

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 29, 2014 at 19:00 hours.

Members present:

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada, Chair
Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association
Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario Peel Chapter
Karen Kennedy, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario
Brad MacDonald, Trustee
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for Blind and Visually Impaired Children
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada – Peel Chapter
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living
Lorraine Yuill, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region

Absent: (apologies received*)

Stan Cameron, Trustee, Vice Chair*
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter*
Meredith Johnson, Trustee
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids

Also present:

Linda Standish, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region

Administration:

Louise Sirisko, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)
Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

SE-38, moved by Lorraine Yuill, that the agenda be approved.

..... carried

2. Oscar Peterson Public School – Learning for All

Donna Zuccato, Special Education Coordinator, introduced teachers of Oscar Peterson Public School, Calinda Adams and Stephanie De Angelis, who have been working on the Learning For All process over several years.

Calinda Adams stated that this 5-year journey started with a simple concept of student learning profiling. With the help of display boards and a PowerPoint presentation, she gave a brief history of the previous problem-solving pathway where the focus was on the problem being highlighted, and the process took time. Calinda Adams explained how the problem-solving pathway pilot project emerged with staff training, analyzing, and incorporating pedagogy into teaching and learning at schools. Using a flow chart showing the problem-solving pathway, she stated that the goal is to use the learning profile as a vehicle to change the existing problem-solving pathway and In-School Review Committee (ISRC) procedures within schools. She outlined the supports available, which included the parent, classroom teacher, support teacher, administration, and weekly meetings. Calinda Adams described the eight Neurodevelopmental Constructs used to develop a learning profile as: attention, temporal and sequential ordering, spatial ordering, memory, language, neuromotor functions, social cognition, and higher order cognition. She reviewed the action plan and the guided observation checklist to assist the a teacher to observe strengths, affinities, and areas of need.

Stephanie De Angelis reviewed the English Language Learner (ELL) Learning Profile Insert which contains key questions for parents, and requests information from the Ontario Student Record (OSR), to provide a complete profile of the student, leading to the demystification process of Wows, Can Do's, and Targets. Stephanie De Angelis spoke of the benefits of sharing data, developing better relationships with parents, and empowering students. A video of Calinda Adams debriefing with Grade 3 and Grade 4 students was shown. Stephanie De Angelis spoke of three possible outcomes: student is successful and strategies are working; possible need for a new action plan if strategies are not meeting student's needs; if concerns continue in spite of strategies, further information and input is needed for recommendations and next steps.

Calinda Adams spoke of transition planning if the student is not successful at his/her grade level, general goals, obtaining a deeper understanding of the student, and witnessing student empowerment which will be refined and improved on an on-going basis. With regard to students who face learning challenges, Principal Judy Richards, recalled the application of the 6 C's of curriculum and instruction and highlighted collaboration. She mentioned the 6 P's of curriculum differentiation as, presuming positive intentions, personalizing, precision, professional learning, process, and passion for students who face learning challenges. Staff responded to questions of clarification regarding: whether student profiling is for students with exceptionalities or for all students; timeline for implementing the program in all schools; does the program continue into secondary school; how many schools have implemented the program.

SE-39, moved by Ann Smith, that the special presentation by Oscar Peterson Public School re Learning for All, be received.

..... carried

3. Budget Highlights

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Louise Sirisko, spoke of the increase in Special Education High Needs Amount (HNA) funding for Peel. With the help of PowerPoint slides and handouts, she shared preliminary information that was provided at the last Regular Meeting of the Board. Louise Sirisko reviewed the Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) numbers indicating that higher enrolment means more funding is received. She noted that the Ministry's enrolment projections may be overestimated and funding will be received according to actual enrolment. Louise Sirisko pointed out that in the 2013-2014 school year, Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) enrolment counted as 0.5 ADE, however for 2014-2015 FDK enrolment is counted at 1.0 ADE. She then reviewed the slide showing grant variance between 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 estimates, noting that the FDK funding amount is now included in the grants, but was previously allocated separately under Education Programs - Other (EPO) grant.

Louise Sirisko noted that the Ministry has acknowledged Peel DSB's request to review the HNA funding formula. She indicated that detailed information will be received from Barry Finlay, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch, with regard to the funding formula changing to the Statistical Prediction Model, which will be phased in over four years. Superintendent Sirisko advised that at the next SEAC meeting in May, Finance Support Services will share information with regard to Special Education Support Services' budget. She encouraged SEAC members to provide feedback regarding students with special education needs, such as supportive teaching, professional development, and mental health support, in preparation for a focused conversation next month. Responding to a member's query regarding, how much of the \$12 million will be used for teachers who are supporting special needs students, Louise Sirisko indicated that it would be challenging to provide a breakdown of these costs.

SE-40, moved by Nancy Leaton, that the presentation re Budget Highlights, be received.

..... carried

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, March 18, 2014

SE-41, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 18, 2014, be approved.

..... carried

6. Operating Procedure: Service Animals – Draft Report

Using PowerPoint slides, Ana Pauchulo, Coordinating Principal, Special Education Support Services, reviewed Peel DSB's draft Operating Procedure for Service Animals. She provided background information on the use of service animals for people with disabilities, in accordance with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) and Ontario Human Rights Code. Reviewing the report in detail, she explained: the definition of service animal; identification of service animals and medical proof required; administrative procedure; responsibility; access to Board premises; exclusion of service animals related to health and safety; good practices for interacting with persons who have service animals; transportation protocol; notification process; principal checklist.

Ana Pauchulo responded to a member's question about whether criteria for disability is identification in the IPRC. She explained that it may not be necessary to have an IPRC, but the disability is to be determined by a physician or a nurse. With regard to the member's inquiry about the time frame for starting the use of service animals, Ana Pauchulo indicated that it would take one or two months after the case conference takes place. Louise Sirisko added that the time frame is also subject to the animal passing the assessments, training, etc. Members offered suggestions with regard to the wording used in the draft operating procedure. Superintendent Sirisko invited members to further review the document and send in their suggestions.

SE-42, moved by Shelley Foster, that the draft report re Operating Procedure: Service Animals, be received.

..... carried

7. Operating Procedure: Administration of Medication

Using PowerPoint slides, Coordinating Principal, Anna Pauchulo, provided an oral report on the Operating Procedure for Administration of Medication. She stated that, in addition to the Epipen, the Ministry of Education has acknowledged use of a new voice assisted auto injector called Allerject, and information has been distributed to all Ontario schools in Fall 2013. She advised that, in consultation with various stakeholders, application of topical creams and administration of prescribed medications determined by physicians for students' needs during school hours, will also be included in the Operating Procedure.

Ana Pauchulo explained that the medications will be administered by teaching assistants (TA) in the form in which it is sent to school, as opposed to it being crushed or mixed with other agents by the TA. She clarified that the overarching principle is that most medications need to be taken at home but in some cases it will be administered at school, provided it has specificity, and staff are not required to use their judgment. Ana Pauchulo also noted that changes to Form A in the Operating Procedure have been made, to incorporate medical needs due to disability, and Form C includes verbal consent from parent and a log of discussions with the family to administer the medication. She stated that if consent is not provided, 911 is to be called. Ana Pauchulo advised that the information will also be included in student's safety plan.

SE-43, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the oral report re Operating Procedure: Administration of Medication, be received.

..... carried

8. Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule for 2014-2015

Chair Byers asked for the rationale for changes in SEAC meeting dates scheduled for the 2014-2015 school year. Superintendent Sirisko advised that to be respectful of the holy days, the Board will not hold public meetings on significant holy days for all faith groups. Chair Byers stated that the school board is a secular organization, and statutory holidays are observed because they are legislated holidays. She expressed the opinion that there is no need to observe religious holidays. She voiced her concern with regard to Peel DSB's decision to change SEAC meeting dates to accommodate faith celebrations. Trustee MacDonald explained that the change was made not to promote faiths or religion, but so as not to exclude anyone from attending public meetings because of faith celebrations. Chair Byers asked if trustees have received written appeals from faith groups requesting for such changes. She stated that the third Tuesday of the month has been allocated for SEAC meetings and members have other commitments.

A member asked if the SEAC meeting change of February 23, 2015 was on account of a holy day and commented that school council meetings are scheduled at the end of the month. Chair Byers noted that school council meetings are also public meetings and those dates have not changed. Superintendent Sirisko stated that the SEAC structure allows all member associations to have an alternate member. She advised that Peel's communities are highly diverse and that the Board of Trustees is committed to acknowledging all faiths. Chair Byers comments will be brought to the Executive Committee and the trustees.

SE-44, moved by Brad MacDonald, that the report re Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule for 2014-2015, be received.

..... carried

9. Communications

SE-45, moved by Shelley Foster, that the following communications, be received:

1. Letter from the Chair to School Councils Re: Peel District School Board's "Fix the Formula" Campaign
2. Letter to Minister Liz Sandals from SEAC Chair, Greater Essex County District School Board Re: Current Funding Model for Special Education
3. Letter to Minister Liz Sandals from Niagara Catholic District School Board Re: Teacher Education Programs
4. Memorandum to Directors of Education from Barry Finlay, Ministry of Education Re: Special Education Funding and Mental Health Leaders
5. Memorandum to Directors of Education from Barry Finlay, Ministry of Education re Professional Learning Opportunities: Learning Disabilities Resources
6. Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities – Transition to Post-Secondary Education
7. Ministry of Education: Minutes of the Meeting of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education, February 5 and 6, 2014
8. Letter to the Minister Liz Sandals from SEAC Chair, Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board Re: Teacher Education Programs
9. Ministry of Finance: Eliminating Waitlists for Developmental Services

..... carried

10. Reports from Representatives on Councils/Associations

Lorraine Yuill circulated book marks and resources from George Brown College, which provided information on academic accommodations for students with disabilities. She asked for an update from the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Louise Sirisko will follow up with Jennifer Miller.

Louise Sirisko circulated an invitation to participate in a Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PAAC) survey.

11. Question Period

There were no questions.

12. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

13. Adjournment

SE-46, moved by Lorraine Yuill, that the meeting adjourn (20:50 hours).

..... carried