TDSB logo


Approved Minutes

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

**Meeting Date: June 13, 2022**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on June, 2022, from 7: 00 p.m. to 9:02 p.m. via Zoom with SEAC Chair Steven Lynette and Vice-Chair Diane Montgomery

Attendance:

Melissa Rosen (Association for Bright Children (ABC), Steven Lynette (Epilepsy Toronto), Richard Carter (Down Syndrome Association of Toronto), , Tracey O’Regan (Community Living Toronto), Aliza Chagpar (Easter Seals), Nora Green (Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI), David Lepofsky (VIEWS for the Visually Impaired), Judi Coulson (CADDAC), Shanna Lino (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children),  Nadia Persaud (Learning Disability Association), Julie Diamond (Autism Ontario), Tracey Burrell (BPSG), Aline Chan  LC1, Jean-Paul Ngana LC2,  Jordan Glass LC2, Kirsten Doyle LC3, Olga Ingrahm LC3, Diane Montgomery  LC4,  Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff LC4, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Trustee Alexander Brown, Trustee Dan MacLean

Alternates attending: Caren Watkins (LC1), Beth Dangerfield (CADDAC)

Regrets:

Staff:

Andrew Gold, Associate Director, Audley Salmon, Associate Director, 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, Special Education, Mun Shu Wong, Media Services, Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison, Shameen Sandhu, System Leader, Mental Health,

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| 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 May SEAC Meeting | Minutes were approved with amendment to correct error in budget presentation report. | Motion to approve the minutes | Carried |
| Conflicts of interest | No Conflicts of Interest |  | Carried |
| Working Group Updates | **Working Groups Updates**  K-12 – Requested meeting with staff during the summer as follow up. Meeting will have to take place in the fall due to timing and the fact that many staff members do not work in July and August.  Special Education Plan – Plan will be finalized and submitted in the summer to the Ministry |  |  |
| Leadership Report   * Project Search * SEAC ADHD Motion * SEAC K-12 Working Group and Staff Response * Psychological Assessment and IPRC Statistics | Project Search Toronto is a transition-to-work program for TDSB students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students in their final year of high school will gain marketable skills needed for employment. Students in a typical year complete approximately 700 hours of hands-on work experience across three interconnected co-op placements with one or both of the host businesses, Toronto Rehab-UHN and Holland Bloorview.  The placement success of Project Search was shared.  Discussion around the possibility of increasing the number of students from TDSB who are admitted to Project Search took place.  SEAC ADHD Motion  Staff shared ongoing work to support the SEAC motion regarding ADHD.  Staff have been working to develop a professional learning plan focusing on building awareness, capacity and understanding of how to support students with Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD). The plan includes components to:  ● identify how the work of equity, inclusion and anti-oppression disrupts and challenges unconscious biases and understanding about supporting students with ADD/ADHD;  ● build deeper awareness and understanding about ADD/ADHD and the impact on student learning through discussions of the possible presence of LD and/or other exceptionalities (e.g., during IST/SST process, triangulation of data);  ● provide professional learning, gather and develop resources that support students, teachers, support staff and familes that are also culturally relevant and responsive and supports how to build accessible learning environments that are necessary for an inclusive experience for students with ADD/ADHD (e.g., concrete strategies); and  ● identify community organizations and partnerships that can support a better understanding and delivery of programs for students with ADD/ADHD.  Discussion followed around forming an ADHD working group. Representatives from CADDAC offered to support staff with further work with the ADHD motion.  SEAC K-12 Working Group and Staff Response  Staff have initiated a committee that is currently working through a plan focused on addressing the SEAC K-12 Working Group’s motions. The committee includes staff from the communications department, the web team, central special education staff, and AODA. The plan will include components to:  ● provide families with effective information resources on services for students with special education needs through an updated special education website and through publications to families (e.g., Parent Concern Protocol, Guide to Special Education and Appeal Process, Special education Programs and Services offered in TDSB); and  ● ensure accessibility to special education web resources aligned with AODA standards.  Discussion followed regarding the urgency of this issue, and the importance of ensuring that parents receive all the information they need to make decisions for their children.  The Parent Guide to Special Education as well as the Special Education Plan are being worked on to make them more accessible and available to parents.  This committee will continue to meet in the fall, and will collaborate with SEAC and the K-12 Working Group.  Data for May 2022, as well as cumulative data for assessments and IPRC’s was shared with SEAC.  **IPRCs**  Completed – 179  Scheduled – 576  Cumulative since August 2021 – 1867  **Psychological Assessment Data**  May Total  Completed 473  Referrals 330  August to May 2022  Completed 4002  In Progress 659  Waiting 891  Removed 760  Total Referrals\*\* 6312  \*\*From September 2021 to May 31st, 2022, the total number of referrals is 5552 (6312-760 which were removed).  Gifted referrals begin in late October after students have completed the CCAT. The total percentage of Gifted Referrals vs. Comprehensive Referrals at the end of May 2022 continues to be in the proportion of 34% and 66% respectively.  ● End of May 2022, 891 Comprehensive & Gifted Assessments are on the waitlist.  ○ Of the 891 Total Waitlist: 851 and 40 are Comprehensive & Gifted Assessments respectively.  ○ This is a total reduction of 12.3 % of the waitlist from April 2022.  Discussion followed around the equity of assessments –   * Why many students have IEPs and are never assessed. * Why numbers of students on IEPs have gone down * Numbers of LD and MID students have gone down. Some exceptionalities have gone up. * Who decides who gets them and who doesn’t   Overall enrolment has declined  K-1 IEP strategy has also reduced number of IEPs. IEPs can still be developed for K-1 students, but there needs to be a full discussion about whether it is needed or not.  Students who just need accommodations may no longer need IEPs as all students are entitled to accommodations  TDSB does not prioritize based on exceptionality, but rather student need.  SEAC was thanked for its advocacy and advisory role this school year. |  |  |
| Trustees Report   * Trustee MacLean | Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement had its official opening today.  Graduations are taking place in person and students and school communities are celebrating. Many students who missed graduating in person over the past two years are being welcomed in some schools.  Budget is due at the end of June. Balanced budget is required. There is a large deficit due to Covid, but the board has a three year deficit plan that needs to be approved by the Ministry of Education. |  |  |
| Other Business  Parents/Caregivers as Partners Conference  Correspondence -  Adjournment  Next Meeting: September 12, 2022 | Parents/Caregivers as Partners Conference will be held in person and virtually at the end of October.  SEAC members are asked to submit proposals.  Applications will be made available. |  |  |