TDSB logo


Approved Minutes

**Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Date: January 16, 2023**

via Zoom and In-Person

Chair: Jean-Paul Ngana; Vice-Chair: Michelle Aarts

7:00 – 9:12 pm

Attendance:

Melissa Rosen (Association for Bright Children (ABC), Steven Lynette (Epilepsy Toronto), Richard Carter (Down Syndrome Association of Toronto), David Lepofsky (OPVIC), Nora Green (Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI), Aliza Chagpar (Easter Seals), Julie Diamond (Autism Ontario), Beth Dangerfield (CADDAC), Leo Lagnado (Autism Ontario), Guilia Barbuto (Learning Disabilities Association), Bronwen Alsop (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children), Aline Chan (Community Living), Dana Chapman (OPVIC), Nerissa Hutchinson (Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support), Jean-Paul Ngana LC2, Jordan Glass LC2, Diane Montgomery (Integrated Action for Inclusion),  Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff LC4, Saira Chhibber, LC1, Jana Girdauskas, LC4, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Trustee Liban Hassan

Regrets:

Tracey O’Regan (Community Living Toronto), Kirsten Doyle LC3, Trustee Zakir Patel

Staff:

Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion, Andrea Roach, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Alison Board, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Katia Palumbo, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Shameen Sandhu, System Leader, Mental Health and PSS, Mun Shu Wong, Media Services, Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison

Regrets:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Discussion | Action Items/Recommendation |
| Call to Order - Quorum | Chair | Quorum achieved |
| Land Acknowledgement | The Chair asked for a volunteer to read the Land Acknowledgement | The Vice-Chair volunteered and read the Land Acknowledgement Read |
| Approval of Agenda | The Chair asked Members if there were any new items to be added to the agenda. There were none.... | On Motion by Richard Carter, the agenda was approved.  Carried |
| Approval of Minutes from SEAC Meeting December 2022 | One minor adjustment to staff attendance | On Motion by Aline Chan, the Minutes of December 2022 were approved.  Carried |
| Conflicts of interest | The Chair Members if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared | No Conflicts of Interest were declared |
| Budget Presentation – Craig Snider | At the beginning of the budget consultation phase.  At the FBEC meeting in February, hopeful that staff will present a preliminary financial forecast for the 2023/24 school year.  Funding model should be released by the Ministry in March  Early March there will be an FBEC meeting for school staffing allocation so that schools can get their staffing models.  Current year “Financial Facts” document will be referenced in the presentation.  In reference to this school year’s budget – looking at 1.4 percent deficit. There were pandemic costs and key investments to support students and schools.  There is a three year deficit recovery plan for the board. There is a guide for staff for potential reductions for next two years but decisions have not been made. Some revenues will increase, and some costs will decrease. There are possible decreases in special education to be looked at – not necessarily where cuts will be made. This three year plan is just a “guidepost”.  Strategic Budget Driver were developed to help guide staff and trustees as to what is important when they are considering budget.  Looking for feedback from Advisory Committees and public for Strategic Budget Drivers.  Can be done individually, or SEAC can create committee feedback.  This feedback request link has been shared with SEAC.  PAAC on SEAC will be shared with budget  staff.  Specific drivers were discussed and explained in detail.  Budget website is up and running and all reports that have gone to trustees are posted there.  A request was made for details around each school’s budget special education line, where the funding comes from and how it is to be spent. | There was a recommendation to consider ‘Special Education’ as a Strategic Driver |
| Road Map  Working Group Updates | **Discussion Points**   * Roadmap planning documents were shared with SEAC members and discussed. * These documents include two templates for the mapping of SEAC Members’ challenges to both the various exceptionalities/diagnoses and the TDSB commitments under the TDSB Vision for Special Education and the Commitments under the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. * The reference document is the 2022/23 Special Education Plan. * It was acknowledged that many diagnoses are not exceptionalities, so there will need to be flexibility in the chart to make sure that it represents all students. Two additional diagnoses were added (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Epilepsy) to the Templates next to the exceptionalities.   **2023 SEAC Working Groups**  **Discussion Points**   * The purpose of the Working groups was restated and agreed upon. * This meeting was a reset opportunity for Working Groups. * Currently there were working groups for:   + Budget   + Special Education Plan   + K-12 Standards   + Effective Practices * Additional may be needed for:   + Multi-year Strategic Plan   + PIAC/SEAC collaboration   + ADHD | **Action Items**   * Autism Ontario agreed on completing the two templates and to present at February 2023’s meeting.   **Action Items**   * Develop a chart of the working groups needed to enable the 2023 Road map, including their mandate by the February’s meeting * Final decision of working groups, including mandate to be made at the February’s meeting |
| Association Updates | Community Living – Together We’re Better contest was discussed. Flyer was shared prior to meeting.  Autism Ontario Representative shared a statement about Remote Learning and students with autism.  [Statement by Autism Ontario: Autistic Students Left Behind Again | Autism Ontario](https://www.autismontario.com/news/statement-autism-ontario-autistic-students-left-behind-again) | **Action Item**:  The Autism Statement to be discussed in more details in the EPWG |
| Leadership Report | **Senior Team Mandatory Special Education Professional Learning**  To support capacity building of senior leaders, on December 16th, Special Education and Inclusion led a mandatory professional learning session for Senior Team (academic as well as business). This comprehensive session made connections to the TDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan and Equity, Anti-Oppression and Anti-Ableism and focused on how the TDSB works collaboratively with parents/guardians/caregivers and other partners to support students with special education needs.  **Toronto School Administrators Association Conference: Demystifying Special Education**  In early December, the Toronto School Administrators Association (TSAA) Conference provided an opportunity to bring principals and vice principals together to learn more about connecting special education and inclusion to the school improvement plan. Focusing on using school and classroom walkthroughs to identify practices in the classroom that support students with special education needs, administrators engaged in deepening their knowledge and leadership in the area of inclusion.  **Ontario Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**  **Annual Special Education Conference**  On December 2 and 3, staff from Special Education and Inclusion presented the following sessions at the 66th Annual CEC Conference:   * ***Developing Rich Workplace Pathway Learning for Students in Special Education Programming*** * ***A Transdisciplinary Approach to Working with Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB): an Evidence-based Approach to a Collaborative Integration of Support:***   **Professional Learning Sessions for Educators of Intensive Support Programs (ISPs)**  Intensive Support Program (ISP) specific professional learning sessions (e.g., ASD, DD ISP, MID, Gifted etc.) were held in December and provided an opportunity for educators and support staff to learn and explore inclusionary practices specific to the exceptionality in an ISP setting.  **IPRC Data – December 2022**  Learning Centre 1 36  Learning Centre 2 40  Learning Centre 3 23  Learning Centre 4 62  IPRCs Completed 161  IPRC Cumulative since August 2022  IPRC Cumulative since August 2022 558  **Psychological Services**  **December 2022**  LC1  Completed 72  Total 174  LC2  Completed 59  Total 216  LC3  Completed 57  Total 134  LC4  Completed 69  Total 283  Completed total 257  Total Referrals 807 | **Action Items**  The details of workshop titles were requested and will provided at or before next meeting. |
| Trustees Report | Nil Report |  |
| Other Business  Adjournment  Next Meeting: February 13, 2023 | The Chair asked for a motion to extend the meeting for up to 15 min | On Motion by Melissa Rosen, the meeting was extended for up to 15 min  On Motion by Aline Chan the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm |