TDSB logo


Approved Minutes

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

**Meeting Date: November 17, 2022**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on October 17, 2022, from 7: 00 p.m. to 9:02 p.m. via Zoom and in-person with SEAC 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), Tracey O’Regan (Community Living Toronto), Aliza Chagpar (Easter Seals), Shanna Lino (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children), Julie Diamond (Autism Ontario), Beth Dangerfield (CADDAC), Nerissa Hutchison (BPSG)., Judi Coulson, CADDAC, Aline Chan  LC1, Jean-Paul Ngana LC2, Jordan Glass LC2, Olga Ingrahm LC3, Kirsten Doyle LC3, Diane Montgomery  LC4,  Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff LC4, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Trustee Dan MacLean

Staff:

Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion, 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, Shameen Sandhu, System Leader, Mental Health and PSS, Mun Shu Wong, Media Services, Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison,

Regrets: David Lepofsky (OPVIC),

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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 with corrections regarding attendance and date of next meeting | Motion to approve the agenda | Carried |
| Approval of Minutes from October SEAC Meeting | Minutes were approved | Motion to approve the minutes | Carried |
| Conflicts of interest | No Conflicts of Interest |  | Carried |
| Chair Comments | New SEAC will meet in December where an election for Chair/Vice Chair will take place. |  |  |
| Thank You | Alexander Brown was thanked for all his hard work with SEAC, and his support of the committee and students with special needs. |  |  |
| Hybrid Meeting | Protocols were explained. Using Hand Up in Zoom and an in-person keeper of the speaker’s list. |  |  |
| Working Group Updates | **Special Education Plan –** Over 100-page document was created by the working group and some of the issues were addressed and summarized. The working group continues to look at elements of the document that were not addressed previously.  **Effective Practices** –  “There are three general areas of focus: 1) Will be using PAAC on SEAC as a resource for suggestions on best practices;  2) Collaboration with staff;  3) SEAC meetings and operations.  For example, a monthly calendar may give ideas and structure.”  **ADHD Working Group** – There are 7 members in this group, and they are looking forward to working with the board ADHD group collaboratively. |  |  |
| Association Updates | Nil |  |  |
| Leadership Report | **ONTARIO REGULATION 463/97**  **ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND MEETING ATTENDANCE**  Information was shared with SEAC members and the document was shared with all members via email after the meeting.  This Regulation explains that the chair or designate must be physically present for at least half of the meetings of the board for any 12-month period beginning November 15 and may provide that the chair or designate must be physically present for a greater proportion of meetings. This applies to SEAC. O. Reg. 293/18, s. 3 (2).  This information may impact the election for SEAC Chair and Vice Chair in December, so members were asked to make note of it.  **Virtual Special Education and Inclusion Information**  **Sessions for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers**  Beginning in November, these virtual sessions will provide Parents/Guardians/Caregivers an overview of Special Education and Inclusion supports, services and processes, through an equity lens, available within the TDSB.  **Grade 8-9 Transition Information Session for Grade 8 Families**  On Tuesday, November 1, Special Education and Inclusion joined the Guidance Department for a webinar on Grade 8-9 Transition with a focus on tips and considerations in the transition to high school. Information was shared on the annual IPRC Review that takes place in January for students with exceptionalities and questions from the audience were answered on a wide range of questions on the 8-9 transitions for students with special education needs.  **IEP Guide**  A new comprehensive guide has been developed to provide parents/guardians/caregivers with information on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The guide is available in a digital format with audio, as well as in the accessible MS Word version. The guide explains what an IEP is, how it is developed, the role of parents/guardians/caregivers, and much more!  Guide in MS Word [Parents\_Guardians\_Caregivers.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tdsb.on.ca%2FPortals%2F0%2Fdocs%2FParents_Guardians_Caregivers.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)  Digital Guide with Audio [Guide to an IEP for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers with Audio - Google Slides](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSxbKsVMrN6WsBVvq5pefY-Dfzatn--Xjc7MCe341Q2_yi6oMLRZwJQt2FQJve6Kgzbfm4jphn4Tl0n/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.p)  **Parents as Partners Conference**  The Parent and Caregivers as Partner Conference: Affirming, Belonging, Connecting, was held on Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23, 2022. The conference provided an opportunity to highlight innovation and high-impact strategies for partnering, collaborating, and nurturing parents’ and caregiversʼ partnerships and alliances. Special Education & Inclusion staff, in partnership with other central departments and educational partners, presented a number of workshops. These sessions were recorded and will be uploaded to the [Parents and Caregivers as Partners website](https://parentsaspartners.ca/).  IPRC Data from October 2022 was shared.  Learning Centre 1 - 39  Learning Centre 2 - 46  Learning Centre 3 - 14  Learning Centre 4 - 28  Total IPRCs Completed – 127  IPRC Cumulative since August 2022 – 206  Psychological Assessment Data was shared  LC1 - Psychological Assessment Data October 2022  Completed - 31  Total Referrals - 125  LC1 Cumulative (since September 2022)  Completed - 47  In Progress - 127  Waiting\* - 178  Removed - 18  Total Referrals\*\* - 370  LC2 - Psychological Assessment Data October 2022  Completed - 24  Total Referrals - 149  LC2 Cumulative (since September 2022)  Completed - 43  In Progress – 152  Waiting\* - 130  Removed - 25  Total Referrals\*\* - 350  LC3 - Psychological Assessment Data October 2022  Completed - 26  Total Referrals - 95  LC3 Cumulative (since September 2022)  Completed - 34  In Progress - 165  Waiting\* - 165  Removed - 23  Total Referrals\*\* - 387  LC4 - Psychological Assessment Data October 2022  Completed - 15  Total Referrals - 81  LC4 Cumulative (since September 2022)  Completed - 43  In Progress - 189  Waiting\* - 264  Removed - 49  Total Referrals\*\* - 545  \*98.6% of total waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 1.4% are gifted assessments  \*\*98% of total referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 2% are gifted assessments |  |  |
| Trustees Report   * Trustee MacLean * Trustee Aarts | Trustees will be appointed at the Board Organizational Meeting. Trustees are appointed to SEAC for a four-year term. |  |  |
| Other Business  Adjournment  Next Meeting: December 12 | Outgoing SEAC members were thanked for their hard work.  The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm |  |  |