

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee of the Peel District School Board, held in the Brampton Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 19:05 hours.

Members present:

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, Chair
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair
Nicole Buckett, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario
Michelle Lewis, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch
John Marchant, Trustee
Kathy McDonald, Trustee
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region
Carol Oitment, conditional Additional Member
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living
Fauzia Reza, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter
Mary Wright, Down Syndrome Association of Peel (19:10)

Member absent:

Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter

Also present:

Sadia Shoaib, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate Member)

Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)
Joy Uniac, Superintendent, Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years (Executive Back-up Member)
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director, Instructional and Equity Support Services
Peter Joshua, Director of Education

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Approval of Agenda

SE-66, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the agenda be approved.

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2. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, June 18, 2019

SE-67, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 18, 2019, be approved.

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4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, referred to the Director of Education, Peter Joshua's Starting Point event which focused on equity and inclusion, and showcased the performance of the Neuro-Diversity Project. He provided an update report on the work done by staff over the summer. This included: improvements to transportation; creating a computerized process for developing "Plans of Care" for students with prevalent medical conditions; community case conferences; Assistive Technology (AT) summer camps at five locations; ASD service updates for families; developing a Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Physical Needs Guideline; writing teams for Speech and Language supports and for Social Work; Empower training; Guidelines for Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention in Peel Schools. Superintendent Moynihan noted that information regarding psychoeducational assessments, and revisions to the ISRC and IPRC operating procedures, will be brought to future meetings. SEAC will be updated on revisions to the Positive Behaviour Intervention Plan and Safety Plan, and the development of a computerized process for the Plans. Regarding the creation of an "Absent by Mutual Consent" tracking form, Shawn Moynihan indicated that an example of the form and details of the process will be brought to the October 2019 SEAC meeting. He thanked members for their participation on the Accessibility Working Group.

The administration responded to members' questions of clarification. It was noted that the parent does not need to sign an Absent by Mutual Consent form, but must understand the process. Regarding selection of students for the AT Summer Camps, Grades 4-7 students who had not previously attended were invited, or were selected by their ISSP teachers. Superintendent Moynihan advised that the Guidelines for Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention in Peel Schools have been vetted by senior administration, and will be posted shortly on the Board's website. This will replace the relevant sections of Operating Procedure SESS 17, Procedures for Dealing with Students Exhibiting High Risk Behaviour Difficulties.

SE-68, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the Superintendent's oral report, be received.

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5. SEAC Twitter Account

Carol Ogilvie reported that the SEAC Twitter account is live, and she thanked everyone who helped on the project. Stating that input from SEAC members is required regarding branding, she circulated three logos and members voted on their preference. The Terms of Reference for the Twitter account were also circulated, which members were requested to review and provide their feedback at the next meeting.

SE-69, moved by Wes McDonald, that the oral report re SEAC Twitter Account, be received.

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6. Social Enterprise

Meghal Echlin, Coordinating Principal, Special Programs, Ryan Machete, Special Education Transition Facilitator, and Leigh MacArthur, Applewood School Teacher, presented information on Individualized Income Generation Start-up, a program designed to support social enterprise for students with disabilities. Coasters, created by Samantha, a student in the program, were circulated to all present. Her mother, Carrie, was welcomed to the meeting.

Ryan Machete reported that, since its inception, the program has incubated some successful businesses and many more students are starting their own businesses. Reviewing a slide presentation, he noted the significantly higher unemployment rates for students with disabilities. He remarked that the main reason for the higher rates is the need for these students to conform to job requirements; however, this mindset needs to change, to building pathways around skills and assets of the student. Reviewing employment pathways for students with disabilities, he noted that the cost to support a student who needs 1:1 support is \$70,000, and is \$19,000-\$24,000 for students who require 3:1 or 6:1 support. In working towards a high level of independence for these students, staff considered employment pathways, including co-op. However, it became clear that a business opportunity for the students within the classroom/school needed to be considered. Leigh MacArthur spoke about providing students with a more mindful experience during their two-year transition. She recalled that, prior to the commencement of the program five years ago, students who were tracked after transition had not achieved much success.

Leigh MacArthur reported that the program began with one product, but it appeared that more highly capable students were not engaged. A decision was made to offer 3 products and students could opt for a product. The program became more successful, and progressed to each student owning their own business. The presenters confirmed that self-employment involves skills such as communication, numeracy, etc. Ryan Machete noted that a strengths-based profile helped to point to students' interests and skills, and the program provides opportunities for inclusion and integration with peers within the school who can assist in the businesses. Providing examples, he stated that the program is a great way to connect two students who may not have otherwise had an opportunity to work together. Such partnerships help with self-advocacy and socialization skills development.

6. Social Enterprise (Continued)

Reviewing the steps taken and actions to be completed, Ryan Machete noted that vision statements with students/families, that are reflected in the transition plans for IEP, have been developed, and the teacher manual on how to get started has been completed. The parent handbook for incubating a business is being worked on, and accommodating the gaps in accessibility of community supports is being reviewed. He stated that this program helps to ensure that the student is supported after school, and also provides a way for the Board to track data and evaluate the success of the program. Carrie spoke about the involvement of parents in areas that need support, and commented that the program provides their children with socially valued roles.

Responses to members' questions of clarification included: students do not work on their businesses full time in school, and there are opportunities to build leisure skills and hobbies; students requiring support in jobs pay for the support with the exception of \$5,000 covered by Passport funding; the program is offered at multiple locations; students' products or businesses are showcased through Instagram and community event displays; opportunities to highlight the businesses at craft shows and exhibitions are welcome; a presentation can be made to the Mississauga Board of Trade to attract more employers. It was suggested that the new SEAC Twitter account be used for the purpose of showcasing the students' businesses or services.

SE-70, moved by Fauzia Reza, that the report re Social Enterprise, be received.

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7. Change to SEAC Membership

Reviewing the report, Superintendent Moynihan noted that Carol Oitment, the Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario (TSAO) representative on SEAC, advised the Board on July 7, 2019 that TSAO closed its operations with immediate effect, and that it was her understanding that she would cease to be a member of SEAC in that capacity. He expressed appreciation and thanked Carol Oitment for her work on SEAC.

Superintendent Moynihan outlined the options to fill a vacancy on SEAC, and noted the Board's role to address the vacancy caused by the dissolution of a local organization. He stated Section 8 of Regulation 464/97 relating to the Board appointing a qualified person to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the term. Reporting on next steps, Shawn Moynihan indicated that the Board will confirm to Carol Oitment that she will no longer be a member of SEAC when a new member is nominated. In the interim, she continues to be a conditional additional member of SEAC. He indicated that, in keeping with Regulation and past practice, a broad distribution will be sent to local organizations requesting them to submit names to fill the vacancy. Once names are received, he will consult with Special Education leads, superintendents of education, and SEAC. A recommendation will then be taken to the Board to approve a new member. Superintendent Moynihan added that, as per Regulation, the Board may appoint one or more additional members who are not representatives of a local association or members of the Board, or committee of the Board. He stated that a recommendation to appoint Carol Oitment as an additional member may then be brought to the Board.

7. Change to SEAC Membership (Continued)

SE-71, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Change to SEAC Membership, be received.

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8. Letter from Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education/Success for All Branch, Ministry of Education, to Shelley Foster, SEAC Chair, Peel DSB

Superintendent Moynihan noted that the letter is in response to letter from Chair Foster to the Minister of Education regarding special education funding concerns. Referring to the financial information contained in the response, a member requested that Finance staff review the letter and clarify the financial details.

SE-72, moved by John Marchant, that the Letter from Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education/Success for All Branch, Ministry of Education, to Shelley Foster, SEAC Chair, Peel DSB, be received.

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9. Ministry of Education Memorandum, July 29, 2019 re Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The letter was reviewed, and it was confirmed that students with Autism Spectrum Disorder will continue to receive services. In response to a question, the administration noted that the increase in the number of students with ASD continues to increase gradually from year to year. Regarding the concern last year about an influx of students because of proposed changes to service delivery, it was clarified that the Ministry did not implement the changes.

SE-73, moved by Michelle Lewis, that the Ministry of Education Memorandum, July 29, 2019 re Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, be received.

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10. Letter from Peel DSB Chair, Stan Cameron to Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce

SE-74, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Letter from Peel DSB Chair, Stan Cameron to Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, be received.

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11. Update from Bridget Fewtrell, President and CEO, ErinoakKids

Superintendent Moynihan reported that there are significant staffing costs as a result of the new policy directive from the Government, and staff are working with families to help them understand the changes.

SE-75, moved by Nicole Buckett, that the update report from Bridget Fewtrell, President and CEO, ErinoakKids, be received.

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12. Letter from Alison Morse, Senior Manager of Provincial Services, Easter Seals Ontario, nominating Sadia Shoaib as Alternate Member of the Peel DSB SEAC

Chair Foster and Superintendent Moynihan welcomed Sadia Shoaib as an Alternate Member, representing Easter Seals Ontario on SEAC. Sadia Shoaib spoke briefly about herself and her child.

SE-76, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the Letter from Alison Morse, Senior Manager of Provincial Services, Easter Seals Ontario, nominating Sadia Shoaib as Alternate Member of the Peel DSB SEAC, be received.

..... carried

13. Communications

SE-77, moved by Carol Ogilvie**, that the following communication items be received:

1. Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education re class size
2. Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education re Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
3. Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education re Noah and Gregory's Law
4. Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education re SIP funding claw back

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14. Reports from Representatives on Councils and Associations

Barbara Cyr reported that the table cloth was received, and that this can be displayed during the Great Start event.

**The Minutes were amended at the October 15, 2019 SEAC meeting to reflect that the mover of this item was Carol Oitment.

15. Question Period

Carol Ogilvie advised that the Information and Communication Standards Development Committee under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is inviting feedback on the initial recommendations to improve accessibility standards for information and communications. She encouraged members to provide input. Regarding consultation by the Ministry's Advisory Council on Special Education, she indicated that each organization should have received notice. Carol Ogilvie noted that the PAAC on SEAC survey is available online. She reported that the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region is hosting a scrabble tournament on October 5, 2019, and details are on its website.

John Marchant referred to the feedback invited by the Information and Communication Standards Development Committee, and he asked that the link be provided to SEAC members. Shawn Moynihan will follow-up.

Barbara Cyr reported that the Great Start event for school council chairs and vice-chairs will be held on November 6, 2019. A table for SEAC had been arranged in past years, and she asked whether SEAC would like a table this year as well. Chair Foster indicated that there is interest, and two members have volunteered to help. Shawn Moynihan will follow up with Communications staff, for a table for SEAC. Barbara Cyr requested members to provide brochures of their associations.

16. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

17. Adjournment

SE-78, moved by Mary Wright that the meeting adjourn (20:40 hours).

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..... Chair Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held September 17, 2019, there were no recommendations to the Board.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. Reports / Information Received

The Committee received the following reports/information: Superintendent's Report; SEAC Twitter Account (oral); Social Enterprise; Change to SEAC Membership; Letter from Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education/Success for All Branch, Ministry of Education, to Shelley Foster, SEAC Chair, Peel DSB; Ministry of Education Memorandum, July 29, 2019 re Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Letter from Peel DSB Chair, Stan Cameron to Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce; Update from Bridget Fewtrell, President and CEO, ErinoakKids; Letter from Alison Morse, Senior Manager of Provincial Services, Easter Seals Ontario, nominating Sadia Shoaib as Alternate Member of the Peel DSB SEAC; Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, re class size; Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, re Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder; Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, re Noah and Gregory's Law; Letter from Mary-Ann Fuduric, SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County DSB to the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, re SIP funding claw back.

Prepared by:

Nicole Fernandes
Board Reporter

Submitted by:

Shawn Moynihan
Superintendent of Special Education Support Services
