

Approved Minutes

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: May 8, 2023 from 7:00 p.m.– 9:20 p.m. (Hybrid)

Chair: Jean-Paul Ngana

Vice-Chair: Michelle Aarts

A meeting of the Special Education Community Advisory Committee convened on May 8, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. at 5050 Yonge Street, with Jean-Paul Ngana presiding.

Attendance:

Members: Melissa Rosen Association for Bright Children (ABC)

Julie Diamond Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter)

Leo Lagnado (Alternate) Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter)

Richard Carter Down Syndrome Association of Toronto (DSAT)

Tracey O'Regan Community Living Toronto

Aliza Chaqpar Easter Seals Ontario

Steven Lynette Epilepsy Toronto

Nora Green Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community

Diane Montgomery (Alternate) Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community

Guilia Barbuto Learning Disabilities Association Toronto District

Aline Chan (Alternate), Community Living

Dana Chapman (Alternate) Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)

Bronwen Alsop (Alternate) VOICE for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children

Beth Dangerfield CADDAC – Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada

Nerissa Hutchinson Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support

Trustee Michelle Aarts (Ward 16)

Trustee Liban Hassan (Ward 6)

Trustee Zakir Patel (Ward 19)

Saira Chhibber (LC1)

Jean-Paul Ngana (LC2) - Chair

Jordan Glass (LC2)

Kirsten Doyle (LC3)

Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof (LC4)

Jana Girdukas (LC4)

Staff

Alison Board, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Andrea Roach, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director

Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Elizabeth Chalmers, Administrative Liaison (SOE)

Katia Palumbo, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Mun Shu Wong (Audio/Video)

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Regrets: David Lepofsky Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)

Item	Discussion	Action Items/Recommendation
Land Acknowledgement	Chair/Vice Chair	The Vice Chair read the land acknowledgement
Approval of Agenda	The Chair asked Members if there were any new items to be added to the agenda. Request was made to make sure that final agenda items be covered.	On Motion by Jordan Glass, the agenda was approved Seconded by Jana Girdauskas
Conflicts of interest	The Chair asked Members if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared	No Conflicts of Interest were declared
Approval of Minutes from SEAC Meeting April, 2023	Minutes were deferred based on a concern in regards to the PAAC on SEAC motion. Amended minutes will be presented at the next meeting. Amendment removing the term ADD from ADD/ADHD in the Leadership Report from the April meeting was reviewed.	Approval of minutes was deferred.

<p>Action Log Update</p>	<p>The Chair presented updates from the Action Log.</p> <p>Items that have been completed were shared.</p> <p>Strategic Driver item - Although it was indicated that Special Education is embedded throughout the strategic drivers, there is a need to consider Spec Ed as a standalone Strategic Budget driver. Consideration was given to the information provided by SEAC.</p> <p>SEAC: Data Request to Inform Board Decisions - Motion Adopted at Board Regular meeting on April 26, 2023 The Board decided that the Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the FBEC, readily available data and provide information on information not available due to privacy or other concerns in May 2023 • Present a report in the fall 2023 on any data that can be eventually accessed, but that is not readily available 	<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Update around status of motions was requested</p> <p>Suggestion was made that a column on the SEAC webpage for motions be created.</p>
<p>Multi Year Strategic Plan Renewal</p> <p>Elizabeth Addo - System Superintendent</p> <p>Tana Turner - Turner Consultant Group</p>	<p>Time to renew the MYSP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists school boards in setting long term goals • Guides student achievement • Addresses academic and business practices <p>Ministry sets out specific requirements for the MYSP</p> <p>TDSB has priorities that the MYSP addresses.</p>	<p>Action Item:</p> <p>SEAC members were asked to think about what they would like to see in the MYSP and what is currently missing from it.</p>

<p>Angel Woodside - Administrative Liaison</p>	<p>Key to renewing the plan is learning from all segments of school communities.</p> <p>Three phases in the renewal process</p> <p>Phase 1 - Gather Input</p> <p>Phase 2 - Analyze Input</p> <p>Phase 3 - Develop Strategic Plan</p> <p>Many different engagement methods will be implemented.</p> <p>CAC members can be given facilitation guides if desired so that members can gather input from their communities.</p> <p>The MYSP Team is returning to SEAC in June for further input and discussion</p>	
<p>Road Map Presentation from Community Living</p>	<p>May is Community Living month and 2023 marks 75 years of Community Living Toronto</p> <p>The representative and alternate from Community Living presented information about their association, its vision, mission and core values. They support people of all ages.</p> <p>Three streams of services: Supported Living, Community Participation Support/Respite and Education Consultation and Supports.</p> <p>Community Living Toronto Influencers - can be followed on Instagram and Facebook</p>	<p>Powerpoint was shared with SEAC members and is attached to the minutes (Appendix A).</p>

	<p>Educational challenges were presented - attitudinal barriers and inclusive education practices were highlighted.</p>	
<p>Leadership Report</p>	<p>Associate Director, Louise Sirisko will be sending an invitation to SEAC members to have personal discussions to find out how to best support members and get to know members and associations.</p> <p>Staff will be setting up a calendar to share information with SEAC. Some will be a slight adjustment from the PAAC on SEAC calendar.</p> <p>Professional Learning Sessions for Educators of Intensive Support Programs</p> <p>In April, Special Education and Inclusion staff presented additional sessions for teachers and support staff on supporting students in Intensive Support Programs - ISPs (e.g., ASD, DD ISP, MID, Gifted etc.). These additional sessions provided an opportunity for educators and support staff to learn and explore inclusionary practices specific to the exceptionality in an ISP setting.</p> <p>TDSB Ukrainian Welcome Fair</p> <p>Special Education and Inclusion joined the TDSB Ukrainian Welcome Fair on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Western Technical Commercial School as part of the carousel of services and supports for families. Information on Special Education and Inclusion programs, services and supports were shared. Over 300 participants attended the fair.</p> <p>Parent Engagement Session #3 Reminder</p>	

	<p>Special Education and Inclusion will be offering a third parent/guardian/caregiver session on Tuesday, May 30th and Wednesday, May 31st at 7:00 p.m. This session will focus on summer transitions and will include ideas to engage students during the summer months such as home activities, library resources and information on how to use Read & Write Gold at home.</p> <p>Special Education Plan 2023-2024</p> <p>The TDSB SEAC Sub Committee submitted their recommendations to staff for amendments to the current Special Education Plan. Staff thanked the subcommittee for their work. Recommendations from the committee as well as recommendations from families, community partners and school and department staff were taken under advisement and amendments made accordingly in order to ensure alignment with ministry standards and to create a more comprehensible and accessible document.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the amendments to the Special Education Plan did not come to SEAC for approval. Recommendations from the Special Education Plan Working Group were taken under advisement and the amendments shared with all members of SEAC prior to May's meeting. As per the Ministry, the Board of Trustees approves the amendments. SEAC was reminded that approval by SEAC is not required for submission.</p> <p>A decision was made to share the changes to the Plan with SEAC this year and next year to address areas that are of concern with SEAC on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Special Education and Inclusion Annual Report</p>	<p>The proposed amendments to the Special Education Plan were shared with SEAC members prior to the meeting</p>
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	<p>The 2022-2023 Annual Report was shared with the Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) on April 12, 2023 for receipt and was presented to the Board for approval on April 27, 2023.</p> <p>A question was asked about why the report had not been shared with SEAC prior to submission to Trustees. It is a report for Trustees and was sent to SEAC immediately following submission.</p> <p>Restructuring of Special Education and Inclusion Learning Center (LC) Coordinators and Learning Network (LN) Consultants</p> <p>Coordinator and Consultants will be restructured within the Special Education and Inclusion Department. The TDSB is divided into 4 Learning Centres. Each Learning Centre includes 6 Learning Networks. Currently, there are 8 Coordinators and 40 Consultants. We will be restructuring to have 12 Coordinators (3 assigned per Learning Centre) and 24 Consultants (1 per Learning Network). Increasing the number of Coordinators in each Learning Centre will allow for coherence and alignment of special education legislated practices and processes such as IPRCs and IEPs.</p>	
Trustees Report	<p>Trustee Report from Trustee Aarts was distributed by email to members.</p> <p>There are large cuts in Grants for Student Needs funding.</p> <p>Budget process may take until the summer.</p>	

	<p>Special Incidence Portion funding was expected but the Ministry has not reviewed the funding. Boards are writing to the Ministry. Trustees have written a letter, and it was suggested that SEAC can also write to the Minister and express concerns about lack of consideration of SIP funding.</p> <p>Update - Province has agreed to increase SIP funding by 5%, and is planning a review next year.</p> <p>Province tabled Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act. It proposes to make sweeping changes to the Education Act.</p>	
Working Group Updates	<p>The ADHD Working Group sent a document to be shared with the Staff Steering Committee. The document will be shared with the Steering Committee by staff. Timelines will be shared in the fall.</p> <p>The Special Education Plan Working Group expressed concern that an amendment to the Special Education Plan put forward by their group for next year was not included. Information was shared regarding SEPRCs and a motion to change the current SEPRC process to be available for all students and families was introduced. The motion was deferred to next month to allow adequate time for information to be considered and for fuller discussion.</p>	<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Timeline for sharing of the document from the ADHD Working group for the next meeting.</p> <p>SEPRC discussion deferred to next month.</p>
Other Business Adjournment	<p>The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.</p>	<p>Motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes was made by Bronwen Alsop and seconded by Aline Chan.</p>

Next Meeting: September 18, 2023		Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Lynette, seconded by Richard Carter.
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Appendix A



SEAC Community
living presentation050