent of Inclusive Student Services.

13. Celebrations and Success:

Trustee Donna Edwards 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. She also congratulated Special Education Officer Andrea McAuley who will be assuming her new duties as the Superintendent of Inclusive Student Services effective December 1, 2018.

14. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – December 20, 2018 in Room 2007.

15. Adjournment:

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

MOVED BY: Kathy Kedey

SECONDED BY: Eva Kyriakides

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:
Donna Edwards, SEAC Vice-Chair

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Obtain revisions to SIP Ministry Letter	Kathy Kedey SEAC Member	By next SEAC meeting.
December Agenda Item: Policy for Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities – Ontario Human Rights Commission	Diane Kent Administrative Assistant	By next SEAC meeting.