TDSB logo


Draft Minutes

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

**Meeting Date: September 15, 2022**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on September 15, 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), Nora Green (Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI),), Julie Diamond (Autism Ontario), Beth Dangerfield (CADDAC), Nerissa Hutchison (BPSG)., Jean-Paul Ngana LC2, Jordan Glass LC2, Kirsten Doyle LC3, Diane Montgomery  LC4,  Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff LC4, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Trustee Dan MacLean

Alternates attending:

Regrets: Tracey O’Regan (Community Living Toronto), Aliza Chagpar (Easter Seals), David Lepofsky (VIEWS for the Visually Impaired,) Shanna Lino (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children),  Nadia Persaud (Learning Disability Association), Tracey Burrell (BPSG), Aline Chan  LC1, Olga Ingrahm LC3. Trustee Alexander Brown

Staff:

Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Janine Small, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, 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, Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Special Education, Mun Shu Wong, Media Services, Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison,

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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 June SEAC Meeting | Minutes were approved | Motion to approve the minutes | Carried |
| Conflicts of interest | No Conflicts of Interest |  | Carried |
| Chair Comments | New SEAC is being formed this fall.  Process and Applications for Community members will be available this week on the TDSB SEAC website.  All members must reapply if wishing to continue.  Association Members are nominated through their Association.  Deadline for applications is October 15.  Current SEAC will continue to meet until new membership is approved by the board. |  |  |
| Working Group Updates | **Working Groups Updates**  Special Education Plan – Members were thanked for their hard work in preparing the Plan for submission. It was sent to the Ministry at the end of July and is now available on the TDSB website.  Discussion followed around ad hoc groups of SEAC members (Effective Practices and ADHD if members are interested). These are not officially Working Groups that are supported with a staff member. Informal groups can continue to meet and will not have a staff liaison.  There is a group of staff working on the response to ADHD motion from SEAC that will continue to meet and work.  Formal Working Groups are:  Special Education Plan  Budget  K-12  Communications |  |  |
| Association Updates | Nil |  |  |
| Leadership Report | Thanks were given to staff and SEAC members for their hard work on the Special Education Plan. The Plan is now on the public webpage. Some key points in this years plan include:   * Part of the plan focused on lived experiences and intersectionality and how we support learners in our system * Included culturally relevant and responsive assessment and instruction focused on student identity * Transition around IPRC process – moving IPRC meeting process to local schools to ensure families have access to meetings and reduce barriers   Summer Programs   * Wide range of very successful summer programs * 96 students were able to achieve credits * Many students participated in a variety of special education summer programs and after school leisure program for ASD students |  |  |
| Presentation | Karen Murray presented on Ableism as part of Equity Work. (posted on SEAC website)  Key points of the discussion included:   * Ableism is a set of stereotypes that devalue and discriminate against people with disabilities. * It privileges ability * Students are discriminated against when they are perceived as disabled or unable * Disproportionate representation of racialized students in special education students * Systemic barriers exist in education and in the work that has to happen * We have to understand that these stereotypes exist in order to dismantle them * Need to deepen awareness of principles of anti-racism and culturally relevant pedagogy |  |  |
| Trustees Report   * Trustee MacLean * Trustee Aarts | Trustee Aarts-   * New websites for students applying to Secondary School – new dropdown menus on the website * Beyond 8 – all the things happening this fall for grade 8 students such as open house dates, deadlines, etc. * Centralized application process as a result of Secondary review * Funding for Nutrition programs was discussed. The shortfall will need to be covered by fundraising |  |  |
| Other Business  Parents/Caregivers as Partners Conference  Face to Face vs Virtual Meetings  Adjournment  Next Meeting: | Parents/Caregivers as Partners Conference will be held in person and virtually at the end of October.  SEAC members are asked to submit proposals. Application form was distributed at meeting. If you or your association would like to present, let Richard or Lianne know and complete the form.  All CAC meetings are still being held virtually. Discussion took place about returning to in-person meetings  Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm | SEAC member Melissa Rosen brought forward a motion to request that SEAC be permitted to meet in person or through hybrid means as soon as possible. Appendix A | In Person Meeting Motion was passed. |
| Follow up Items | The following information/follow-up was requested:   * Is it possible to learn how many people are logging on to watch the livestream and/or how many hits the saved webcast has. * Is it possible to get data showing the number of students with exceptionalities in regular class by exceptionality? * Can Karen share the slides from her presentation? |  |  |

Appendix A

[ SEAC - Motion for In Person meetings - Sept 15, 2022

WHEREAS TDSB’s SEAC has been meeting virtually for almost two and a half years, since the shutdown of in person meetings due to the COVID 19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS all schools across TDSB are now offering more historically usual in-person learning to all students across TDSB;

AND WHEREAS there are very well-recognized important social, emotional, relationship, and productivity benefits to meeting and connecting in person, for everyone, including SEAC, its representatives, and SEAC’s business;

AND WHEREAS Trustees have resumed in person meetings by a model of combined “hybrid” meetings, in which those who would like to attend in person may, and those who would still like to meet virtually can also simultaneously participate in those meetings virtually (herein referred to as “In Person – Hybrid Meetings”);

AND WHEREAS SEAC is a legislatively-constituted body, that sometimes operates similarly to TDSB’s “Community Advisory Committees” (“CACs), but also operates differently from CACs in that it is a body that every board must have and support, pursuant to provincial legislation;

AND WHEREAS SEAC desires and requests that SEAC resume In Person – Hybrid Meetings for SEAC as soon as possible, and ideally for SEAC’s October 2022 meeting;

AND WHEREAS SEAC is bringing this motion in order to elevate this request and consensus to the attention of TDSB and its administrators, although it may not actually be necessary to action this item to have it processed through Trustee committees;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the above recital statements are incorporated as part of this resolution;

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT SEAC requests that SEAC resume meeting in person as soon as possible, by holding In Person – Hybrid Meetings, starting ideally for SEAC’s October 2022 meeting, and if not in October, then no later than for SEAC’s November 2022 meeting.