Motion (Draft): Independent Review of TDSB to Ensure the Needs of Students with Special Needs are met or Reforms Established. D. Lepofsky (April 9, 2018)

Whereas the Special Education Advisory Committee of the Toronto District School Board has conducted a major two-year review of special education at TDSB, and has, as a result,  passed six motions which recommend important reforms to special education at TDSB at its meetings on June 13, 2016, April 3, 2017 (finalized on November 26, 2017, and January 15, 2018.

And whereas SEAC has in those six motions identified a need for significant reforms to the education that TDSB offers to students with special education needs.

And whereas the final report of the Enhancing Equity Task Force recognizes the need for significant reforms for the benefit of students with special education needs.

And whereas TDSB staff have taken some positive actions based on the six SEAC motions, referred to above, but have not fully implemented them or implemented alternative measures that will fully achieve their goals.

And whereas the report of the TDSB Director of Education to TDSB trustees dated January 31, 2018, responding to the final report of the Enhancing Equity Task Force, includes some helpful language on this topic, but does not ensure the full implementation of SEAC's six motions or of alternative action that will fully achieve their goals.

And whereas, as far as SEAC has been able to ascertain, none of its six motions referred to above have been transmitted by the Program and School Services Committee to the entire board of the TDSB for consideration by all the trustees.

And whereas the core focus of the six SEAC motions referred to above is on equity and human rights for students with special education needs at TDSB.

And whereas TDSB will require a clear and focused plan to make the significant reforms at TDSB that are needed.

And whereas one out of every six students at TDSB is known to have special education needs.

SEAC therefore recommends as follows:

1. The Board of the TDSB should direct that a six-month Independent Review be conducted of TDSB by an independent person with expertise in special education, to report to the trustees and SEAC, to identify any reforms needed to ensure that TDSB meets the education needs of students with special education needs, and that this Independent Review consider, among other things, the six major reform motions which were passed by the Special Education Advisory Committee of TDSB.

2. This motion should be immediately transmitted to all TDSB trustees and should not await its consideration at a meeting of the TDSB Program and School Services Committee, as that committee will not meet until after the TDSB Board's February 7, 2018 meeting.