

## 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 Monday, April 18, 2016 at 19:00 hours.

### Members present:

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada, Chair  
Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Sue Lawton, Trustee  
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Fauzia Reza, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Harkirat Singh, Trustee (19:10)  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living  
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids

### Absent: (apologies received marked \*)

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Vice-Chair\*  
David Green, Trustee\*  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired\*  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario\*  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter

### Administration:

Ted Byers, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)  
Scott Moreash, Associate Director of Instructional Support Services

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

### 1. Approval of Agenda

Chair Byers stated that the Committee continues to request that its meetings are scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month.

SE-32, moved by Barbara Cyr, 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 29, 2016**

A member indicated that she had sent regrets for the meeting. The Board Reporter provided the rationale for not marking a member's absence in the attendance when the Alternate Member for the association is present.

SE-33, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, held March 29, 2016, be approved.

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**4. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, reported that work on the Special Education Plan webpage continues, with some sections populated. He indicated that he will resend the webpage link to Committee members, and he advised that access to the page is controlled.

Superintendent Byers reported that, on March 29, 2016, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services announced an investment of approximately \$333 million, over five years, to improve and expand autism services for children and youth. Over the next 24 months, the current Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) programs will be integrated to become the Ontario Autism Program, which will provide services based on individual needs. Highlights of the program include: reducing wait times; directing IBI services to children ages two to four; gradually transitioning children five years and older to more clinically appropriate ABA services; families with children five years and older on the IBI waitlist to be given \$8,000 in one-time funding to purchase services or supports based on need. Ted Byers explained that IBI therapy is not delivered by Peel staff but by ErinoakKids, and he provided details on Connections for Students, a program offering supports for children who are transitioning out of IBI therapy into the school system. He stated that the impact of the Ontario Autism Program is still not clear, particularly with respect to the Connections for Students program and releasing all students 5 years and older from IBI. Superintendent Byers highlighted ABA professional development offered to staff, including: Ministry funded online training by Geneva Centre; Autism Intervenor Certificate Course; Summer Training Institute for new teachers. He indicated that these professional development activities are available through MyLearning Plan, and other opportunities are offered through job-embedded work with students and involvement in the Connections for Students program. He confirmed that updated information on the Ontario Autism Program will be shared with SEAC as it becomes available.

SE-34, moved by Nancy Bratkovic, that the Superintendent's Report (oral), be received.

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**5. Peel DSB Budget Consultation**

Copies of the presentation on the 2016-2017 Grants for Student Needs Projections were circulated. Superintendent Byers drew the Committee's attention to information contained in the report that SEAC as a Committee, and members individually, are invited to provide their perspective into the budget consultation process, through a survey linked to the Board's website. He welcomed Tanya Alatishe-Charles, Controller of Finance Support Services, and Kauthar Garda-Sahib, Acting Financial Operations Manager, to the meeting.

Kauthar Garda-Sahib reported that the Ministry of Education announced the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) on March 24, 2016. GSNs have increased from \$22.6 billion in 2015-2016 to \$22.9 billion in 2016-2017, despite the overall decrease in province-wide enrolment. The increases relate to central labour agreements reached during December 2015, language grants, and First Nation, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) initiatives. Kauthar Garda-Sahib indicated that a change in the funding formula resulted in increased funding on special education, but reduced school operations grants and learning opportunity grants. She reviewed information highlighting the 2016-2017 Ministry of Education funding projections, revised estimate of funding received for 2015-2016, and the year over year changes. Special education funding with regard to Special Education Per Pupil Amount, Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount, Special Education Amount, Special Incidence Portion, Section 23, and Behaviour Expertise Amount, was detailed.

Reviewing the special education funding shortfall, Kauthar Garda-Sahib advised that the 2015-2016 funding deficit was \$12.9 million. In response to a member's question, it was noted that a significant contributor to the shortfall is the increase in the number of teaching assistants (TAs). The Ministry funds TAs according to enrolment, but the Board hires TAs according to need, which is increasing. Speaking of the important services provided by TAs for special needs students, Superintendent Byers stated that he will continue to advocate for TA support. He noted, however, that the over-expenditure on special education requires the Board to borrow from other areas in its budget.

SE-35, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Peel DSB Budget Consultation, be received.

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**6. Partnering for Change Research Report**

Providing background information, Superintendent Byers reported that the Partnering for Change (P4C) initiative, a collaboration by the Board and Central-West Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), is in its third year. Following the pilot program introduced in 20 Brampton schools in 2013-2014, the initiative has been expanded to include all K-Grade 5, K-Grade 6 and K-Grade 8 schools in Brampton, Caledon and Malton. Coordinating Principal, Ana Pauchulo, stated that over the years, Peel DSB and Central-West CCAC have developed a partnership which has led to many positive benefits to students and families.

**6. Partnering for Change Research Report (Continued)**

Speaking on behalf of the P4C Research team, Susan Wynes, Central-West CCAC, recalled that presentations were made to SEAC in 2013-2014 and in 2014-2015 on the Partnering for Change initiative. She indicated that today's report provides information on the final outcomes and findings from the P4C implementation and evaluation study. She listed the collaborative partners on this initiative, and she explained that P4C is an evidence-based model for delivering rehabilitation services for special needs children in the school. Goals include, early identification of children with special needs, building capacity of educators and families to understand and manage children's needs, and improving children's ability to participate successfully in school, the community and at home. Describing the services provided by the occupational therapists (OTs), Susan Wynes reported that these services are needs-based, and include universal design for learning, small group screening and differentiated instruction.

Susan Wynes noted that OTs were assigned to schools one day each week, and the findings are based on frequency of service. She spoke about training for OTs, and data collection from parents, educators, OTs and school boards to better understand the barriers to effective service delivery. Results show that services are providing benefits but systems can be expanded to support more children. Susan Wynes reported on the process of identifying and referring students in need of the service, and reviewed statistical data on the number of students and families who participated in the study. She highlighted the need for time for successful implementation and transition, and stated that all parties need to understand the model. She detailed the key findings through the research, including: efficient model of service delivery; greater participation by children in many activities; decrease in overall emotional and behavioural problems; benefits to families, educators, and OTs; efficiencies in the health and education systems; timely, responsive and equitable services are provided; no waitlist and significant reduction in time and costs; OTs have time to provide direct service and be responsive to local school needs; children received services earlier; OTs built capacity, increased their skills and knowledge, and experienced job satisfaction.

Susan Wynes' responses to members' questions of clarification, included: all children with needs in the targeted schools were transitioned from the CCAC to the OT; each elementary school will have an OT assigned; OTs working with the teacher will review needs, identify children in need and discuss with parents; commitment has been made to roll out the P4C program to 170 schools.

SE-36, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the Partnering for Change Research Report, be received.

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**7. Pupil Accommodation Review Report**

Superintendent Ted Byers indicated that the above-noted report is included for the Committee's information. He reviewed the recommendation that was taken to the Physical Planning and Building Committee meeting, held April 5, 2016, for the Board to approve a Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) for Gordon Graydon Memorial, Glenforest, T.L. Kennedy, The Woodlands, and Lorne Park Secondary Schools. The recommendation was approved by the Board, at its meeting on April 12, 2016.

**7. Pupil Accommodation Review Report (Continued)**

Superintendent Byers advised that the Board had undertaken accommodation reviews in the past, but this is the first accommodation review involving secondary schools. Noting proposed relocation of special education programs to different sites, he indicated that SEAC may consider participating in the public consultation process of the PAR, and drew members' attention to the public meetings scheduled on June 2, and November 23, 2016.

Expressing concern about the proposed relocation of the Enhanced program from Glenforest Secondary School to The Woodlands and Lorne Park Secondary Schools, a member commented on **\*\*the absence of Enhanced programs in schools in the north and south ends of Mississauga\*\***. A trustee suggested that SEAC's opinions and concerns may be communicated to trustee members of SEAC, and Superintendent Byers confirmed that SEAC, collectively, or individual members may bring forward comments and concerns at the public meetings.

SE-37, moved by Carol Ogilvie, that the Pupil Accommodation Review Report, be received.

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**8. Question Period**

Carol Ogilvie referred to the budget consultation with school councils, and she reported on a school council who had to complete the online questionnaire without the help of the principal. She stated that the school council did not fully understand how to fill in the form. She asked whether information on the Ministry of Education study and review of the suspension / expulsion program will be shared with SEAC. Superintendent Byers will follow up. Carol Ogilvie asked SEAC members whether they would like to have a SEAC table at the symposium hosted by the United Achievers' Club of Brampton, to be held on May 28, 2016, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

**9. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

**10. Adjournment**

SE-38, moved by Mary Wright, that the meeting adjourn (20:30 hours).

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..... Chair ..... Secretary

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\*\* At the May 17, 2016 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, the statement "the absence of Enhanced programs in schools in the north and south ends of Mississauga" was amended to read as "this creating the absence of Enhanced programs in schools in the north-east of Mississauga".