

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 17, 2019, 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) (SEAC Chair)
Melanie Maas, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (Alternate)
Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large
Claire Perrin, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

Trustees: Donna Edwards Christine Thatcher

Staff: Superintendent Andrea McAuley
Special Education Officers Kyla Reimer and Bobbie O'Dell

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

1. Call to Order:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Welcome Guests:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed special guests: Jack Barclay, Elementary Representative and Special Education Facilitators Leigh-Anne Harrington; Tracy Phillips and Jessie Stagg. Sherri Savard, Principal; Allison Robichaud, SERT from Queen Elizabeth PS and Hanah Nguyen, Easter Seals Ontario Representative were also in attendance in the gallery.

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides 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:

- Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
- Eleanor McIntosh, Secondary Representative

Absent:

- Claire Perrin, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

4. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for January 17, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Melanie Maas

CARRIED

5. **Approval of the Minutes from December 20, 2018:**

That the minutes from December 20, 2018 be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

6. **Inclusive Student Services Written Report – January 2019:**

Updates

- SERT Capacity session on Dec 10th included Guest Speakers Wendy O'Neil and Jeff Hockett, Resource Consultants for students with Learning Disabilities with the Ontario Ministry of Education, Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch working out of the Sagonaska School in Belleville, Ontario. The presentation helped to represent a day in the life of a student with a Learning Disability, the many ways this diagnosis impacts all areas of school; and strategies to support students.
- Grade 8 to 9 Transition Night on January 9th at the DDSB Board Office to support families of students transitioning from elementary to secondary with Special Education needs. Over 250 parents/guardians participated. Sessions led in collaboration with Student Success.

6. Inclusive Student Services Written Report – January 2019 (cont'd):

- Gifted Testing: results will be sent home mid-January. Those moving on to individual testing were notified prior to the holiday break. Individual testing consent forms will be sent to SERTs shortly. The Psychological Services Team will share the date and time for individual student assessments with the parent/guardian. Invitations to attend Gifted Program Information Sessions in March, at the Host Schools, will be included with the results.
- Inclusive Parent Technology Night being offered at Eastdale CVI on Thursday, January 24th from 6-7:30pm in the library.

Psychological Services

- Psychological Services staff continue to provide services in fulfillment of the five service functions of: *consultation, assessment, direct service, crisis response and capacity building*. Staff just have completed over 90 assessments to support the transition plans of students who have been Identified with developmental needs. During January and February, staff will be completing close to 100 assessments to support identification of DDSB students for the Gifted program.

Shifting Practice – Secondary Literacy and Numeracy Programming

Numeracy

- Inclusive Student Services, in collaboration with Curriculum Services, is in the process of creating a series of 5 Math videos to support Grade 9 Math teachers and administrators. The focus of these videos is the use of collaborative inquiry, flex furniture, and differentiation for all students. The team visited several DDSB secondary schools to get footage of students and teachers actively engaged in collaborative learning in 5 Math strands: Linear Relations, Measurement, Geometry, Algebra and Proportional Reasoning. These videos will be ready for a September 2019 roll out.

Literacy – Teen Emergent Reading Library (TERL)

- Inclusive Student Services is working in collaboration with Curriculum Services on a pilot project for secondary students in our Practical Learning Programs and School Support Program classes. This project, called TERL (Teen Emergent Reading Library), uses the structures of LLI with reading material that has age appropriate content (14-18) set at the K-2 reading level. Currently, four secondary schools are piloting the project and are seeing positive response from students. Next steps include assessment of impact on student engagement and reading skills.

6. Inclusive Student Services Written Report – January 2019 (cont'd):

Professional Development Opportunities

Date	Workshop Title
January 14 th	Power TPM – Creating IPRCs for 2018/2019 Review Meetings
January 14 th	Power TPM – Overview for New to SERTs or refresher
January 21/February 21	(Two Part Series) Including All Students in FSL
January 21	Practical Learning Program – Teacher Capacity Building
January 23 rd	Behaviour Management Systems Basic Training
January 23 rd	Autism: ASD and the Brain
January 25 th	Autism: Teaching New Skills
January 28 th	Self-Regulation Class Teacher Capacity Building
February 1 / 12	Autism: Augmentative and Alternative Communication
February 5	Autism: ASD and the Brain
February 5	Behaviour Management Systems for Occasional Teachers
February 15	Secondary PD Day – Variety of Sessions for Educational Assistants

7. Presentation:

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Leigh-Anne Harrington; Tracy Phillips; Jessie Stagg, Special Education Facilitators and Sherri Savard, Principal; Allison Robichaud, SERT from Queen Elizabeth PS who provided SEAC committee members with a presentation on Self-Regulation. Committee members learned more about Self-Regulation Tracks/Circuits which many schools are implementing and had opportunity to try one brought for demonstration purposes. Presenters also answered questions from committee members.

8 a). Business Arising from the Minutes:

- SEAC SIP Funding Letter to Ministry

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides is now in receipt of the revised letter from Kathy Kedey. One more amendment was received. It was agreed upon to send the amended letter to the Ministry of Education.

MOTION:

THAT THE AMENDED SEAC SIP FUNDING LETTER BE SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

MOVED BY: Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED BY: Craig Cameron

CARRIED

8 a). Business Arising from the Minutes: (cont'd)

- Nova's Ark Membership

The Ministry of Education's regulations and SEAC by-laws require that all member associations be affiliated with a provincial association or organization. As Nova's Ark does not operate across the province, their membership request cannot be approved.

MOTION:

THAT NOVA'S ARK SEAC MEMBERSHIP REQUEST BE DECLINED BASED ON THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S REGULATIONS AND SEAC BY-LAWS.

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

Discussions took place among committee members to review the current DDSB SEAC by-laws regarding membership requests from paid for fee services. Tara Culley will draft an amendment to the by-laws for committee members to review.

8 b). Scheduled Discussion Period

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

This item was deferred to permit extra discussion time for SEAC's initial consultation on the draft "DDSB Pathway to Intervention" resource document.

9. Reports:

Administration:

Superintendent Andrea McAuley

PAaC of SEAC

Reference to PAaC on SEAC for January is financial update (grants, expenditures and reserve amount). This information will be brought to SEAC in February to ensure public sharing follows information to Board this month.

9. Reports: (cont'd)

Superintendent Andrea McAuley (cont'd)

Grove School

Grove School provides a school name and structure for Durham District School Board teachers to provide education programs for clients of government approved Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional Facilities within this jurisdiction. Community partnership is essential in the provision of these programs as students are served by both agency and board staff. As clients of one of twelve community partners who form the Grove network, students receive programming which prioritizes clinical interventions in areas of need while maintaining academic programming. Programs are facilitated in partnership between community partner provided Child and Youth Workers and Durham DSB teachers.

Grove School serves the educational needs of students who are unable to attend a community school because of placement in Care, Treatment, Custody or Correctional facility. Its primary purpose is to provide students with effective individual instruction that leads to the re-integration of students into community schools, post-secondary institutions or employment.

Through the 2017-2018 school year, 564 students (including 45 students through integration from host schools) accessed programming through Grove School. As of February 1st 2019, Grove School operates 49 program spaces with an average enrolment of 10 students per program space.

Planning for the 2019-2020 School Year

At this time, school teams are working closely with families and special education staff on submissions for special education class placement requests for individual students. Processes for decision making towards the 2019-2020 school year include:

- On-going consultation and planning (Inclusive Student Services, Budget and Finance, Durham Student Transportation Services, Facilities Services, and Operations);
- Considerations for equitable distribution of program locations and ratio of class types based on student needs across the system;
- Consultation with Senior Team;
- Timing to ensure decisions are aligned with critical staffing guidelines (teachers, EAs);
- Structured time for communication with families and transition supports for individual students

ParaSport Games

The Ontario Parasport Games are coming to Durham Region with 350 participating athletes. The Durham District School Board congratulates and celebrates all participants – athletes, coaches and families- in the games.

The Ontario Parasport Games are an opportunity for us to make connections for our students and support tremendous athletes. Information has been shared with Administrators, Leading Each Day and through bi-weekly Officers' e-bulletin, and SERTs to encourage participation in the adopt-an-athlete "Be the Roar" program.

9. Reports: (cont'd)

Special Education Officer Kyla Reimer

Pathway to Intervention

Clarity of process and a comprehensive approach to assessing and meeting the needs of all learners is essential in the delivery of programming. Recognizing the need for early and on-going intervention, we are currently in the process of revising our "Pathway to IPRC" as a "Pathway to Intervention". This revision will better illustrate the steps taken to support students, and provide a more simplified document for communication with parents and community partners. The new design, also identifies how to determine the next steps based on the evaluation of the student needs, colour coded throughout for clarity and consistency. This planning tool will be launched in Spring 2019. Draft is brought to SEAC tonight for feedback.

Board:

Trustee Donna Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received presentations on Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week; Ignite Learning Mid-Year Operational Goals Update; French Programs at the DDSB and Kindergarten Educator Collaborative Learning Hubs at the Standing Committee meeting that took place on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Donna also congratulated and welcomed Georgette Davis, to the Durham District School Board (DDSB) as the new Superintendent of Education of Safe Schools and Well-Being. She will support the family of schools of Anderson CVI, Sinclair Secondary School, and Henry Street High School. This appointment is effective January 14, 2019. Davis joins the DDSB team with 20 years of experience in education at Kawartha Pine Ridge School Board (KPRSB), where she's been the Superintendent of Education responsible for the Student Achievement/Special Education portfolio since 2016.

10. Association Reports:

There were no association reports at this time.

11. Correspondence/Attachments:

There was no correspondence at this time.

12. Questions and Comments:

Melanie Maas, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region attended the DDSB Transition Night Grade 8-9 on January 9, 2019. She requested clarity regarding the role of Student Success Facilitator for a student with a learning disability. Superintendent Andrea McAuley advised that the Student Success Facilitators support all students, parents and schools in providing pathway documents with information on a range of opportunities for individualized pathways to enhance student success.

12. Questions and Comments: (cont'd)

Kathy Kedey and Craig Cameron put forth two recommendations for upcoming Open Discussion Periods:

- February SEAC Meeting: “How might we invite students to self-advocate in our system?”
- March SEAC Meeting Inclusive Classrooms

13. Celebrations and Success:

Trustee Christine Thatcher attended the DDSB Transition Night Grade 8- 9 on January 9, 2019 at the Education Centre. She mentioned that parents were really pleased to have the opportunity to speak with Special Education and Student Success Facilitators and to access a variety of information.

14. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – February 21, 2019 in Room 2007.

15. Adjournment:

That the meeting does now adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

MOVED BY: Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED BY: Melanie Maas

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:
 Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
“Draft” SEAC Membership By-Laws	Tara Culley	By Next SEAC Meeting
Add to February and March SEAC agendas – Open Discussion Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “How might we invite students to self-advocate in our system?” • Inclusive Classrooms 	Administrative Assistant Diane Kent	February 21 st & March 21 st , 2019