**TDSB SEAC Meeting**

**Date: 05.November, 2018  Location: Board Room, 5050 Yonge St. Time: 7:05PM**

**Committee Chair:   Richard Carter**

**Committee Vice-Chair:   Alexander Brown**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on November 5, 2018 from 7:05 pm to 9:30 pm in the TDSB Board Room (5050 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON), with Richard Carter presiding.

**Attendance:**

Association for Bright Children (ABC) Melissa Rosen

Autism Society of Ontario – Toronto Lisa Kness

Brain Injury Society of Toronto (BIST) Melissa Vigar

Community Living Toronto Tracey O’Regan

Down Syndrome Association of Toronto Richard Carter

Easter Seals Ontario Deborah Fletcher

Epilepsy Toronto Steven Lynette

Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI) Margarita Isakov

Learning Disabilities Association Toronto Myriam Rodriguez

VIEWS for the Visually Impaired *Regrets*

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children Paul Cross

TDSB North East Community Aline Chan; Jean Paul Ngana

TDSB North West Community Jordan Glass

TDSB South East Community Diane Montgomery; Olga Ingraham

TDSB South West Community Nora Green; Paul Boutis

TDSB Trustees Trustee Alexander Brown

**Also present were:**

Kathy Witherow, Associate Director, Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

Brendan Browne, Executive Superintendent, Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

Vicky Branco, System Superintendent, Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

Lori Moore, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Janine Small, Centrally Assigned Principal, LC1

Ron Felsen, Centrally Assigned Principal, TDSB

Jim Spyropoulos Executive Superintendent, Equity and Engagement

Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison

Erin Riehle, Founder, Project Search

Carolyn McDougal, Occupational Therapist & Project Lead – Employment, Transitions Strategy, Holland Bloorview

Jeanette Campbell, General Manager, Centre for Excellence, ODEN

Regrets: Nelson Lui, Dick Winters**,** Cynthia Sprigings, David Lepofsky,Trustee Alexandra Lulka, Trustee Abdul Patel

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|  | **Item** | **Discussion** | **Recommendation/**  **Motion** |
| 1. | Call to Order (quorom) - Acknowledgement and Welcome SEAC Members, TDSB Staff, Guests and Observers; introductions, announce call-in attendees and audio recording | Meeting was called to order at 7:05 |  |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda | Agenda was approved with the addition of Association Updates | Agenda approved |
| 3. | Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests | Richard Carter acknowledged that his daughter has been participating in a Holland Bloorview experiential learning program, but it is not affiliated with Project Search. |  |
| 4. | Approval of SEAC Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2018 | Agenda was approved with two changes (Lori Moore and Olga Ingrahm were added as present at the last meeting). Revised minutes will be posted on the SEAC website. | Completed and posted |
| 5. | Employment Presentation: Project Search Transition-to-Work  Erin Riehle,  Carolyn McDougall,  Jeannette Campbell,  Ron Felsen | Project Search   * over 4,000 students in their program around the world * 80% of students move into meaningful employment * needs strong formal partnerships * based around experiential learning * for Toronto, it is a collaboration between multiple levels of government, social services, school boards and businesses * initial business host site will be the University Health Network (UHN) * Holland Bloorview will provide job coaching * Community Living and United Way support the program * Project Search will be launched in September 2019 * Only for 12 students initially between the two boards - three ten week mentorships * Teaches both the mentors and employers how to work with the students * Project Search is built to grow * Is open to students in ISP classes and integrated programs * Application based programs – takes a broad variety of students * Action Plan was taken to PSSC last week * It can go to Board now and once it has gone to Board, it will be shared | Follow up:  How can SEAC support the school board to build partnerships to support more students getting experiences like the Project Search opportunity?  Action Plan – Employment to be shared with SEAC |
| 6. | OHRC Policy and Recommendations on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities  -Jim Spyropoulos | New Policy replaces the guideline from 2004   * Recognizes that education is vitally important to a person’s social, academic and economic development * Reflects a broad definition of disability * Provides students and families with up-to-date information about their human rights and responsibilities * Offers practical guidance to education providers to meet their legal duty to accommodate * Reminds schools of the obligation to maintain accessible, inclusive, discrimination and harassment-free spaces   Background   * Legislation has changed and definitions of disabilities have changed * Change from “intent” to “impact” * Takes into account evolving legal definition of Disability and provides the definition * Staff have a duty to inquire and accommodate even if the accommodation has not been requested   Recommendations   * Staff training of Senior team (ongoing) * UDL * Updated equity policy of TDSB to be in line with policy * Updated AODA * Refer to Action Plan – Accessibility | Jim will send the slides out to be shared with the minutes of the meeting.  Jim offered to find out and share the answer as to how MID students take census. |
| 7. | Leadership and Learning Department Staff updates and requests for SEAC input   * IEP statistics: in progress, complete, etc. * EQAO: results breakout * Refusal To Admit Policy: status, timeline * Budget update: PRO grants, etc. | Communication Working Group – when new SEAC is formed, this working group will be established.  IEP   * Vast majority of IEPs were completed on time * Of those that are not “complete”, many actually went home on time but the status had not been changed by the teacher on the IEP system * Others were late arrivals or students for whom the decision to develop an IEP was made after school started. * The Special Education Department tracks completion dates and reminds schools to ensure they are all completed and distributed   EQAO   * Information available from 2017/18 * Many fewer students were exempted last year * Individual schools have data that reflects how their students are doing   Refusals to Admit   * Information available from 2017/18 indicates that the number of students on Refusal to Admit has declined significantly * Low numbers reflect the system focus on keeping students in school and making sure that schools and working environments are safe.   Modified Day   * Very small percentage of students are on a modified day * Reasons for modified day include medical conditions/treatments, attendance in alternative programs for part of the day, transitioning to specialized programs   PRO grants  Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants, and the province's decision to "pause" these grants.   * The Province has decided to “pause” the Parent Reaching out (PRO) Grants. The Board is making contingency plans in case they are not granted * Some other Ministry money has not come in yet. | Request was made to Kathy and Brendan to provide the information details from Staff updates distributed by e-mail in advance of the meeting. |
| 8. | SEAC Nomination/Election Process and SEAC Binder Updates | Reminder to submit applications prior to deadline of November 9th at 4 pm.  Binders will be updated for December meeting and binders provided for new members | New/returning members will be notified by email. |
| 9. | Trustee’s Report(s) | No report(s) |  |
| 10. | Working Group Updates/Plan | Parents as Partners Conference Update   * Conference will go ahead with or without PRO grants * As it is a conference for parents by parents, need parent volunteers from different advisory committees * SEAC can sent proposals for workshops to Liaison | Paula Boutis offered to be the Parents as Partners SEAC representative |
| 11. | Other business | Request to have January 7th meeting changed as it is the first day back after holidays | Meeting changed to January 14th |
| 12. | Correspondence Received | Toronto Family Network Email October 5th  Toronto Family Network Email November 1 |  |
| 13. | Next Meeting | December 10th (tentative - may be postponed if board has not approved 2018-2022 SEAC membership) | Postponed to December 17th |
| 14. | Adjournment | Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm and the current SEAC dissolved. |  |