

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 25, 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 Bobbie O'Dell

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

1. Call to Order:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Welcome Guests:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed special guests: Special Education Facilitators Michelle Doiron and Lauren Hoyle.

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
- Christine Thatcher, Trustee
- Elementary School Administrator Representative
- Secondary School Administrator Representative

4. Approval of Agenda:

That the agenda for April 25, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Hanah Nguyen

CARRIED

4. a) SEAC Meeting Dates for 2019-2020

The list of dates for the 2019-2020 school year was reviewed by SEAC members and the meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month except for Thursday, January 23, 2020.

MOTION:

THAT THE SEAC MEETING DATES FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes from March 21, 2019:

That the minutes from March 21, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Kathy Kedey

SECONDED BY: Carolyn McLennon

CARRIED

6. Inclusive Student Services Report – April 2019:

Save the Date: Abilities Track and Field Meet

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

SEAC members are welcome to join us for this tremendous day with our students.

Social Work and Attendance Services

The Social Work and Attendance team have welcomed a new Chief of Social Work, Carolyn Ussher on April 2, 2019. The team members have been active providing Carolyn with tours of their Family of School areas and the communities they serve. The team has begun to look at the Framework for School Social Work that was recently released and will be looking to implement the framework in the coming months.

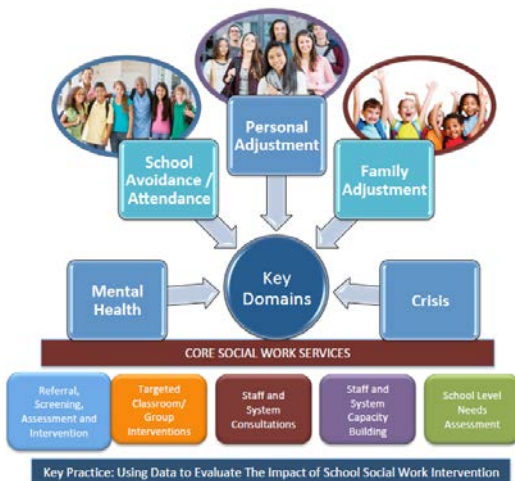
Our revised Protocol for Reporting Children and Youth in Need of Protection will be shared with Principals at our May Director's Meeting. Overview of the protocol, and resources, has been captured in revision to Board procedure and is overviewed in a ten-minute online presentation. The presentation will be used by Administrators for staff training to ensure consistency across the system.

“[Framework for School Social Work in Ontario](#)” will provides a transparent and comprehensive overview of Social Work in schools which has focus on the key domains of:

- Mental Health Concerns
- School Avoidance and Attendance
- Personal Adjustment Issues
- Family Adjustment Issues
- Crisis

The model includes use of evidence-based practices, reinforces assessment as key in driving appropriate service options, capacity building for educators and the importance of measuring impact.

Our team has received initial overview of the document and looks forward to implementation.



Psychological Services

Psychological Services staff continue to provide services to fulfill their five service functions of: *consultation, assessment, direct service, crisis response and capacity building*. Staff completed over 100 assessments during January and February to help in the determination of students' placements in the Gifted program. Currently, staff are working with the Integrated team to assess student needs for placement in DDSB's Self-Regulation Classes. As well, the Psychological Services staff on the Autism Resource Team have been working with Senior Management to help devise a strategic and systemic response to the changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

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

Speech Language Pathology (SLP)/Hearing Services

Lisa Drake, our new Chief of Speech Language and Hearing Services officially joined the DDSB team on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Lisa brings tremendous experience from the Hanen Centre, private practice and DDSB contract work to her new role.

As PD to school staff on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), Speech Language Pathology staff presented an “AAC across the classroom workshop” to support our students who are minimally verbal or nonverbal. On April 12, 2019, DDSB SLPs-Meg Bergin and Laurie Light delivered the keynote address to administrators at Leading Each Day, titled-Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

On the recent PD day, Speech Language Pathology staff provided an in-service to kindergarten educator teams: Reading in Kindergarten – The Missing Piece (Phonological Awareness). This workshop emphasized the critical role of phonological awareness in teaching students to read and write as well on functional assessment to drive intervention. It was presented in collaboration with Early Years staff, Student Achievement and Curriculum staff, and classroom kindergarten educator teams.

Speech-Language and Hearing staff continue to focus on student achievement and well-being in our schools through prevention, intervention and enrichment of oral language and communication skills. The SLPs are active this month in kindergarten classrooms providing (tier 2) guided groups with educators along with direct modelling and coaching oral language and communication strategies. SLPs are also participating in Welcome to Kindergarten programs at their schools.

Behaviour Management System Training for Administrators

Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) is a fundamental training program offered to DDSB staff to assist in the use of consistent non-violent crisis intervention strategies when dealing with challenging behaviour. The program is based on a foundation in understanding our students (protective and risk factors) within a cycle of information gathering, planning, response and debrief/reflection. BMS helps frame behaviour intervention plans and is foundational to Behaviour Safety Plans.

This July, all DDSB Administrators will participate in BMS training. This commitment will help support student programming as well as support to school staff.

Professional Development Opportunities

Workshop/In-service	Date (s)
Supporting French Immersion SERTs – Part 2	May 1, 2019
Behaviour Management System (BMS) Basic Training	May 8, 2019
SERT Capacity Building	May 13, 2019

7. Presentation:

Special Education Facilitators Michelle Doiron and Lauren Hoyle shared a video with SEAC members that highlighted students from the Practical Learning Program (PLP) participating in the Abilities Basketball Tournament held at Seneca Trail PS.

8 a). Business Arising from the Minutes:

- “Draft” OAP Funding Letter to Ministries

Committee members reviewed the “draft” letter and provided their feedback to SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides. It was agreed upon that after the changes were incorporated into the letter it could be sent to the Ministries.

MOTION:

TO SEND THE REVISED ONTARIO AUTISM PROGRAM (OAP) FUNDING LETTER TO THE MINISTRIES.

MOVED BY: Claudine Burnell

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

8 b). Scheduled Discussion Period

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

- Supporting Students in Regular Class Placements/Mainstream

Discussions took place among SEAC members and it was agreed upon to write a letter to the Ministries that involves the support and service of children and youth with special education needs. Agreement was that the letter would address concerns and also promote strategies to support students. Reference centered on changes to class sizes as well as eLearning requirement.

MOTION:

THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO THE MINISTRIES THAT INVOLVES THE SUPPORT AND SERVICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS.

MOVED BY: Rowin Jarvis

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

9. Reports:

Administration:

Superintendent Andrea McAuley

PAaC on SEAC for April includes reference to: 1) request preliminary budget for special education & 2) request data reported to OnSIS in March.

At this time, 2019-2020 school year funding has not yet been released by the Ministry. Per previous conversation in the fall, OnSIS reports are formulated following the Ministry reporting dates and are available in the subsequent month. We will bring update to SEAC once report is finalized.

We are pleased to have our full department leadership team in place. Carolyn Ussher has commenced her role as Chief of Social Work and Attendance and Lisa Drake, earlier this week, commenced her role as Chief of Speech Language and Hearing Services.

Two reports were recently shared with Trustees regarding Special Education Services. The first report provided updates regarding changes to the Ontario Autism Program and anticipated ripples to Durham DSB students and families. A second report had focus on transition supports. Transitions highlighted included those at system, school and individual student levels as spring is a time for consolidating current year plans as well as set path forward into 2019-2020.

Inclusive Student Services Department Review

The Durham DSB has undertaken a third-party review and engaged Dr. Bev Freedman and Raffaella Di Cecco to conduct a review of the Inclusive Student Services department integrated services model.

Recommendations of the review:

1. Reframe how the Inclusive Student Services department interacts both internally as a cohesive unit and within the DDSB to support students, families and schools. Specifically, redesign how services are coordinated, accessed, and delivered.
2. Build greater clarity, a common understanding, and develop criteria and metrics about issues of equity, high needs, crisis management, and support services and programs.
3. Build consistency in the access to and delivery of professional support/clinical services and programs.
4. Develop a comprehensive capacity development plan, focused on the responsibilities for the organization and delivery of inclusive support services within a school.
5. Define, promote and support leadership behaviours including shared/joint responsibility, accountability and ownership.

Collaborative and effective service to students, families and schools is the foundation to the review recommendations. This includes building consistency of strategies to support positive transitions from first entry to school through to transition to adult pathway.

9. Reports: (cont'd)

Superintendent Andrea McAuley (cont'd)

Our commitments include reduced wait times for service, including relevant assessments. We are currently revising our software to specifically collect data regarding wait times to support on-going monitoring and response. This work includes a summer assessment program, funding through Ministry provided project funds designated for Special Education Professional Assessments, to address current wait lists for assessment.

The work reflected in this report is a beginning to ensuring consistency of these practices across the system and is one example of how we will be evolving our practices.

Our next steps for the Service review including mapping a detailed timeline of actions and commitments for implementation (May 2019 through to June 2020) then actioning those commitments.

A video was shared highlighting “Transition Planning to Support Success”

Board:

Trustee Donna Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received presentations on Make a Difference/Poverty Strategy Update and Inclusive Student Services – Supporting System and Student Transitions at the Board Meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019.

The 34th Annual Student Recognition Night was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at Brooklin HS. Each DDSB secondary school is represented by three students who have been nominated by school staff for their significant contributions to the school community, as positive role models to their peers, or their remarkable efforts to excel in the face of adversity.

10. Association Reports:

Autism Ontario – Durham Region

Autism Ontario – Durham Region’s Annual Chapter Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Chapter Office located at #104-50 Richmond St. E Oshawa.

The 3rd Annual Niko's Night for Autism with proceeds going to Autism Ontario Durham will take place on June 21, 2019 at the Crystal Fountain Event Venue.

VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

May is Speech and Hearing Awareness Month. Celebrate with VOICE by participating in the annual Dress Loud Day. Pick any Friday in the month of May and have students and faculty dress in their most wacky and loud outfits to raise money for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

11. Correspondence/Attachments:

- Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest
- Durham CDSB
- Bluewater DSB

12. Questions and Comments:

Claudine Burrell invited questions from SEAC Members regarding the changes to the Ontario Autism Program. Claudine will bring forth the questions to Autism Ontario for their review and response.

A collaboration space will be set up for SEAC members to have access to a shared document for the purpose of collecting input/ideas.

13. Celebrations and Success:

Trustee Donna Edwards informed committee members that 190 countries participated in the Special Olympics World Summer Games that took place in Abu Dhabi from March 13 – 21, 2019. Team Canada won 90 Gold Medals, 37 Silver Medals and 28 Bronze Medals. Thirty-two of those medals were won by the Rhythmic Gymnastic Team.

Trustee Donna Edwards mentioned that her daughter Victoria now uses the Lyft and Uber apps to arrange her own transportation. She also shared that Victoria presented on the topic of Down Syndrome at Cadarackque PS in Ajax on March 21st for World Down Syndrome Day.

Carolyn McLennon shared that her son has successfully completed the Animal Care program at Durham College.

14. Next SEAC meeting – May 16, 2019 in Room 2007.

15. Adjournment:

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Elizabeth Daniel

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:
Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

Report Special Education Advisory Committee (cont'd)
 April 25, 2019

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Collaboration Space – Shared document to collect input on questions for Ontario Autism - Durham Region and input/ideas on letter to Ministries.	SEAC Committee Members	Friday, May 10, 2019
“Draft” letter to Ministries – re: the support and services of children and youth with special education needs	SEAC Committee Members	By next SEAC mtg.