

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, February 21, 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  
Elizabeth Daniel, Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders  
Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region  
Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children \*\* (left meeting @ 8:09 p.m.) \*\*  
Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) (SEAC Chair)  
Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large  
Hanah Nguyen, Easter Seals Ontario

Trustees: Donna Edwards Christine Thatcher

Staff: Superintendent Andrea McAuley  
Special Education Officers Kyla Reimer

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

**1. Call to Order:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Welcome Guests:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed guests: Janet Cairns and Eleanor McIntosh, Secondary Representatives; Mohmed Hamid, Superintendent of Education/Equity and Psychologist Dr. Param Sekhon. Melanie Maas, SEAC Alternate for Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region was also in attendance.

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:

- Craig Cameron, Member At Large
- Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region

4. **Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was amended to move item # 7 Presentation – DDSB Student Census prior to item # 6 Inclusive Student Services Report.

That the agenda for February 21, 2019 be approved as amended.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

5. **Approval of the Minutes from January 17, 2019:**

That the minutes from January 17, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Carolyn McLennon

CARRIED

6. **Inclusive Student Services Report:**

Dr. Param Sekhom provided SEAC members with the Inclusive Student Services Report.

**Speech and Language**

Early Years continues to embrace the oral language continuum and phonological awareness hierarchy to support Faces on the Data (FOD) in kindergarten. Speech Language Pathologists have provided much educator and parent/guardian coaching and modeling of these prerequisite skills needed for reading and spelling in kindergarten and primary grades. The kindergarten FOD document incorporates this work and teachers are using these charts in their classrooms across the DDSB.

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

**Vision Resources**

The Vision Resource Team has recently purchased a class set of Vision goggles. These simulate the difficulties that students with vision deficiencies experience in everyday life. They will be used in classrooms, by students, to create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces. The intent is that by experiencing what students with blind and low vision experience, students and staff will become more accepting and inclusive.

The Vision Resource team would like to announce the hiring of a new Vision resource teacher. Martha Duchesne is a secondary teacher from Port Perry HS and is replacing Carolyn Stratford Rylott who retired in December.

**Psychological Services**

It's Psychology Month at the DDSB: GET PSYCH'D! Psychological Services staff have continued to support DDSB schools in serving their five service functions: Assessment; Consultation; Direct Service; Crisis Response; and Capacity Building.

Staff also have been active completing over 150 assessments in the past five weeks as part of the screening for the Gifted Program.

As well, staff have been in-serviced and are prepared to implement the new Provincial Guidelines for the Diagnosis of Learning Disabilities (2019) from the *Ontario Psychological Association*.

- A common understanding of LD for practitioners and public
- Common practices in assessment and diagnosis
- A common approach to intervention
- Consistency across school boards, between practitioners, across sectors, populations
- Unique and comprehensive: built on relevant documents & philosophies examined process across ages, settings, populations

**Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) Guidelines – 2019**

- All Psychological Services staff have been trained in the OPA Learning Disability Guidelines
- Guidelines are not dissimilar to the current (2018) Assessment Model used by Psychological Services staff
- Staff also are trained to merge additional Assessment Models to evaluate other factors affecting student performance, i.e., mental health, behavioral, social functioning
- Assessment links to student programming/support (via consultation and capacity building) and direct student service
- Latter facilitated by Psych staff training in Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Mindfulness and Trauma Informed Practices, within an integrated service model

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

**Professional Development Opportunities**

Workshop/In-service	Date (s)
EQAO Read & Write Workflow for Elementary SERTs	February 20, 2019
Chromebook 101	February 20, & March 5, 2019
BMS Training	February 21, & March 18, 2019
Neurodiversity in the Classroom	February 21, 2019
Structured Teaching Group 3, Day 2	February 21, 2019
Teachers of Gifted Learners Networking	February 22, 2019
SLP – Augmentative & Alternative Communication Across the Classroom	February 22, 2019
Transition to Work (Part 3 of 4)	February 27, 2019
OSSLT Workflow for students using Read & Write	February 28, 2019
PowerTPM – Running Reports for Ministry Reporting	March 4, 2019
SERT Capacity Building	March 5, 2019
PowerSchool – Basic Workshop	March 5, 2019

**7. Presentation:**

**DDSB Student Census**

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided SEAC members with a PowerPoint presentation on the DDSB Student Census. He also introduced Education Officers Barry Bedford and Erin Elmhurst and Equity Coordinator Jacquie Steer who were also in attendance in the gallery. Mohamed explained that the finding of this census will assist the board and schools to:

- better understand our student population
- identify challenges and address success
- develop programs and provide resources to meet students' needs

Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students: Parents will be invited to complete a census for each child. Grade 7 to 12 Students: Each student will be invited to complete a census. Census Timelines: March/April 2019 – Information Sessions/ April 2019 – Kindergarten to Grade 12 letter sent home/May 10, 2019 – Census deadline. He also answered questions from committee members.

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

- “Draft” Update – SEAC Membership By-Laws

Tara Culley will e-mail the “draft” update to SEAC members to review.

**8 b).** Scheduled Discussion Period

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

- “How might we invite students to self-advocate in our system?”

Committee members paired and shared suggestions and strategies that may help now or could help students advocate. SEAC members shared some of their strategies:

- Teachers speaking to students about self-advocacy
- Creating a safe environment
- Importance of language on handouts
- Teach layers of disclosure at appropriate levels
- Giving structure
- Teach language early
- Have student attend the IEP – role play and action
- Different methods and different opportunities
- Practice asking
- Student not always expected to know all the solutions
- How is disability viewed in society – understand the different models of disabilities

Discussions took place among SEAC members and it was proposed to provide an evening information session on self-advocacy for parents/guardians at the Education Centre. Committee members who were interested in participating were asked to e-mail SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides.

**9.** Reports:

**Administration:**

**Superintendent Andrea McAuley**

PAaC on SEAC for February indicates overview of proposed Special Education Class changes. Focus of the Administrator's Report this evening will also focus on: 1) Financial update (grants, expenditures and reserve amount) and 2) DDSB Response and Planning to Changes to the Ontario Autism Program - for information and consultation with SEAC.

Current Trends:

- Increase in students requiring wrap around services such as those provided through our Developmental Programs
- Decrease in families/students selecting self-contained Gifted program (growth of French Immersion, desire for home community connections and individualization of programming in mainstream classes)
- Recognized importance of fostering success in all pathways to post-secondary including direct to paid employment

**9. Reports: (cont'd)**

**Superintendent Andrea McAuley (cont'd)**

Budget and Finance

- For 2018-2019, special education revenue increased from \$114,933,762 at Estimates to \$115,350,648 at Revised Estimates
- For 2018-2019, special education expenditures increased from \$117,968,430 at Estimates to \$118,132,296 at Revised Estimates
- The benchmark changes relating to Special Education grants were as follows:
  - **Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA) \$0.99M** – Increased per pupil amount for all grade levels.
    - JK to Grade 3 from \$988.82 to \$1,007.08
    - Grade 4 to 8 from \$759.54 to \$773.57
    - Grade 9 to 12 from \$501.47 to \$510.73
  - **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) \$(1.24) M** – Decreased funding amount per eligible claim from originally announced funding at \$38,016 per claim to \$27,405 per claim
- Other changes in special education revenue were driven by enrolment
- Accumulated surplus – Special Education remains unchanged from 2017-2018 Financial Statements at \$580,415

<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION - REVENUE</b>	<b>Estimates 2018-2019</b>	<b>Revised Estimates 2018-2019</b>
Special Education - SEPPA	53,005,469	54,680,871
Special Education - DSENA	35,612,273	35,612,273
Special Education - SIP	4,409,856	3,206,385
Special Education - SEA	2,552,825	2,580,010
Special Education - Behaviour Expertise Funding	397,285	400,621
Special Education - Care & Treatment (Grove)	5,978,449	5,933,926
<b>Total Special Education Allocation</b>	<b>101,956,157</b>	<b>102,414,086</b>
Re-allocation of Foundation Grant for Self-Contained Classes	12,977,605	12,936,562
<b>Total Revenue Available for Special Education</b>	<b>114,933,762</b>	<b>115,350,648</b>
<b>Total Special Education Expenditures</b>	<b>117,968,430</b>	<b>118,132,296</b>
<b>Total Local Priorities Revenue</b>	<b>3,423,321</b>	<b>3,615,084</b>
<b>Total Local Priorities Expenditures</b>	<b>3,528,458</b>	<b>3,703,685</b>

**9. Reports: (cont'd)**

**Superintendent Andrea McAuley (cont'd)**

**DDSB Response and Planning to Changes to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP)**

- Consultation with Autism Ontario and all SEAC members will be essential and on-going
- Currently gathering data regarding the scope of impact to children/youth and families in Durham and, in relation, Durham DSB (including students, schools, and programs such as CTCC programs offered in partnership through OAP funding currently)
- Include partnership with current key service providers such as Lake Ridge Community Support Services, Kinark and Grandview
- Updates and discussion have already occurred and will be on-going at the senior team level through to supporting families and schools together
- DDSB Team, including CTCC/Grove staff, clinical staff and cross department representation has been established to gather information and develop an action plan

Discussions took place among SEAC members and it was agreed upon to defer next month's topic of "Inclusive Classrooms" to allot time to discuss the Changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

**Special Education Officer Kyla Reimer**

**Proposed Special Education Class Changes for 2019-2020**

- DDSB commitment is to provide a range of placements and programs for students with special education needs
- Continuing to foster meaningful integration for students (e.g., at secondary - based on student voice and pathway planning)
- Process each year involves high collaboration between departments (e.g., Inclusive Student Services, Facilities Services, Operations, Durham Student Transportation Services and Budget/Finance) as well as the Family of Schools Superintendents.
- System summary of proposals being brought to Administrative Council for finalization
- Continued support for professional development for all teachers/staff regarding differentiation/inclusive programming within regular class and special education class programs.

**Board:**

Trustee Donna Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received presentations on Ignite Learning via Black History Month and the Equity and Diversity Strategic Plan 2018-2021 at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2019.

Trustee Donna Edwards also congratulated Paul Haines, Principal from Lakewoods PS who is one of 30 educators to receive Canada's Outstanding Principal Award for 2019 from the Learning Partnership.

**10. Association Reports:**

Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC)

ABC Ontario's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Family Day will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2019 at the TIFF Tower (King & John) in Toronto.

Durham Down Syndrome Association

Durham Down Syndrome Association is celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on March 24, 2019 at the Abilities Centre in Whitby from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Two full hours of fun planned also with performances by the Durham Shooting Stars Rhythmic Gymnastics Club and Dynamics Dance Abilities Class.

Easter Seals Ontario

*#AccessibilityMatters*

March kicks off Easter Seals annual campaign to raise funds and bring awareness to children with physical disabilities. Throughout the month, the organization will be using social media to shine a spotlight on businesses, stores, restaurants, community centres, schools across the province that have adapted their facilities to make them accessible.

Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region is hosting a parent information session on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at Trent University Durham in Oshawa. The topic for this month's presentation is Financial Planning for Post-Secondary Schools.

**11. Correspondence/Attachments:**

- PAac on SEAC - (bring back to March meeting for further discussion)
- Peel DSB
- Autism Ontario
  
- Letters from Autism Ontario

Received letters from the association that Durham Chapter - Autism Ontario has appointed Claudine Burrell as the SEAC Representative and Jackie Brown will be the Alternate Representative.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT CLAUDINE BURRELL BE THE SEAC REPRESENTATIVE AND JACKIE BROWN WILL BE THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE DURHAM CHAPTER – AUTISM ONTARIO.

MOVED BY: Melanie Maas

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED



**12. Questions and Comments:**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

**13. Celebrations and Success:**

Trustee Donna Edwards will be with the Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 in Abu Dhabi from March 13 – 21, 2019. Team Canada currently consists of 109 athletes, 19 mission staff and 36 coaches representing all 12 participating Special Olympics Provincial/Territorial chapters from across Canada.

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides shared that her older daughter received her first university acceptance letter and her younger daughter had a great first semester in high school.

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

**15. Adjournment:**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Melanie Maas

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:  
Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
E-mail “draft” update – SEAC Membership by-laws to committee members for review.	Tara Culley SEAC Member	By next SEAC meeting.
Committee members interested in participating in the self-advocacy parent/guardian information session to e-mail SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides.	SEAC Members	By next SEAC meeting
Defer Open Discussion of “Inclusive Classrooms” to April SEAC agenda.	Diane Kent Administrative Assistant	April, 2019
PAaC on SEAC letter – March agenda	Diane Kent Administrative Assistant	By next SEAC meeting