

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, January 23, 2020 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 (OAFCCD)  
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 6:30 p.m.

**2. Welcome Guests:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed special guest: Kelly Kennedy, new SEAC Alternate for Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD) who was 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:

- Russ Davidson, Secondary Representative
- Donna Edwards, Trustee
- Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large
- Michelle Monk, Secondary Representative
- Imran Syed, Elementary Representative

4. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for January 23, 2020 be approved.

MOVED BY: Claudine Burrell

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

5. **Approval of the Minutes from December 19, 2019:**

That the minutes from December 19, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Elizabeth Daniel

SECONDED BY: Rowin Jarvis

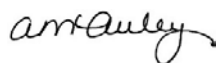
CARRIED

6. **Inclusive Student Services Report – January 2020:**

**Inclusive Student Services**

Students continue to receive a robust range of services and supports in Durham. We are pleased to highlight many current initiatives with SEAC this month.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Your feedback, such as that provided to support the work of the DDSB Dress Code Committee, is very important in helping shape the experiences of students and families.



Andrea - on behalf of the Inclusive Student Services Team



6. **Inclusive Student Services Report – January 2020: (cont'd)**



**Transitions from Elementary to Secondary for Students with Special Education Needs (Gr8 to Gr9)**

Inclusive Student Services, Student Success and Innovation have collaborated on an online information session for students and families. The link will be available on the DDSB website and through social media to help ensure that families across the region can access this information ‘on demand’ for flexibility of timing and opportunity for repeated access.

An online presentation is now available to provide information to families and community partners supporting transitions of students with special education strengths & needs from Gr8 to Gr9 for September 2020. Available digitally, the information is accessible in an ‘on demand’ format to meet the time and location preferences of those accessing. Individual sessions continue to be facilitated at each secondary school.

The information can be found through YouTube on the Inclusive Student Services channel or by QR Code:



Link: <https://youtu.be/oQJLYUHpxRA> or QR Code:

**Durham Children and Youth Planning Network (DCYPN)**

A community event was held by the DCYPN on January 15th with focus on changes impacting children and youth across Durham (education, health, community services). Superintendent McAuley, co-presented with Superintendent Janine Bowyer (DCDSB) on transformational changes in the education sector as part of a multi discipline panel. The presentation focused on fundamental shifts related to technology and ABA strategies.

The Durham Children and Youth Planning Network (DCYPN) has a collaborative webpage that includes a newly launched data tool for health & wellness indicators for the Region of Durham. The Inclusive Students Services leadership team looks forward to highlighting and using this tool within our work to help inform services and supports for children and youth.

[www.dcyfn.ca](http://www.dcyfn.ca)

**6. Inclusive Student Services Report – January 2020: (cont'd)**

**Psychological Services - Gifted Program Screening**

Gifted Program Screening: Psychological Services is currently engaged in 102 assessments for consideration of identification as exceptional learners Intellectual Giftedness and for potential program access as well. These assessments are used to help inform programming for individual students in their learning.

**Social Work and Attendance Services**

The Social Work service members have been quite active since the return to school after the winter break, as students transition back to their school-based routines. For the next few months, the team will be focusing efforts on data collection and streamlining assessment and documentation processes to better service students.

Recently, two members of the Social Work team, along with a colleague from the Psychological Services team attended a two-day training on Strengths Based Resilience. This is a group-based initiative where participants learn the skills and strategies that enable students to build their resilience and respond more effectively to adversity. The training and the intervention originate from the University of Toronto. DDSB is a pilot site for this intervention, sponsored by School Mental Health Ontario.

*Carolyn Ussher, MSW, RSW*

**Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools**

Working in collaboration, Mental Health and Inclusive Student Services have recently submitted an update report to the Ministry on this pilot project. Tentative plans have been made based on the announcements that this funding be made permanent and we await that communication from the Ministry.

**Educational Assistant Professional Development**

On Friday, January 17 Educational Assistants currently supporting in the elementary panel engaged in a full day of learning with a focus on inclusion and safety (prevention, teaching and reinforcement). Many sessions are now available in an online format with ongoing opportunities to connect with clinicians to support implementation of strategies for individual students.

Many new online courses also launched officially on this date.

**Community Engagement**

Equity and Inclusive Student Services are pleased to partner with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation for a collaborative conversation with families about special education supports on January 28th.

**6. Inclusive Student Services Report – January 2020: (cont'd)**

**School Shout Out**

Bolton C Falby PS hosted a Special Olympics Ontario event on January 10th providing a valuable opportunity for the athletes and event volunteers. Thank you to the team at the school.

**Highlight of Elementary EA PD Offered on January 17<sup>th</sup>:**

Upcoming Learning Opportunities	Date
Behaviour Management System (BMS) Basic Training	January 17, 2020
Behaviour Management Systems Refresher	January 17, 2020
BMS Online Refresher	January 17, 2020
CPR-C/AED Certification	January 17, 2020
EA Chromebook Device Program Support	January 17, 2020
Every Day Back Care for Every Body	January 17, 2020
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Visual Supports & Boardmaker	January 17, 2020
Positive Reinforcement: Refining and Individualizing an Incentive System for your Student	January 17, 2020
Proactive Strategies for Dealing with Aggressive Behaviour	January 17, 2020
Special Education in the DDSB – Theory and Action	January 17, 2020
Structured Teaching Basics	January 17, 2020
The Essentials of Verbal De-Escalation	January 17, 2020
Introduction to Core Vocabulary Theory	January 17, 2020
Practical Learning Program Connect – 4-part series	February 18, 2020

**7. Presentation:**

**Grade 8 to Grade 9 Transition Support On-Line Information for Families and Community Partners**

Special Education Officer Kyla McKee provided committee members with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the online presentation that is now available to provide information to families and community partners supporting transitions of students with special education strengths & needs from Gr8 to Gr9 for September 2020. The presentation "Choosing My Success! Focusing our Direction for Intentional Transition Planning to Secondary School for Grade 8 Students, Parents and Guardians will be available on the DDSB website and through social media. Kyla also answered questions from SEAC members.

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

The election of the SEAC Vice-Chair was deferred to the February SEAC meeting.

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

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

- Use of New On-Line Transition Information within SEAC associations

Committee members participated in an open discussion and shared the following reflections:

- The on-line video can be posted on associations website and Facebook pages
- The video is broadcasting for an audience of 71,000 – need to take that scope
- SEAC is hearing from families in different ways; video can be played on-demand
- The on-line transition information should be incorporated into the SEAC Advocacy Night
- Suggestion to create a similar on-line version for the DDSB Special Education Parent Guardian Guide

**9. Reports:**

**Administration:**

**Superintendent Andrea McAuley**

**Professional Development (PA Day – January 17, 2020)**

The elementary PA Day that took place on Friday, January 17, 2020 supported professional development for elementary Educational Assistants (EAs). Over 600 EAs were in attendance. Credit to our professional staff for presenting many of the workshops. Three on-line D2L modules were also launched. Many thanks to Special Education Officer Kyla McKee and Supervisor of Secretarial Services Carolyn Savage for organizing the day.

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

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

Carving Your Own Path Considerations for Post-Secondary for Students with Learning Disabilities

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region in partnership with Durham CDSB and the Durham DSB hosted a parent/guardian/student information night on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at Notre Dame Catholic SS in Ajax. The keynote speaker was Marie McCarron from the Queen's University's Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC). Over 70 people attended the event. The Inclusive Student Services Department will be bringing Marie back to present to the Guidance and Special Education Department Heads.

Durham's Children's & Youth Planning Network (DCYPN)

The Durham's Children's & Youth Planning Network (DCYPN) hosted a winter community event on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at the Children's Aid Society in Oshawa. Community partners came together to share opportunities in supporting children, youth and families throughout Durham Region. Superintendent Janine Bowyer from the Durham CDSB and Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the; Ontario Human Rights (OHRC): Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities; Services Animals in Schools -PPM 163; Innovative Education and the Ontario Autism Program (OAP).

School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) - Durham

Grandview Kids has started to deliver School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) to students in some of the schools for the past two weeks. Grandview Kids has done an excellent job in providing communication with school boards and community partners.

2019 Director's Annual Report

The 2019 Director's Annual Report was presented at the Board meeting on Monday, January 20, 2020. The report provides an overview of the projects and initiatives implemented to support the goals of both the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Ignite Learning and the Annual Operating Goals and Implementation Plan. Inclusive Student Services is incorporated into all 6 DDSB Multi-Year Strategic Priorities and the link to the on-line public document will be shared with SEAC.

Small Class Planning 2020-2021

Planning of special education small class projections for the 2020-21 school year are already under way to ensure transition plans are in place for students in May and June of this year.

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

**Board:**

Trustee Christine Thatcher informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received a presentation on the 2019 Director's Annual Report at the Board meeting that was held on Monday, January 20, 2020. The Board of Trustees also received presentations on the C.E. Broughton PS Modified Program and Dealing with a Traumatic Event Resource at the Standing Committee Meeting that was held on Monday, January 6, 2020.

**10. Association Reports:**

Durham Down Syndrome Association (DDSA)

The DDSA Family Swim Day will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at the South Oshawa Community Recreation Centre from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by a Pizza Party.

World Down Syndrome Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Abilities Centre in Whitby.

Easter Seals Ontario

Easter Seals Ontario summer camp registrations are now available on-line for the 2020 season. There is an Individual Camp or a Family Camp option. Financial assistance is also available for families.

Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR)

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR) will be hosting a presentation on "Is French Immersion "Suitable" for Students with Learning Disabilities" on January 30, 2020 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Whitby Public Library.

VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Gift of Hearing Fund - VOICE has set up a fund to give back to their members who require financial assistance in order to obtain an upgrade for their child's hearing technology. This technology includes hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other primary hearing related devices that the child wears.

The Louise Crawford Scholarship - This scholarship is for VOICE members who are entering an accredited College or University in the Fall of 2020.

Dress Loud Day - Supporting those with hearing loss by incorporating Dress Loud Day at schools or organizations. On any day during the month of May (Speech and Hearing Awareness Month) students/staff dress in their most silly, wild, and loud outfits. Participants are encouraged to bring a \$1.00 - \$2.00 donation that will go directly towards supporting deaf or hard of hearing children.



**10. Association Reports: (cont'd)**

VOICE Summer Camp will be held from August 7 – 9, 2020 at the Bark Lake Leadership and Conference Centre in Irondale, Ontario.

**11. Correspondence/Attachments:**

- Letter from Ministry of Education
- Letter from Windsor-Essex CDSB

**12. Questions and Comments:**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

**13. Celebrations and Success:**

Superintendent Andrea McAuley shared with SEAC the signature tracers that were created by Jack Miner PS 3D Printing club for students who are blind or have low vision. This is a wonderful example of students supporting students across schools that have never met each other.

Kathy Kedey mentioned to committee members that her daughter enjoys the American Girl Doll collection. The American Girl's 2020 girl of this year is Joss Kendrick, the 1<sup>st</sup> doll with hearing loss and wears a hearing aid. Kathy picked up the doll for her daughter, as this was something her daughter could relate to with her own identity.

Craig Cameron shared that his son successfully signed up for his Grade 9 courses for secondary school. His son is happy and is looking forward to high school in the fall.

Tara Culley shared that her son Adam is so proud now that he has a few facial hairs.

**14. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – February 20, 2020 in Room 2020.**

**15. Adjournment:**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Trustee Christine Thatcher

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:  
Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

Report Special Education Advisory Committee (cont'd)  
January 23, 2020

ACTION PLAN		
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Defer election of SEAC Vice-Chair to February meeting.	Administrative Assistant Diane Kent	February 20, 2020