

Approved Minutes

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 13, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on September 13,2021 from 7: 00 p.m. to 9:15  p.m. via Zoom with SEAC Chair Steven Lynette and Vice Chair Diane Montgomery

Attendance:

Melissa Rosen (Association for Bright Children (ABC), Tracey Burrel (Black Parent Support Group), Tracey O’Regan (Community Living Toronto) , Steven Lynette (Epilepsy Toronto), Richard Carter (Down Syndrome Association of Toronto),  Aliza Chagpar (Easter Seals Ontario),   Tania Principe (Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI)), David Lepofsky (VIEWS for the Visually Impaired), Shanna Lino VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children),  Nadia Persaud (Learning Disability Association), Aline Chan  LC1, Nora Green  LC1,  Jordan Glass LC2, Jean-Paul Ngana LC2,   Olga Ingrahm LC3,  Kirsten Doyle LC3, Diane Montgomery  LC4,  Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff LC4, Trustee Alexander Brown, Trustee Michelle Aarts (Alternates in attendance: Julie Diamond (Autism Society of Ontario - Toronto), George Petrovic (LC4)

Alternates attending: Julie Diamond (Autism Society), George Petrovic, (LC4)

Regrets: Juanita Beaudry (CADDAC)

Staff:

Andrew Gold, Associate Director, Angela Nardi-Addesa, Angela Nardi-Addesa, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion, Janine Small, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Andrea Roach, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC4, Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC1, Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC2, Jennie Petko, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC 3, Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Mun Shu Wong, Media Services,, Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Discussion | Motion | Recommendation |
| Call to Order - Quorum | Live stream announced | Quorum achieved |  |
| Land Acknowledgement | Read by Chair |  |  |
| Approval of Agenda | Approved | Motion to approve the agenda carried |  |
| Approval of Minutes from June 7 | Approved with minor attendance correction | Motion to approve minutes carried as amended |  |
| Conflicts of interest | No Conflicts of Interest |  |  |
| Leadership and Learning Report | * Virtual/In-Person Enrolment   Numbers of Special Education Students attending Virtual and In-Person School were shared.   * Special Education Staff Organization   Chart showing special education staff organization from 2014 to present was shared with SEAC.   * Special Education Plan   TDSB values the input and feedback from all stakeholders that support the Special Education Plan. All feedback can be shared through the principal, school advisory chairs, and the SEAC Special Education Plan accessing a form.  [Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Special Education Plan 2021 Feedback Form (google.com)](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_UB8-FH0ekekpdH2Fy0xezGIX6w_3sGbPxEglA_B1Kv1_9A/viewform)   * SEAC Survey   The TDSB’s Service Excellence Program is designed to improve work culture and foster relationships that are client-focused, responsive and efficient  Special Education and Inclusion developed a survey that aims to provide feedback to staff on their level of service to SEAC during the previous school year and possibly identify gaps that can be addressed. It is for SEAC members.  <https://tdsb.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0epgngocbRGqtj8>  [TDSB Service Excellence Survey for SEAC FAQs.docx - Google Docs](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aZZRP4eag1QBRPhpEIaHXjHp-T55lRVO/edit) |  | As per SEAC’s request, a written leadership report has been provided to accompany the powerpoint and presentation. (Appendix A)  Current staffing has allowed more staff to be supporting students and families. The current administration was praised for its accomplishments with the reduced central staffing.  The Special Education Plan working group was thanked for its hard work over the summer.  A section of the plan will be discussed at each SEAC meeting and feedback can be provided on the form that was introduced at the meeting.  The survey will be sent out to members.       . |
| Trustees Report   * Trustee Aarts * Trustee Brown |  |  |  |
| Working Groups | Special Education Plan   * Will share one section each month and let SEAC members know ahead of time so that they can prepare.   Budget   * No report   Terms of Reference   * ToR working group will submit their proposed changes so that they can be incorporated into the revised Terms of Reference. |  | Members should email the Liaison if they wish to join a working group.  Terms of Reference working group expressed concern that their work was not incorporated into the draft that was presented. They will share their work from last year for incorporation into the draft shared with SEAC. Further work is needed on this document. |
| SEAC Member Reports/ Input | ADHD Conference - <https://caddac.ca/events/__trashed/1634385600/1634490000/>  ADHD Parenting program on Executive Functioning -  <https://caddac.ca/events/supporting-your-childs-executive-functioning/1633026600/1637260200/>  ADHD Interactive parenting program - <https://caddac.ca/events/interactive-adhd-child-parenting-course/1632249000/1635888600/>    Variety Village Access Expo (September 16, 17) |  | Information was shared by email to members |
| Other Business  Correspondence: | No Correspondence |  |  |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 9:10  Next meeting October 18th at 7 pm (electronic) |  |  |

Appendix A

**SEAC Meeting of September 13, 2021**

**Leadership, Learning and School Improvement**

Andrew Gold, Associate Director Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

Angela Nardi-Addesa, System Superintendent of Special Education & Inclusion

**Welcome:**

We are excited to welcome back students, staff, families and our SEAC members to a new school year! We look forward to our ongoing collaboration and support with our SEAC members.

**Centrally Assigned Principals (CAP) of Special Education and Inclusion**

**We welcome our new and returning CAPS:**

Education and Community Partnership Program: Elizabeth Shaeffer

BLV, ASD and Assistive Technology/SEA Claim: Janine Small

Special Education and Inclusion, The Arts, Math, Science/STEM and Robotics - Wendy Terro (.25)

Learning Centre 1: Effie Stathopoulos

Learning Centre 2: Susan Moulton

Learning Centre 3: Jennie Petko

Learning Centre 4: Andrea Roach

**Summer School 2021**

Congratulations to the TDSB Special Education and Inclusion Staff who ran another successful summer school program! This summer we hosted approximately 350 students in five virtual school sites. Programs included Physical Disability classes Grades 1 to 8, Deaf Hard of Hearing classes Kindergarten to 8 and Developmental Disability classes Grades 1 to 12.

Students engaged in daily activities that included: a morning circle, drop-in learning centres, targeted teaching, self-directed learning, movement breaks, online field trips and presentations. Families received weekly newsletters which included education resources, links to community agencies, activities and TDSB Virtual Library and technology support.

Learning was facilitated through sensory kits that TDSB provided to all students. CYW staff members offered weekly drop-in sessions focusing on social skills and self-regulation to each team for a total of four sessions per week.

**Special Education In-Person and Virtual Learning Updates**

**In-person Learning**: Students receiving special education program and/or services in regular classes or students in an Intensive Support Program (ISP) are continuing to be supported by classroom teachers, special education teachers, support staff, and itinerant special education staff.

**Virtual Learning**: Students in Regular class who require Resource support (e.g., Indirect Support, Resource Assistance, Withdrawal Assistance) and are learning virtually, will access the Resource teacher attached to the school of the virtual teacher. Elementary ISPs (other than Gifted) will proceed with simultaneous learning for students who have selected virtual learning. Elementary Gifted classes are larger and have one teacher assigned. Secondary ISPs (including Gifted) will proceed with simultaneous learning for students who have selected virtual learning and remain connected to their homeschool.

**Why are Intensive Support Program (ISPs) (other than Gifted) using simultaneous learning to accommodate virtual learners?**

A key guiding principle for learners in ISP programs is to focus on minimizing transitions and maintaining connections between students and their peers and students with teachers/support staff in their program. As well, given the many other supports and resources attached to these programs (e.g. PSSP staff, counselling, school administration, etc.), maintaining a connection between students/families with the school where the program is located is paramount. This will also allow greater flexibility for students who may wish to move between virtual learning and in-person learning as part of their educational plan. We were able to successfully serve students in ISP programs during school closures between January-February and April-June last year using this model. Given that these programs have small class size limits and multiple staff in the classroom, we have a better ability to meet educational needs using this model.

**Transportation:** From September 9 to September 14, 2021 – only students with special education needs, other than Gifted) who travel to school on minibuses, mini vans, taxis and Wheelchair accessible vehicles will be provided with student transportation. Starting September 15, 2021, all other eligible students will be provided with student transportation, unless there is a significant driver shortage or other unforeseen issues related to COVID-19.

**Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)-Home and Community Care Support Services Toronto Central**

We have been communicating with the Client Service Manager of LHIN to ensure Nursing for students who require medical attention during the school day. They explained there is a Nursing shortage, but they are working with families to work through how to best support each student on a case by case basis. It is paramount that families continue to communicate with LHIN to ensure they stay abreast of the current status of their child and their respective Nursing situation. We continue to communicate with LHIN for on going updates.

**COVID-19 Related Items**

New COVID-19 Screening Tool – Before coming to school or an administration building each day, all staff must conduct an active [adult health screening self-assessment](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/9072-Screening-Questionnaire-Staff-Visitor-Child-Care-Day-Camp-School.pdf). Each day before school, students must also always complete COVID-19 screening.

A pause on extra-curricular activities, filed trips and mixed cohorting has been implemented for September.

Vaccine Disclosure Information – The Ministry of Education requires all school board staff to disclose their COVID-19 vaccination status.

COVID-19 Testing – Staff who are unvaccinated or do not disclose their vaccination status will need to participate in rapid antigen testing twice per week.

**Special Education Staff Organization**

In June, a request was made to better understand the Staff Organization as it pertains to the Special Education and Inclusion staff.

Below is a high-level overview of the last 7 years:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Executive**  **Superintendent** | **System**  **Superintendent** | **Centrally Assigned Principals and Vice-Principals** | **Coordinators and Consultants** |
| 2019-present | 0 | 1(Angela Nardi-Addesa) | 5 CAPs (Central, 4 LCs)  1 CAP, 4 VPs (ECPP) | 13 Coordinators  50 Consultants |
| 2018-2019 | 1 (Brendan Browne) | 1 (Vicky Branco) | 5 CAPs (Central, 4 LCs)  1 CAP, 4 VPs (ECPP) | 21 Coordinators  39 Consultants |
| 2017 - 2018 | 1 (Uton Robinson) | 4 SOEs (Spec Ed Coordination added to their school portfolios) | 5 CAPs (Central, 4 LCs)  1CAP, 4 VPs (Section Programs) | 21 Coordinators  39 Consultants |
| 2014 - 2017 | 1 (Uton Robinson) | 3 (Ian Allison, Jeff Hainbuch, Anne Seymour) | 2 CAP, 4 VPs (East, West)  1 CAP, 4 VPs (Section Programs) | 22 Coordinators  22 Consultants |
| Till 2014 | 1 (Sandy Spyropoulos) | 1 (Cindy Burley) | 3 CAPs, 4 VPs (Central, East, West)  1 CAP, 2 VPs (Section Programs) | 24 Coordinators  31 Consultants |

**2020 Special Education Plan Feedback**

TDSB values the input and feedback from all stakeholders that support the Special Education Plan. We received a large document from the Special Education Plan SEAC Sub Committee and former Superintendent Sandra Tondat supported the work required to address the feedback. Some of the feedback was specific to the Special Education plan, other suggestions were out of the board’s purview and fell under Ministry directives, and other feedback involved questions that were addressed in the current plan, but the concerns were noted and further clarification was added.

A response to the feedback document was shared with the SEAC Special Education Plan Sub Committee for their review. We also met in late August to share high-level response. To ensure SEAC and the Sub Committee feel supported with on-going collaboration, several approaches were discussed in how to best move forward with receiving feedback. More information will be forthcoming. In collaboration with SEAC Committee, we are developing a form that will help streamline the receiving of feedback.

In addition, each month will be devoted to one section of the Special Education Plan to both discuss and receive feedback. Of course, flexibility will always be exercised.

This month we invite stakeholders to review [Section A](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership-Learning-and-School-Improvement/Special-Education/Special-Education-Plan). Once the google form as been agreed upon with SEAC, the form will be accessed through the newly updated Special Education Website.

**Universal Screening-Online**

We are happy to share that all future Universal Screening-CCAT 7 testing will now be administered online.  Staff training will occur late September and testing will occur mid-October.