

## 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, April 17, 2018 at 19:00 hours.

Members present:

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Chair  
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair  
Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch  
Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Kathy McDonald, Trustee  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired  
Carol Ogilvy, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter (19:10)  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living  
Mary Wright, Down Syndrome Association of Peel

Member absent: (apologies received)

Suzanne Nurse, Trustee

Also present:

Karen Del Ben, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel

Administration:

Ted Byers, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)  
Peter Joshua, Director of Education  
Shirley-Ann Teal, Acting Superintendent of Education

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

### 1. **Approval of Agenda**

SE-36, moved by Nancy Leaton, 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, March 19, 2018**

SE-37, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 19, 2018, be approved.

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**4. Superintendent's Report**

The report was circulated. Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, thanked Committee members who attended the Parent Conference on Modern Learning, and the volunteers who staffed the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and Association for Bright Children (ABC) of Ontario tables. He reported positive feedback from parents who attended the conference. Providing an update on professional development and events, Superintendent Byers highlighted: the anti-black racism and bias awareness learning for Curriculum Instruction and Special Education Support Services staff which includes Special Education Resource Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Itinerant staff; the Psych Conference on Understanding the Impact of Technology on students; the Invention Convention from April 23 to 27, 2018, when students in the Interval and Intensive Support program will showcase their work at the Central Board Office.

Superintendent Byers thanked members for their good wishes upon his retirement, and stated that he will update the Committee when his successor has been named.

SE-38, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the Superintendent's Report, be received.

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**5. Mental Health Strategy – System Survey Findings**

Reviewing the report, Superintendent Byers highlighted the five priorities identified for Phase One (2012-2017) of the Mental Health Strategy, and noted that training relating to an understanding of suicide prevention, intervention and postvention will be held later this month. He reported on the Advisory Committee formed to develop Phase Two (2017-2020) priorities of the Mental Health Strategy, and he thanked SEAC for participation along with other community representation. Superintendent Byers reviewed results of the survey created for elementary and secondary schools, and he pointed to areas of concern regarding mental health and addiction, with anxiety topping the list. As a result, Phase Two will focus on building student and staff resilience, creating and sustaining healthy classrooms that foster well-being, and forming collaborative partnerships that will increase responsiveness to student, family, and staff need. Listing the various resources available, Maureen MacKay, Special Education Coordinator for Student Well Being, stated that the evidence based documents provide strategic direction to support the priorities identified for Phase Two of the Mental Health initiative.

**5. Mental Health Strategy – System Survey Findings (Continued)**

Responding to a query, Maureen MacKay asked the member to bring back information about provincial post-secondary supports, which can be reviewed for incorporating in Peel. Clarification was provided regarding measuring success of the strategies being used and next steps. Maureen MacKay spoke about Project Zero a ten-year initiative spearheaded by Trillium Health Partners to achieve zero-percent suicide in Ontario, and Peel's involvement in a preventative model that will focus on building resiliency in students at an early age. Acknowledging that mental health therapy can be expensive, Maureen MacKay explained that one of the goals of Project Zero is to build capacity among clinicians to offer "no fee" services.

SE-39, moved by Nancy Leaton, that the report re Mental Health Strategy – System Survey Findings, be received.

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**6. Policy Program Memorandum 161 – Implementation Planning**

Superintendent Byers advised that Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 161 outlines requirements for school boards to develop and maintain policy to support medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy by September 2018. Tara Day-Orzechowski, Principal of Glendale Public School, and Meghan Echlin, Coordinating Principal of Special Programs, reviewed the main requirements of PPM 161, listed in the staff report. Superintendent Byers highlighted the requirement for the student's Plan of Care to be developed and completed within the first thirty days of school. He stated that the current medical binder will continue to be maintained at schools, and staff training will continue, as usual, at the beginning of each school year.

The administration responded to several questions of clarification from members, including: timeframe for developing the Plan of Care will be quicker after the first year, as subsequent years will involve updates to the original Plan of Care; Plan of Care needs to outline a contingency plan; information transfer is expected to be seamless to ensure the student is supported and incidents are minimized; responsibility of staff to support a student during an emergency; training is provided to recognize symptoms and react appropriately; parents are required to share information ahead of time on the complex needs of their child, to ensure proper planning and development of an appropriate Plan of Care for the student; nurses are available to support complex medical requirements, including suctioning. To a member's query about responsibility for teaching staff to administer eye drops, Vice-Chair Lawton, advised that the administration will bring back a response to a future meeting.

SE-40, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the report re Policy Program Memorandum 161 – Implementation Planning, be received.

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**7. Budget Consultation**

The list of business cases submitted for consideration in the 2018-2019 budget process was circulated.

Superintendent Byers provided detailed information about the business cases which have been submitted from Special Education as part of the board's budget development process. He noted that the Grants for Student Needs were recently announced by the Ministry of Education, and that details are awaited. Superintendent Byers, stated that a significant investment has been made in special education, including for addressing current wait lists for assessments, 40% increase in allocation for Special Incidence Portion claims, and additional funding for the provision of mental health workers in the secondary panel. Responding to a question about confirmation on Ministry funding, Director of Education, Peter Joshua, advised that the expectation is for finalized information to be communicated to school boards before the 2018 Elections. In response to a member's query, Superintendent Byers stated that the Special Education Plan being brought to the Committee next month will include a plan for additional contained classes to address increased growth.

SE-41, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Budget Consultation, be received.

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Wes MacDonald retired from the meeting (20:30 hours)

**8. Advancing Equity and Inclusion in the Peel Board – Action Plan: Inclusion Monograph**

Superintendent Byers advised that, as stated in the above-noted report, the draft monograph, "Advancing Equity and Inclusion," was created as part of Phase One of the Action Plan of the Teaching Assistant (TAs) Study. He indicated that the Inclusion Monograph, created by a multi-disciplinary team, is written to define equity for special needs students. Superintendent Byers requested Committee members to provide feedback on the monograph in terms of promoting student equity and inclusion, as part of a broad consultative plan, so improvements can be made prior to its release to the system in fall 2018. Members' comments included: definition of inclusive education in the monograph does not align with Ministry of Education's definition; need an evidence-based model for children with Down Syndrome and other developmental disabilities; schoolwork needs to be sent home so parents can provide support to their children; differentiated instruction is not always sustained due to lack of time and resources. Regarding the assessment model, Ted Byers explained that the document is being reviewed and will be finalized this spring. The final document will be ready in fall 2018. Thanking members for their feedback on the monograph, Superintendent Byers advised that the Steering Committee will be meeting shortly to review the draft monograph. Subsequently, a report on the next phase of implementation will be brought to SEAC.

**8. Advancing Equity and Inclusion in the Peel Board – Action Plan: Inclusion Monograph (Continued)**

SE-42, moved by Carol Oitment, that the report re Advancing Equity and Inclusion in the Peel Board – Action Plan: Inclusion Monograph, be received.

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Trustee Lawton retired from the meeting (21:20 hours)

**9. Reports from Representatives on Councils/Associations**

Barbara Cyr reported on the Parent Conference held in March, noting that SEAC and ABC Ontario hosted tables at the event. She commented on a number of questions about SEAC from parents and teachers, and she highlighted the need for member associations to provide informative material for the SEAC table. Ann Smith expressed disappointment that brochures were received from only three associations, and she encouraged participation from all member associations.

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SE-43, moved by Ann Smith, that the meeting go beyond 21:30 hours to complete the agenda.

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(2/3rds' majority)

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**10. Question Period**

Jennifer Knight commented on a Conference attended by members approximately four years ago. Trustee McDonald requested details of the conference to be emailed to members. Superintendent Byers stated that the item can be added to the agenda of the May or June meeting.

Trustee McDonald expressed appreciation for the comments made by Mary Wright regarding academic inclusion for children with Down Syndrome, and noted the importance of diverse voices at the table.

Dorothy Peddie asked whether the Inclusion Monograph can be discussed at a future SEAC meeting (Item 8 of these minutes). Responding in the affirmative, Superintendent Byers requested members to email him with their thoughts and comments.

Carol Ogilvie reported on the hand-out circulated prior to the meeting regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Classic Golf Fundraiser in June 2018. She advised that registration has opened for the Summer Camp to be held in July and August 2018, details of which can be found on the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region website.

**10. Question Period (Continued)**

Shelley Foster expressed appreciation for the help and support provided by Speech-Language Pathologists, and Audiologists.

**11. Public Question Period**

Sandra Baker thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak to the Committee. She expressed appreciation for the support and guidance provided to her by Mary Wright which has helped her child to be moved from a contained class into regular classes at West Credit Secondary School. Sandra Baker spoke of positive academic growth and potential in her child, and asked for guidance moving forward, to ensure that her child can graduate with a diploma, instead of a certificate. Superintendent Byers responded.

**12. Adjournment**

SE-44, moved by Barbara Byers, that the meeting adjourn (21:45 hours).

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