

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, June 13, 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:**

Claudine Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter  
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  
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 Officer Kyla McKee

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

**1. Call to Order:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**2. Welcome Guests:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed special guests: Imran Syed, Elementary Representative; Eleanor McIntosh, Secondary Representatives and Joanne Docherty, Vice-Principal Grove School.

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:

- Donna Edwards, Trustee
- Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
- Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large
- Christine Thatcher, Trustee

Absent:

- Craig Cameron, Member At Large

4. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for June 13, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Claudine Burrell

SECONDED BY: Rowin Jarvis

CARRIED

5. **Approval of the Minutes from May 16, 2019:**

That the minutes from May 16, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Rowin Jarvis

CARRIED

6. **Inclusive Student Services Report – June 2019:**

Grove School

Joanne Docherty, Vice-Principal of Grove School provided SEAC members with an infographic that highlighted Grove School 2018-19 Core Priorities and shared a video that featured Grove School's "This is Our Story".

**7. Presentation:**

**2019/2020 DDSB Budget**

Andrea McAuley, Superintendent of Education provided SEAC members with the Draft Durham District School Board Budget 2019-2020 reference document previously shared at the Education Finance Committee public meeting on June 12, 2019. She gave an overview of the draft budget to committee members. Andrea also noted that as part of the commitment to supporting school based student needs, the current staffing allocation for support staff will be maintained into the next school year. She also answered questions from SEAC members.

Andrea McAuley, Superintendent of Education also thanked Tara Culley, SEAC Member for her deputation on behalf of SEAC at the Education Finance Committee meeting that was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

Discussions took place among committee members and it was agreed upon to write a letter of appreciation to the Board of Trustees and the Education Finance Committee regarding their continued support and efforts for students with special needs.

MOTION:

THAT A LETTER OF APPRECIATION BE SENT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND EFFORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Claudine Burrell

CARRIED

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

There was no business arising from the minutes at this time.

**8 b). Scheduled Discussion Period:**

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

- The Students' Vision for Education" Document

It was agreed upon to defer the "Students' Vision for Education" document until the September 19, 2019 SEAC meeting.

**8 b). Scheduled Discussion Period: (cont'd)**

MOTION:

THAT THE STUDENTS' VISION FOR EDUCATION DOCUMENT BE DEFERED TO THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 SEAC MEETING.

MOVED BY: Rowin Jarvis

SECONDED BY: Elizabeth Daniel

CARRIED

- SEAC Self-Advocacy Event

SEAC is planning to host a fall event focused on fostering self-advocacy. The target group for this event is students and families in Grades 7-10. Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair provided committee members with hand-out information outlining the framework for the SEAC Self-Advocacy event. Eva also offered to coordinate a committee meeting over the summer to finalize details. It was decided to have event information available at the Welcome Back Barbeque that will be held on August 28, 2019. Tara Culley and Eva Kyriakides will be the SEAC representatives at the barbeque this year.

**9. Reports:**

**Administration:**

**Superintendent Andrea McAuley**

The administration report was covered under Item # 7). Presentation.

**Board:**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR) and the Durham District School Board (DDSB) partner to provide an annual \$1000.00 Abilities Scholarship Award. This scholarship recognizes a DDSB high school student who has a diagnosed Learning Disability and who will be continuing studies (apprenticeship, college or university) in the upcoming academic year.

A committee comprised of members of the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region and Durham DSB SEAC reviewed the nominations to determine the recipient. Congratulations goes to the 2019 Abilities Scholarship recipient, Mallory McDonald from G.L. Roberts CVI. She will be presented with this award at the Board meeting that will be held on Monday, June 17, 2019.

Mallory's submission highlighted her journey as a learner including the challenges and successes related to having a Learning Disability. In September, Mallory will be continuing her studies at Durham College.

**10. Association Reports:**

Autism Ontario – Durham Region

Autism Ontario is playing a key role in offering orientation and system navigation supports to families who are accessing or interested in accessing the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP). Autism Ontario will offer direct supports to families through the OAP Service Navigation Program to:

- Help families understand the new Ontario Autism Program and the services available to purchase with their Childhood Budgets;
- Find qualified providers;
  - Support families in navigating autism services, including helping them find local services and supports in their communities;
  - Provide access to parent resources and webinars; and
  - Provide opportunities for families to connect with each other at events, including through peer-to-peer mentoring and social learning opportunities for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Claudine Burnell responded to committee members inquires regarding the cost range of ABA therapy for children under 6 and for a child between 6 – 18 years of age and other funding sources to assist with accessing therapy.

Easter Seals Ontario

Easter Seals offers many different camping programs. Funding is also made available for families. Further details can be found on their website at <https://www.eastersealscamps.org/>

**11. Correspondence/Attachments:**

- Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB
- District School Board Ontario North East
- Dufferin-Peel CDSB
- Peel DSB

**12. Questions and Comments:**

Rowin Jarvis, from Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region reached out to committee members regarding the sharing of different fund-raising ideas within their respective associations.

**13. Celebrations and Success:**

The annual Abilities Track and Field Meet will take place Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Oshawa Civic Fields. Over 850 athletes will be in attendance. Field events include high jump, long jump, softball throw and shot put. Track events include 20m, 50m, 100m and 200m sprints.

14. **Next S.E.A.C. meeting – September 19, 2019 in Room 2020.**

15. **Adjournment:**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Elizabeth Daniel

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:  
Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Draft letter to Board of Trustees and Education Finance Committee	Tara Culley, SEAC Member	June 26, 2019.
Self – Advocacy Event Summer Scheduling Meeting	Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair	TDB